



I am excited about the opportunity to serve as your Governor as we go into the new Millennium.

Optimist International President Andre' Dubois reported that he had a dream of children standing around with sad faces, not playing, dark clouds overhead, and then the sun began to break through the clouds and shine on the children. They began to play, laugh, sing and it was then that he saw that the sun was shaped like the Optimist Logo with the sun rays shining on the children that made them happy. From this dream I chose the theme this year of 'VISION 2000'.

In concert with Andre', I have chosen the theme 'LIGHTING THE WAY' for the great Iowa District. Each club member is a ray of sunshine to the youth of their community. Our challenge this year is to eliminate the clouds of despair, and spread the sunlight of Optimism to every corner of the Iowa District.

To accomplish this goal, we must focus on growth:

- **Growth** in the number of projects we do for kids
- **Growth** in membership to support increased projects
- **Growth** in new clubs to reach areas of the district that are not being served today

Every young person in Iowa needs the opportunity to enter our Essay & Oratorical Contests, or join a JOOI Club and serve their communities in ways no other organization can.

"Look at the sunny side of everything, and make your Optimism come true" so that this is truly a year of positive growth by "Lighting the Way" into the new Millennium!

John W. Cooper, 1999-2000 Iowa District Governor

New Club was built: Jane Boyd Community House Optimist Club of Cedar Rapids and I believe there were at least two other new clubs started.

September 12, 1999, was the 15th Anniversary of the Optimist Club of Treynor, Iowa.