



Our Dear Optimist Family,

Do we not live in interesting times? As the news of the day brings us uncertainty, Optimist International's Board of Directors has made decisions that they feel will keep us all safe in the coming months. Decisions that are heartbreaking and disappointing but were made with the true intent to keep us all from getting sick.

1. The Optimist International Convention in Chicago has been cancelled.
2. Junior Golf (OIJGC) has been cancelled.
3. The World Oratorical Contest is uncertain at this time but will probably be cancelled in the coming weeks.

In addition, we have been asked to cancel our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Conferences. And to avoid District Events in April, May and into June. So, indeed, our Iowa Conference for April 24-25, 2020 in Johnston, Iowa is canceled. Stoney Creek has been notified. We tried to cancel the room reservations that have been made, but If you would confirm with them, that might be helpful.

It is a lot to wrap our minds around but we are Optimists, the glass half full folks; therefore we will make the best of it and be ever mindful that we serve a purpose in our Communities....to "Bring out the Best in Kids".

We say, let's take this time to focus on our individual home Clubs and prepare our Members to hit the Summer Season full throttle.

-If you are not meeting at this time as a Group, investigate the other options out there (Skype, Zoom, Conference Calls) that can help you have a Meeting.

-Keep in touch with each other. Send Newsletters, emails, make calls to your Membership, weekly, to encourage each other and keep the lines of communication open.

-Think about your Summer Schedule and plan for it. Can a project or two that was supposed to happen in April or May be moved to the summer? What youth activities, fundraising, social events will your Club want to do when

Summer comes? Make a schedule, set up committees for projects, get everything organized now so that you are ready to go.

-Make your Growth Plan at this time! Make plans for Membership Growth by deciding what Events, Incentives, Membership Drives that you are going to have this Summer. Want to bring in a New Club? .... that also takes planning. Work your Plan!

Work on getting Club By-laws up to date. May be boring for some, but a good time to get this task done!

Don't let these next few months go to waste....and **PLEASE DON'T BE INACTIVE**. Again, we are Optimists - let's be proactive and find a way to move forward.

The Iowa District Oratorical Contest: We think we can still try to pull this off. Even if Optimist International cancels the World Competition, we can still have our Iowa Contest. Let's keep the Club/Zone/Regionals Contests as is for now.... if we as a group, feel that we need to push the Competitions back, we will but for now let's try to make it work. And when we have the three Regional Winners, we will set up a District Competition.

The Poster Contest will be held at our Dubuque convention in August.

There is so much more that we would like to say, but if you are like us when we heard all this.... you are now stunned and need some time to process. Write or call us with your questions.

**Thank-you for everything you do for the Kids.**

*Marguerite and Judy*