

The 2006-20007 Optimist year was kicked off with the retreat that was held at Wesley Woods in Indianola. The outcome of the retreat was a tremendous success; it set the tone for the year as team members built new skills and through the camaraderie that lasted the year. With the help of Certified Trainers Tom Dempsey and Paula Reyling the training has excellent.

Picking the leadership team well in advance really helped during the retreat to bring the group together. Two great memories came from the retreat, the Princess's and a snoring situation, and Ken Walton both made for some good fun at the first conference.

The first New Club of the Optimist Year (including OI) was in Ames, Cyclone College Club, built by Immediate Past Governor Jim Boyd. The Iowa District won a OI Leadership team tie in which I passed on later to P.I.G. Jim Boyd.

Through the leadership of Barb Robertson, membership stayed steady in the first quarter of the year. Barb initiated a membership recruiter's award by giving away a bicycle each quarter, which proved to be a great success.

Michael Caruso was our First Quarter Conference speaker and OI Certified trainers Tom Dempsey and Paula Reyling shared their training skills once again. If there was a weak spot it would have been the attendance.

During the second quarter two new Clubs were built one in Atlantic, built by OI Vice President Dale Robertson and Barb and Joe and Kathy Rush of Griswold. The second new club was built by Craig Kelley and Lt. Governor Paul Beeler in Clarinda.

At second conference we hosted James Rankin, an author of several books based around Optimism as a way of life. Also we hosted OI Certified Trainers Tom Dempsey, Paula Reyling and Gloria Kloster. The closing of the conference was very moving and set the tone for the balance of the quarter.

Also, I should mention that the Iowa District conducted a blitz new club building effort which was very successful. The certified trainers, Gloria Kloster and Paula Reyling, Tom Dempsey joined us for a day, helped with the following efforts, Atlantic and Creston which provided to be beneficial as both clubs became a reality. Membership for the quarter was sluggish but not unrealistic in meeting our goals.

The third quarter was also a busy quarter as the Creston club was chartered by Gary and Sharon Miner. The OI Presidents visit was a wonderful event and Ronnie Dunn delivered several heart moving addresses to the Iowa District. *Do not book the Presidents visit in the same hotel as a wedding!* OI Vice President Dale Robertson hosted a Regional retreat for the Homerun Region which was a tremendous success. Membership was now on the rise thanks to the efforts of membership chair Barb Robertson.

The International Convention was a struggle due to not having a hospitality room. I felt that getting together daily with District members was something that everyone deeply missed. Our Region worked on having a Regional hospitality room but, several of the Districts had no budget for the room. We did get together on Friday night, in lieu of the

hospitality room we paid for the meals of those that attended. This get together, for me, was one of the highlights of the year.

The Iowa District Convention was held in Waterloo and hosted by the Waterloo Clubs. The largest struggle at the convention was that several of the entertainers and speakers didn't show up for the convention which hurt. The Governors roast was something different but a lot of fun. It also will be one of the highlights of the year that I will not forget. Paula and Tom attended the Convention, Tom became ill and left on Thursday AM. Paula and I worked on a new club in Tama-Toledo on Thursday. We met a dynamic lady from the school district that will be a pillar for the new club.

The fourth quarter, we continued to work on membership growth and Barb was being very successful with increasing the membership throughout the fourth quarter. Andy McKim was our guest speaker from Liberty Day. The Indianola Club was chartered on Sept 27<sup>th</sup> by Craig Kelley and Judy Boyd. We were now plus 45 members for the year!!!!!! Sept 30<sup>th</sup> the Clear Lake Club dropped 33 members in which didn't kill the successful year that we had all strived for. A last minute plea for new members worked and we stayed positive by 25 for the year. I felt that this was a low point of the year since everyone had worked so hard to be successful and they were and that this one situation would wash away all of the hard work that everyone had done all year.

I learned many things during the course of the year:

1. The Governor has little control over the outcome of many things.
2. It takes a team working together as one to be successful.
3. Picking the right team members for your style of leadership helps.
4. If you believe that things will get worse you are right, and if you believe that they'll get better you are also right.
5. That letting everyone that is working like mad has the opportunity, to be recognized for their efforts, they will do more than they have to.
6. People that you thought were your friends may not be and people that you thought were you adversaries may be your friends.
7. Hosting a three day retreat was the best investment that was made for the year.
8. Asking for help from outside the District was beneficial in so many ways. Their motivation in so many ways kept me going which in turn helped me to motivate the leadership team.
9. I don't have as many answers for things that I thought.
10. That the Iowa District was distinguished and outstanding because of the efforts of many, many people that earned the right to be distinguished.
11. I also had the opportunity to first handedly learn that there is a huge difference between working hand in hand with the team verses working hands on with the team. Working hand in hand is much more rewarding and everyone felt like they had a bigger part in the Districts success and they did!

That's about it, What A Year!!!!

Past Governor Craig Kelley--Knoxville