
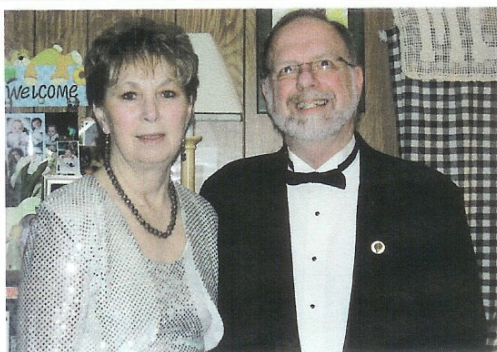


# Leaping above Expectations Iowa District Optimist 2004 – 2005



**I Believe**  
**J'y crois** 



Governor, Dennis McGregor  
and Cathy Campbell



OI President, Yves Berthiaume

Ft. Madison & Burlington

In October of 2003, at the first quarter conference, shortly following my approval as Governor-Elect at the District Convention; I began searching for my team. I am not the most electrifying person you would meet; after all, I am an accountant, but I knew, for many years, that I wanted to be Governor of the Iowa District and I also knew that I did not want to be a disastrous failure at it. So; from the beginning, I tried to pick District Chairs that were new and fresh; that were people who would make jokes of me and hopefully make a fun filled year for everyone. I did not have my theme selected until January of 2003 but by then, I knew that "Leaping Above Expectations" was to be the theme for my year and a frog leaping over the Optimist Symbol was to be my Logo. For those who are giving thought to being the Governor of the Iowa District; I would say Leap above that which you expect of yourself, and just do it. There will be no regrets.

I had many highlights during the next 1-1/2 years. The first was the Governor-Elect Conference in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada where I would meet on a personal basis, the International President-Elect, Yves Berthiaume, with his wife Ginette and three daughters as well as many future friends. We learned of the International theme, which was to be "I Believe" and we explored our leadership capabilities and fears of leading an entire District. I knew immediately, after, having met Yves, Optimist International was going to have a phenomenal year.

I can still remember, in anticipation of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter conference, my head throbbing as if my heart was actually pumping from inside my brain. This was by far the craziest thing I had ever done in my life. I want to thank first and foremost Cathy Campbell; my V.I.P. (Very Important Person). She was my absolute source of support for the entire year. She was the supply of my strength and the beauty next to the oaf. She was my reminder, my stability and she was my director of efficiency.



My year as Governor couldn't have gotten off to a better start. I had Rick Danielson, a member from the Burlington/West Burlington Optimist Club, dressed in a frog costume, leaping over a stick to demonstrate how high we as Optimists can leap over our expectations and the closing skit at days end was Ken and Theresa Walton, from the Marshalltown Optimist Club, performing "Bull Frog in the Sky" to the song of Ghost Riders in the Sky". This skit (dirge) had everyone rolling out of their seats with laughter.

The frog fun continued throughout the year. LeRoy Morford, also from Marshalltown, made up frog plaques, frog cards and many other frog paraphernalia to help Optimism grow for his Club. He enjoyed the theme so much he decided to be my Lt. Governor for the Zone even though he was still the President of his Club. LeRoy, later, at the International Convention in New Orleans, took a costume of a frog, which his wife Patti created, and walked, around the hall promoting the Iowa District and Optimism. He also included the JOOI Convention with his antics.

The Presidents Visit was another huge highlight. Yves Berthiaume came to Iowa in April of 2005. His request was, he wanted to do something as a community service project in the community. I selected the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City for a service project where we cleaned, vacuumed, and straightened the proper area of the house and raked leaves and collected trash outside on the grounds. Then, we baked and decorated cookies for the residents. We, later, visited the children's Oncology unit at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. This was a sad occasion but one that lifted Yves' heart and was very much appreciated by him. The evening was filled with awards and a fabulous meal at the Little Amana's to celebrate Immediate Past Governor, Dale Robertson's Year. Yves was presented with a huge, hand-carved, (by Ken Walton) wooden spoon with the Iowa Logo on the top part of the spoon handle.

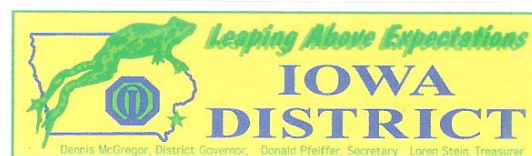
The International Convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The weather was untypical for this area and not near as hot as expected. There were nearly 40 Iowans attending. The Opening session was in true Mardi Gras fashion and the Presidents Ball was just as glamorous with Mardi Gras caricatures ornamenting the room. We came into New Orleans greeted by Hurricane Cindy and we were the last flight off the tarmac as air flights were closing due to the arrival of Hurricane Dennis. Later, in August, was the Arrival of the most damaging Hurricane New Orleans ever experienced; Hurricane Katrina which ripped the life from New Orleans and caused the levees to break around Lake Ponchartrain, which caused the evacuation of the entire city and was nearly the death of New Orleans.

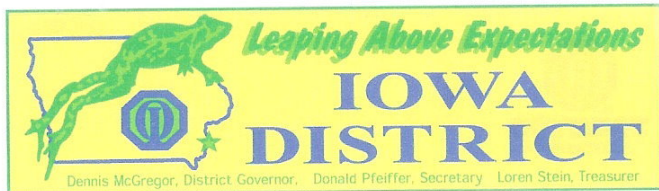
I was with positive membership throughout my entire year, practically. Iowa District finished the year with a net plus two. A net plus one was required to become a Distinguished District. We finished at 13<sup>th</sup> place out of the 57 Districts and our Region was 1<sup>st</sup> place winner for that year.

I will never forget this experience and I will never forget those who were a huge part of Iowa's success in becoming a Distinguished District. I chose "Leaping Above Expectations" because I knew I had to do just that to succeed.

My dream of becoming a Governor is now past but the realization of that dream lives on through the history of the Great Iowa District.

Dennis E. McGregor  
Governor 2004 – 2005  
Iowa District Optimist





## THEMES

International: "I Believe" - "J'y Crois"

District: "Leaping Above Expectations"

## LEADERSHIP

Optimist International President: Yves Berthiaume (Ginette)

Optimist International Vice President: Herb O'Meara

Governor: Dennis E. McGregor II+D

Immediate Past Governor: Wilton (Leon) Wilkinson

Secretary: Donald Pfeiffer Treasurer: Loren Stein II+D

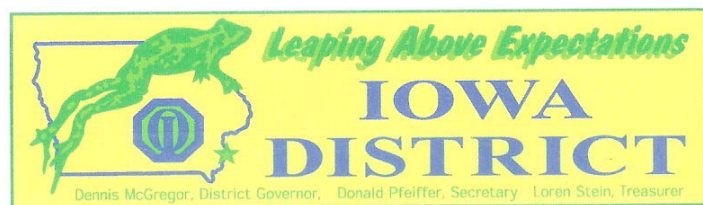
Past Governor: Dale Robertson II+D

Lt. Governors:

- Honor (II) Lt. Governors: 5 of 12
- Honor plus Distinguished (II+D) Lt. Governors: 3 of 12

o Dennis McGregor- II	Zone #1	Ft. Madison
o Jennie Kannedy- II+D	Zone #2	Council Bluffs
o Lucy Hough- II	Zone #3	Underwood
o Wilma Watt-Johnson	Zone #4	Red Oak
o LeRoy Morford- II	Zone #5	Marshalltown
o Rick Marvin (Resigned) II+D	Zone #6	Des Moines
o Sharon Miner	Zone #7	Greenfield
o John Wasson- II+D	Zone #8	Cedar Rapids
o Sandra Thorington- II	Zone #9	Cedar Rapids
o Jim Davis/	Zone #10	Corydon
o Susan Sieverding	Zone #11	Dubuque
o Gladys Fisher- II	Zone #12	Kalona





#### District Chairs:

- Awards & Achievements: Judy Boyd
- Community Awards Project (CPA): Janet Holterhaus
- Bulletin/Newsletter: Gerri Thompson
- Convention: Gerri Barnett
- Candidate Qualifications: Wilton (Leon) Wilkinson
- Essay/Oratorical/CCDHH: Linda Eibes
- Childhood Cancer Campaign: Thomas Lloyd II
- Finance: E. Ted Baker
- Club Services/Tracking: Thomas Lloyd II
- Governor's Advisor: Edwin E. Minard II
- VIP's Assistant: Pat Minard
- Membership: Janet Lloyd
- Photography/Public Relations: Mike Campbell
- New Club Building: Jim Boyd
- Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI): Rick Danielson
- Leadership & Development: Lyle Magneson
- Sergeant At Arms: Ken Walton
- OI & District Supply: Larry Kramer
- Web Master: Rick Marvin
- OI Foundation: Dale Robertson - H+D
- Youth Activities: Barbara Robertson
- OI Junior Golf: Mark Rhode
- Youth Clubs (JOOI): Beth Kennedy



#### DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Distinguished District
- Distinguished Governor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place District in Region
- District was part of Top Region
- Clubs:
  - 4 New Clubs: 4 Disbanded Clubs
- O.I. Final Rank: #13
- Membership: +2
- Distinguished & Honor Clubs:
  - Council Bluffs Westend
  - Marshalltown Evening
  - Urbandale

#### President:

Jerry Todd  
LeRoy Morford  
C.W. Schossow

• Honor Clubs:

- LeMars
- Woodbine
- Council Bluffs Mid-day
- Council Bluffs
- Griswold
- Treynor
- Underwood
- Tabor
- Marshalltown Morning
- Waterloo Gates Park
- Greenfield
- Cedar Rapids-Thurs. Noon
- Coralville
- Iowa City
- Solon
- Tippie College of Business
- Bloomfield
- Corydon-Wayne
- Davenport QC Morning
- Dubuque Morning
- Burlington/West Burlington
- Washington
- Washington Township



President:

Joel DeJong  
 Pat Warmbier  
 Bruce Rassmussen  
 Paul Mauer  
 Joe Sponsler  
 Jeff Jorgensen  
 Kristi Kennedy  
 Dean Surface  
 Dorothy McHone  
 Veladia James  
 Michael Haase  
 Spencer Kennedy  
 Robert McLachlan  
 Ryan O'Leary  
 Joanne Ulch  
 Katie Appleby  
 Lori Brewer  
 Anne Winslow-Cook  
 Jim Metz  
 Melinda Rettenberger  
 Edwin E. Minard II  
 Jerry King  
 Marvin Slabaugh

**GOVERNORS AWARD WINNERS**

**Master Secretary/Treasurers:**

Dianne Panek  
 E. Ted Baker  
 Raymond Butt  
 Jan McLachlan

Optimist Club of Burlington/West Burlington  
 Optimist Club of Council Bluffs  
 Griswold Optimist Club  
 Coralville Optimist Club

**Top Membership Recruiter:**

Tippie College of Business Optimist Club

**Most Valuable Committee Chair:**

Jim Boyd – New Club Building

**Most Valuable Lt. Governor (1<sup>st</sup> Half):**

Rick Marvin – Zone #6

**Most Valuable Lt. Governor (Overall):**

Jennie Kannedy – Zone #2

**Most Valuable Past Governor:**

Dale Robertson – Underwood  
 Ken Bassett – Winterset

**Governors Appreciation:**

Ken & Theresa Walton – Skits & Dirges  
 LeRoy & Patti Morford – Most fun use of frog icon

**Optimist of the Year:**

Gerri Barnett