



The Iowa District Optimist “Find A Need – Fill The Gap”



Here is the Iowa District Calendar for:



President’s Pride Report:	09-30-20	www.optimistleaders.org
Club Roster Adjustments:	09-30-20	www.optimistleaders.org
4 th quarter A&A Report:	10-15-20	Cyndi Barber: clbarbopt@outlook.com

Let’s take a look at our **Honor Club Requirements** and what can we do this month to move closer to Honor Club.



The **HONOR CLUBS** Requirements are:

- Complete three or more service projects each year.
- Complete the President’s Pride Report and Club Officer-Elect Form.
- Recognize a Club Member or local Community individual.
- Grow Club by Net of +3 in Membership.
- Appoint a Club Foundation Representative and make a non-restricted contribution to the OIF.
- Conduct a Membership Recruitment Drive (N.O.W.) Program.
- Club President, Club President-Elect (or two Designees) attend District Convention OR two other District Conferences.
- Be current on District and OI Dues and Fees.

- ✓ **Complete three or more service projects each year:** Get one more service project in this month.
- ✓ **Complete the President’s Pride Report Form:** Get on the OI Website and take a few minutes to complete this form. Thanks
- ✓ **Recognize a Club Member or local Community individual:** Do you have End-of-the-Year Awards? Be sure to note this in your Honor Club Checklist.
- ✓ **Grow Club by Net of +3 in Membership:** Keep Rebuilding your Membership.
- ✓ **Appoint a Club Foundation Representative and make a non-restricted contribution to the OIF:** If you have not sent a donation to the Foundation it is not to late.



Red Ribbon Week

ACTIVITIES

***Set** up an Information Booth at the Mall. Set up a coloring table for the kids to color “Anti-Drug” coloring pages. Give red balloons, red suckers, red ribbon theme pencils, or small gifts. Ask the kids to fill out a pledge card to not take drugs.

***Have** a photo contest using this years Red Ribbon Week Theme.

***Have** a Poster Contest with an Anti-Drug Theme.

***Work** with your School, Church, or Youth Organization to plan a Rally (Against Drugs Event). Have Carnival Games, Speakers, Food, Education and Awareness Booths and Activities. Invite your local D.A.R.E. Officer.

***Promote** Neighborhood Watch Programs to help keep ‘Drug Selling’ out of our local communities.

***There** are groups available to do Anti-Drug School Assemblies that provide skits, live music, videos, etc. to get the point across to not use drugs to Students. Sponsor one of these Groups at your School.

***Raise** money for your local Alcohol and/or Drug Dependency Center or Prevention Organization.

***Set** up a “Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet” Campaign. Promoting people to clean out their “old” medicine and your Club provides a safe place for disposal. Encourage parents to lock their medicine cabinets.

***Sponsor** a local S.A.D.D. Chapter at your school or in your community.

***Sponsor** a Classroom Door Contest: Each classroom in the Elementary School decorates their door for Red Ribbon Week. Your Club votes on the best door and provides the winning class with a Pizza and Pop Party.

***Sponsor** a Health Day at the YMCA or Community Center: Teaching kids to take care of their bodies instead of hurting them with drugs.



**Red Ribbon Week:
October 23-31, 2020**



Thank-you To Those That Brought In New Members This Month:

Rich May of Grinnell, **Don Pfeiffer** of Washington, **Tim Rethmeier** of Winterset, **James Olson** of Winterset, **Joe Rush** of Griswold, **Fred Hildebrandt** of Griswold, and **Ronald Bock** of Dubuque.



Growing our Clubs with *Targeted Membership*. Last month our Target Group was our *Educators*. This Month let's target: *One Less Decade*. Need younger Members? Those folks in their 20's or 30's? You have each Member recruit someone who is about 10 years younger than themselves. Some Clubs will lower their average age just by recruiting Members in their 40s, 50s, or 60s. 😊



First Responders Membership Incentive

Police, Firemen, Emergency Medical, nurses and EMT's play an important and essential civic duty and service in every community. To Honor and Recognize the valiant and heroic service that First Responders provide to our communities during this pandemic, Optimist International is proud to offer an incentive for our local Clubs to recruit into our membership these public heroes!

\$30 annual membership fee for the first year to any First Responder that joins an Optimist Club! Incentive to recruit First Responders is open to December 31, 2020. All Districts are required to waive district dues for the first year.

First Responders would include any Police, Fire, Medical, ETM's, 911 Operators or other civic service providers that provide immediate aid and assistance.

First Responder Invite

Get your club ready by inviting a first responder to your next club meeting as a guest or speaker.



Membership



Keep in Mind the *Membership Incentives* for this Optimist Year.

Recruitment:

Individual: With each new Member recruited, the Recruiter's name will be included in a Drawing for a **50-inch LED Television**.



First Drawing Winner: **Leonard Wright of Council Bluffs Club.**

The box is filling up for a second drawing for a second television.

The Top Recruiter for each quarter will be awarded a hand-turned pen made by Carl McCarthy. The overall Top Recruiter for the Optimist year will be awarded an OI stepping stone.

Third Quarter Winner: **Ron Slechta of the Kalona Club.**

Club: Club having the **highest % of net membership growth** for the Optimist year will be awarded a **\$250 grant** to be used to fund a youth project in their local community.



Retention:

Club: Club having the **highest retention rate** at the end of the Optimist year will be awarded a **\$250 grant** to be used to fund a youth project in their local community. **Note:** to be eligible for this Award, the Club must have recruited at least 3 New Members.



Any Questions?

Contact Dave Phillips at phillips363@mchsi.com

Volunteer Management 101

-Volunteers are the driving force behind our Optimist Clubs. These amazing individuals (our Members) dedicate their time and talents to our cause in a number of ways, from helping us pull off a fundraising event to serving others in their Community on our behalf.

So, how do we show Volunteers that they made the right choice by becoming a part of our Clubs? By providing a positive volunteer experience, for starters!

Managing Volunteers is no small task, but with a little effort on your part, you can develop a Volunteer Program that's effective, engaging, and exceptionally fulfilling for everyone involved.

There are at least 5 essential components to any Volunteer Management Plan:

1. **Comprehensive Volunteer Management Tools.**
2. **Purposeful Volunteer Recruitment.**
3. **Long-term Volunteer Engagement.**
4. **Consistent Communication.**
5. **Varied Volunteer Acknowledgement.**



You need a Program to manage your Volunteers. A Plan with paperwork.

-You need a list of your Member Volunteers with complete contact information including where and when they work so you will know when they are available to volunteer.

-Build a detail Member profile. What they like to do, talents, resources. The more you know about your Member the better to pair them up with a specific task that they will like and can handle. Which brings us to...

-Keep a Skills Register – This is very rarely done but is very useful. The Register is simply a list of Members with any specific skills. This helps you to be more specific about who you ask to fill what roles.

-Create online and paper sign-up list for each event with specific details about the job. This way people will know what they are volunteering for.

-Keep track of their volunteer hours. So, that you know who did what and you will be able to thank them later.



02 Purposeful Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteers!



Now that you have a plan in place for how you'll manage volunteer data and track involvement, you'll need some Volunteers to manage.

- **Set the expectation at sign up and again at the Induction – This is an important part of the life cycle of a Member at your Club and is a great time to set up the Club culture and expectations in relation to volunteering. What is the expectation of the Members when it comes to their involvement with your Club? Is it volunteering? As a Club you need to decide what is the expectation. Making this clear to Members and telling them up front increases the likelihood that it will happen. Is it once a week? Twice a season? Selling a book of raffle tickets twice a year? Going to three Events a year? Most people don't mind helping out, they just need to know when and how.**
- **Don't tell, order or shame but don't be afraid to ask – Don't be too shy to ask people for help with a Call to Action. People nowadays don't often think to proactively volunteer but when asked are more than happy to give their time. It is also a good idea not to ask big groups but rather ask individuals who will then make a Team. This approach helps to create ownership and pride for these people in relation to the project.**



03 Long-Term Volunteer Engagement



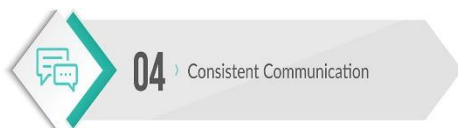
It's not enough to recruit Volunteers for a one-time role; for a truly successful volunteer Program, you'll need to find a way to retain your Recruits over time and develop relationships with them. You need to develop a Volunteer Engagement Plan....

- **Make Volunteering part of your Club's Culture: – This means having as many people to help with the day to day running of your Club as possible. Put it up on your Club's website and in the newsletters. Comments like “your contribution makes a difference” or “help us at our next event” continually reminds Members that there is a culture of helping out and Volunteering at your Club.**
- **Highlight Volunteer Involvement: Reward and Recognize Contributions. Who doesn't love a little recognition now and then? When you highlight volunteers' involvement (either personally or publicly on your website or social media pages), you can show them that your Club doesn't take their help for granted. And make sure you illustrate exactly what their volunteer hours helped accomplish, too. When Volunteers see how much their work helped your Club or Community, they'll feel good about signing up to volunteer again.**

- **Ask for Volunteer Feedback:** Volunteer Programs exist because of their Volunteers, so you should make sure the program is living up to your Supporters' expectations. Send out a survey to get feedback about the opportunities you've planned, communications you've sent, and anything else you're curious about. Or, for more direct, personal evaluations, talk to regular Volunteers one-on-one. When you know what Volunteers want, you'll be able to develop a program that they love being involved in.
- **Take a vested interest in your Volunteers.** If you want to retain Volunteers, you'll need to get to know them—as people and fellow Members of your Club. Volunteer management should be relational. Talk to your Volunteers and take time to understand who they are and why they're interested in your Club. When you go above and beyond to extend a hand to Volunteers, they will take notice. And they'll be even more excited to continue volunteering for years to come!

Keep your Volunteers excited about your Club by intentionally finding ways to engage with them in a personal way.

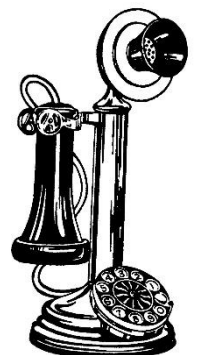
- **Divide and Delegate:** Sub divide large tasks into smaller tasks and delegate to subcommittees/project teams – This makes it easier for people to get involved. Creating Project Teams means that Members can take ownership of the task and if necessary recruit their friends to be on their Team to help and then they can become Members.
- **Train the People at your Club:** – This is a great way to engage with your Members and can inspire people to get involved in training, in order to achieve new skills. For example, first aid training. People may be very capable in their day jobs but may not know how to do certain tasks around the Club and may not feel comfortable asking for training.



Picture it: a Volunteer is excited and ready to help for the first time but they have no idea how to get started! Or a Volunteer signs up for an opportunity and shows up at the site only to have no details for their responsibilities or even worse....the details of the Event have changed.

There's nothing worse than being left in the lurch. How do you solve problems like this (and many other unfortunately common mishaps)?

By making a commitment to clear, consistent Communication.



Volunteer Communication can take a lot of forms, including (but definitely not limited to):

- **Promoting relevant upcoming volunteer opportunities online and through direct mail.**
- **Explaining volunteer details in a straightforward, timely manner—well before the day of the event or activity.**
- **Updating Volunteers through regular newsletters.**
- **Engaging with Volunteers on social media.**
- **Following up with Volunteers directly following their service.**
- **Thanking Volunteers.**

A multichannel Communication approach will allow you to engage Volunteers in a variety of ways. For example, you can post a “Volunteer of the Week” on your organization’s Facebook page, share photos of the latest community service event on your website, send an email newsletter, and shoot Volunteers a volunteer day reminder via text.

Find out which methods of communication your Volunteers prefer (either on your sign-up form or through a survey) and store that information so you’ll be able to reach your Volunteers in a way that’s convenient and most engaging for them.

If you don’t communicate regularly with Volunteers, you run the risk of confusing or aggravating them with a lack of clear information about volunteer opportunities and details. But even more likely, if you don’t make an effort to have a consistent presence in your Volunteers’ lives, you’ll stand a higher chance of them forgetting that your Club exists!

To prevent that, be as deliberate as possible in planning out your Communication Strategy.



**Thank
You,
(very much)**

The final step to managing Volunteers and ensuring that they’re left with a positive experience is developing a plan to thank Volunteers for their continued help.

Volunteer acknowledgement can take a number of forms, from a straightforward thank-you note to a larger-than-life volunteer appreciation party, but it doesn’t have to be extravagant to be genuine. Your thank-you can be demonstrated in any way you like, but let’s look at some of the best ways to show your gratitude:

- **Keep it personal by using their first name and mentioning their specific volunteer service.**
- **Be concise and straightforward; don’t waste their time!**

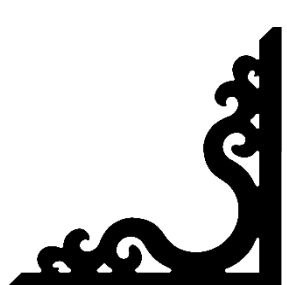
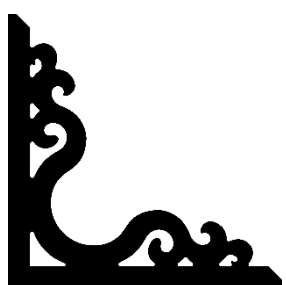
- Offer other ways to stay involved, such as highlighting an upcoming fundraising event.
- Take it public by highlighting specific Volunteers on social media, your website, or at an event.
- Tell the story of what their volunteer service did for your cause or community.
- Reward them with small tokens of gratitude, like a gift certificate or OI product.
- Host an appreciation event to display your appreciation to all your Volunteers.

No matter how you choose to acknowledge your volunteers, what's important is that you do.

Much like communication, consistent acknowledgement reminds Volunteers that you value their support and want to go the extra mile to make sure their volunteer experience is a positive one.

Plus, just think about it: your Volunteers devote a lot of time and energy to your Club, so why wouldn't you go above and beyond to show your appreciation?

Volunteer management is a major undertaking with a number of important elements to consider. However, when you have a clear plan in place for each piece of the puzzle, you'll find that your Volunteer Program will come together perfectly!





Halloween Fun: Hold an Event that centers on Halloween. Use several rooms in a school or a community center as the haunted area to scare the kids; have games and serve spooky food. Hold a costume contest. Show a kid-friendly scary movie and have a pumpkin carving/painting contest. This can also be turned into a **Fundraiser** as a Fall Festival.

Trunk and Treat: Some Communities have Trunk and Treat set-ups. Your Club should include themselves in this Activity to not only pass out candy but to provide a Public Relations opportunity for your Club.

Film Evening: Set up an outdoor theater to play those special movies from the 50's "The Fly", "The Mummy", "The Creature from the Black Lagoon." The movie is played outside with lawn chairs and haystacks for sitting. Free popcorn and pop. Your Members are in scary costumes.

-Haunted House: Remember the fun you had as a kid going through the town's Haunted House? Well you can have that fun again putting on a Haunted house. This can also be a **Fundraiser**.



"They said they never expected me to show up."



"You may think the glass is half-empty, but I say it is half-full. At least it was before you dumped it on me."

Why I Like Retirement!

Question: How many days in a week
Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?
Answer: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?
Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?
Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?
Answer: Tied shoes.

FUNDRAISER

-Fall Festival: A lot of work but a lot of fun. Set-up a Mid-way Carnival. Have a hayrack ride, pony rides, costume contests, serve hotdogs, have a cake walk, face painting, etc. Prizes can be candy or your members donate some small toys. Do not forget to set up an Optimist Membership Booth. You sell tickets that can be used at the games, rides, and food area.

-Club Blind Auction: A fun thing to do at a special club meeting like your Annual Banquet is to have a blind auction. Ask your members to bring a wrapped box with an item inside; humorous or of actual value (it can even be money). Have everyone bid on the boxes.

-Craft Fair: If you have talented people in your club who enjoy making crafts hold a craft fair to raise funds. Do not just sell the made items but also do craft demonstrations like candle making, pottery wheels, flower arrangements, jewelry making, scrapbooking, etc. Do not forget to set up booths for the kids to make their own small crafts. Raffle off a homemade quilt.

-Buddy Banks: At the beginning of the new Optimist year give each member a bank (banks, jars, cans, etc.) that will be their buddies for the next year. Encourage them to put the banks in their cars or refrigerators or on their dressers and fill them up.

-Cow Chip Bingo: Club Members sell “deeds” on a small plot of land or football field. The land is sectioned off into 1-foot-by-1-foot squares. Ask a local farmer to donate a cow (or two) and let it loose on the plot. Wherever it “plops” – that plot is the winner! If the cow’s “plop” spans across more than one square, the pot may be split. If no “plop,” a winner can be drawn randomly. Open up a concession stand and sell refreshments during the event.

-Flea Market: This entire Event can take place in a downtown/church parking lot. Members sell donated items and rented booth spaces to other vendors. Additional funds can be raised by selling donated food and beverages at the flea market.

-Millionaire For A Day: Sell chances on a “Millionaire Package” that includes limo service, hotel accommodations and dinner. Jazz up the red carpet treatment by including local television coverage or by simply having a member videotape the event as if it were being televised. The award can also be given like a sweepstakes prize by having a van go to the winner’s home to present the “Millionaire Package.”

-Bathtub Fundraiser: This is a great fundraiser that can be set up at your Club’s weekly meeting place. Find an old bathtub or plastic tub to be used. Members bring in pennies and drop them into the bathtub at each meeting. Allow this to continue for a month or two. Or the whole Optimist year. When the selected time period is up, count and roll the pennies and cash them in to be used in future Club projects.

-Bowl-A-Thon: Ask a local bowling alley to donate the use of its facility and local businesses to donate raffle prizes and small giveaway items. Have people create Bowling teams. Each participant pays a flat admission charge, which includes shoe rental and all bowling for the evening. The Bowlers solicit money per pin that they strike during the bowl-a-thon. After the event, participants are responsible for collecting their “pin pledge” money and returning it to an Optimist. During the evening, conduct a series of drawings for donated items (restaurant gift certificates, bowling merchandise, etc.). Tickets for the raffles are sold continuously throughout the event.

-Make Your Own Contribution: Lead the way by giving your donation first.



Meet **Governor-Designate Sharon Nakato** from the **Coralville Optimist Club**



- ❖ She has been in Optimist since 1992.
- ❖ She is a Life Member.
- ❖ She has served as Club President.
- ❖ She was the Club's JOI Advisor for a number of years.
- ❖ Served as Lt. Governor a record 6 times for Zones 9 and 11.
- ❖ She was awarded the Distinguished Lt Governor Award in 2015.
- ❖ Served as Iowa District Chair in JOI (4x), Childhood Cancer Campaign (2x), Supplies and New Club Building.
- ❖ She is an OI New Club Building Representative.
- ❖ She has Sponsored 12 New Members.
- ❖ She is at Level 7 in Personal Growth and Involvement.
- ❖ Awarded Membership Award for sponsoring 10 Members.
- ❖ Awarded President Citation for Outstanding Membership twice.

Sharon takes over as Iowa District Governor on October 1, 2020



Meet **Governor-Elect Rich May** from the **Grinnell Optimist Club**

- ❖ He has been in Optimist since 2004.
- ❖ He is a Charter Member.
- ❖ He has served as Club President 2x and Club Secretary 8X.
- ❖ He has served as Lt. Governor twice for Zones 7.
- ❖ He has served as Iowa District Chair as Achievement and Awards, Internet Safety (3x), Bulletin Editor (3x), Webmaster (3x) and Membership.
- ❖ He has Sponsored 8 New Members.
- ❖ He is at Level 2 in Personal Growth and Involvement.
- ❖ Awarded Membership Award for sponsoring 5 Members.
- ❖ Awarded President Citation for Outstanding Membership twice.

Rich will be Iowa District Governor on October 1, 2021

1

Learning Management System: Your Club should be set up with this training opportunity. There are some good lessons up right now: Bringing Out the Best in Our Clubs, Club Officer-Elect Report, Club Foundation Representative, Concussions in Sports, Youth Protection, and Succession Planning. We highly recommend that you complete the course: “**Zoom User Guide.**”

The Club President and Club S/T Training is NOW available! Lt. Governor Training and is also NEW.

2

Fly Your Optimist Flag: Optimist International is introducing a new way to celebrate the start of the Optimist Year. On October 1, Optimist Clubs around the world are encouraged to work with a local government organization to fly the Optimist Flag at a municipal building or similar facility.

If you don't have a flag, use their official supplier to order one. (\$80.00 plus shipping)
Shumsky
www.OptimistStuff.com
(877) 678-2582
Fax: (800) 414-8943
Optimist@shumsky.com

3

iMagine New Presidential Incentives:

Optimist International unveiled new Presidential Incentives in June. These 9 new programs include recognition for being a foundation influencer, participating in new service activities, and the re-iMaging Support incentive for Clubs that have developed projects related to COVID-19, or adapted existing projects to address COVID-19.

View these incentives at www.optimist.org/imagine.

4

It's not too early to get ready for Atlanta:

Did you love Virtual Convention? Do you miss your Optimist friends? Join us in Atlanta for the 103rd Optimist International Convention, June 30-July 3, 2021. **Registration will open in October, however, get a head start by reserving your hotel room now. The group code is G-OPTI.**

Club Socials...

-Caddy Shack: Hit the Golf Course with your Club Members. The Golf Course for this Event could be something as easy as the local Miniature Golf Course or a Course Built in Someone's Backyard or City Park or a Professional Golf Course. Members and Guests should be paired into Teams who compete for the lowest score once the course has been finished.

Design fun score cards for the Teams, or use score cards from a local Golf Course. Keep it serious or make it fun with different tasks at each hole (hit with your opposite hand, be blindfold, hit the ball while on one foot, etc.) Go to the "Club House" after the game for refreshments and a N.O.W. Event.

-A Picnic with a Capture the Flag Game: Create your own Capture the Flag course. The goal is to capture the opposing Team's flag. Use squirt guns filled with colored water to squirt them. Have Teams of about 10-15 per side. Everyone must wear white t-shirts. The two sides get different colored water. Play a certain time, usually a pre-determined 15 minutes with four quarters. As the opposing Team approaches your Headquarters (where your flag is located), you squirt them. If your colored water hits their shirt, they must return to their home base.

-Newlywed Game: Arrange this event just like the Game Show...using your married/dating Members....no matter how long they have been married/dating. Just be sure to tailor the questions to fit your brand of Optimist Club Newlyweds. Participants who are not serving as one of the couples should be the audience/judges. You'll find that Members of the audience will enjoy watching and listening to the couples argue as much as those couples who are playing the actual game. Think about arranging a nice evening out for the winning couple....possibly a dinner and a movie.

-Inspector Gadget Detectives: A more involved Scavenger Hunt where the Members must solve the case of the...(you fill in the blank). Teams of three or more, using photo snapshots as the indicator of the next site, are led from one site to another to answer riddles, questions, and clues that all fit together to solve the mystery. Teams are assigned as Members and Guests arrive at the Event by drawing playing cards from a hat – all of the fours are a Team, kings are a Team, etc. Teams start at different sites. At each site, the participants will find a snapshot of the location of the next clue; and a numbered clue, riddle, or question that needs to be answered. The Teams will have a pre-printed form that has numbered blank slots (to be filled with the answers to the questions located at each new site). The Teams need to find all the sites and answer all the riddles, questions and clues to solve the mystery. Be sure not to make the mystery too easy to guess!

-Minor League Games: If possible, take advantage of the affordable entertainment offered by your town's Minor League Teams. Whether its basketball, baseball, or hockey, Minor League tickets are cheaper. Some Community Ball Parks sponsor a Service Organization Night. Make it a party with your Members. All wearing your Club Shirts and bringing a potential Member as a Guest.

...And Fellowship

-Ice Cream Social: Everybody likes Ice Cream. This is a great Event to start off your busy Optimist Summer. Make your way down to the local Ice Cream Parlor or invite Members to your backyard to make Ice Cream Sundaes. Members get Ice Cream and an Update on the Youth Activities you have planned for the Summer (Fishing Derby, Kid's Parade, etc.) Gives everyone a chance to sign-up and your Guest information about your Club.

-Ice Cream Gutter Party: Similar to an Ice Cream Social but fill a new, clean gutter with all the fixings of an ice cream sundae. Have several gutters, divide people into Teams, and have a contest to see who can finish their sundae the quickest. Add this to your [Club Picnic](#).

-A Progressive Dinner: Is a dinner party with successive courses prepared and eaten at the residences of different hosts. Usually this involves the consumption of one course at each location. Cocktails and appetizers at one house, dinner at another, and dessert down the street-at another home. You can add games, a movie (seen in sections) and lots of fun. (Do a Mexican Theme with different Mexican dishes at several stops and end with a Pinata.)

-10 Dollar Senior Prom: Members and Guests must dress in typical formal attire; the catch is that each person cannot spend more than ten dollars on the outfit. Use your best shopping skills at the Second-Hand Stores to find an outfit that is formal attire. All the traditional prom-like activities should still be followed. Dinner and Dance to be part of the Prom Party. Be sure to elect a prom king and queen. You may even choose to elect the best-dressed couple. The next day, all the clothes can be returned to the Thrift Shop where you brought them.

-Halloween/Haunted House: Have a Halloween Theme Party. Decorate the Theme or even create a Haunted House in your facility. Scary food and games, Monster Mash/Thriller music and the ever favorite Costume Contest. Pumpkin Carving Contest. Adults do love this type of Party. Add a.....

-Scarecrow Contest: Ask Members to create Scarecrows in their yards and then drive around to view the Creations....meeting up at a local restaurant for a night of Scarecrow Judging and Awards.

-Hayrack Rides: Have a hayrack ride and campfire. Go to the local County Park or a Member's Farm/Backyard to roast marshmallows, make S'mores, tell stories and sing songs.

-Nature Walks: Offer Guided Tours to natural beauty spots. Maybe a walk through the prairie, the woods at night to hear the owls, bird watching, star glazing, glazer land formations, etc. You can set up different nature walks for every season. Maybe a Garden Tour of the lovely gardens in town. Provide a knowledgeable speaker and refreshments.

-Carnival Night: Set up booths with carnival games—dunk tank, ring toss, darts, other favorites. Rent a cotton candy machine and have popcorn and a bucket of peanuts available. This is a great Family Social for your Club.



Achievement Chair Cyndi Barber Announces....



A&A – Third Quarter Winners:

Thanks to all the clubs that participated! We had 19 clubs! Congratulations to the winners. Keep up the good work!

First place winners received a bag of candy!

For all the clubs that did not submit an A&A for 3rd Quarter it's not too late!! Start now and send in your A&A for Fourth Quarter by **October 15th**. Each quarter is tallied per quarter. The Three \$100 Grand Prizes (one per category) are the accumulation of all the points for each quarter.

The drawing for "**Bringing out the Best**" book, which will consist of all the clubs that entered 2 or more A&A reports, will be drawn at 1st Quarter.

Large Clubs Category (41+ members as of 10/1/2019):

★ 1st- Maquoketa (40085)

2nd- Kalona

3rd- Winterset

Dubuque Noon, North Liberty, Bloomfield, Corydon, Solon, Des Moines Western Noon, Davenport Noon, Davenport Quad Cities Morning

Medium Clubs Category (21-40 members as of 10/1/2019):

★ 1st – Boone (40197)

2nd- Des Moines

3rd- Ankeny

Kimballton-Elk Horn, Oskaloosa, Greenfield, Cedar Rapids Thursday Noon

Small Clubs Category (1-20 members as of 10/1/2019):

★ 1st- Knoxville (40132)

2nd- Dubuque Morning

Congrats!!!

Cyndi can be contacted at: clbarbopt@outlook.com





Winners of the District Poster Contest

This year's Theme was:



- Division #1: Kindergarten and First Grade: **Kalona Optimist Club**
- Division #2: Second Grade and Third Grade: **Kalona Optimist Club**
- Division #3: Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade: **Kalona Optimist Club**

Thank-you to Judges Leanne Schneckloth and Mark Feilmann

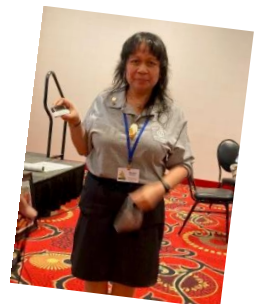
Highlights from the Iowa District Convention



Thank-you Judy for all your hard work!

Friday: Lt Governor and District Chair Training and Friday Fun Night with pizza, games and want-me-not prizes. There was a mean Dominos Competition that went on. And we want to thank the **Fort Madison Area Optimist Club** for the Hospitality Room.

Saturday: The thanking of the "Find A Need – Fill the Gap" 2019-20 Team, Club President and Secretary-Treasurer Training, Workshops by Mark Claussen and Erin Reese, Jim Boyd and Marguerite, Lunch and Awards....(A&A, Membership, Poster Contest and Foundation).





Saturday: Our Guest Speaker was our Great Plains OI Vice-President Lyle Merriam who visited us via Zoom. We also conducted Convention Business with the Announcement of Rich May as the new Governor-Elect and Introduced and Installed the “Over the Rainbow” 2020-21 Team. We also had a presentation by Sharon Minor who showed us a new Clean America Community Project that we can do in our Clubs.



Memorial Service: We honored Tim Zear of Washington, Roman Steciw of Coralville, Ken Hummel of Council Bluffs, Doloris Mauer of Council Bluffs, Ray Reschly of Kalona, Leroy Marple of Quad City Morning, Dave Brune of Quad City Morning, Cory Menke of Fort Madison Area, Kathy Auge of Fort Madison Area, Marty Laughlin of Davenport, Steve Kilburg of Davenport, Jacquie Oster of Cedar Rapids Thursday, Arnold Kornda of Maquoketa, Mike Agin of Bettendorf and Emil Segebart of Lamoni.



Marguerite’s Closing Comments:



Look at us, we are here, we are still standing. At a time in our Nations, when the schools were closed, businesses were closed, governments were closed, Optimists found a way to stay open....to look beyond the crisis...to Find A Need and Fill The Gap. We made masks, we provided funds to feed kids not in school, we organized auto parades for graduating seniors, we created sidewalk chalk games for kids and we provided food and supplies to front line workers. We definitely went into our Communities to find that Need... to “N” find what is Necessary, to “E” evaluate if our Clubs could do it, to “E” create the excite to do it and “D” do it.

And we learned new things, we learned new technology; how to Zoom, we now know not only what P.G.I. and P.D.P. is but also P.P.E. We learned that we are creative, we are resilient and that we are strong. And stronger together.

Yes, we are here, we are still standing and when this said and done, there may be some schools, businesses, government offices, that won’t make a comeback...won’t be open but we will.

We faced the crisis, we faced the covid, we faced the confusion and took up the challenge and we, the Iowa Optimists will be open.

I am proud of each of you and was so grateful for the opportunity to be the Governor for the great Iowa District this year. You have my heart and I thank-you.

Now, let’s go out there and make some noise. Remind the people in our Communities that we *are* still here, that we take care of our own and that we would love for them to join us in the endeavor to “bring out the best in kids.” Thank-you; *Marguerite*



Notes from Gerri Barnett:



Strategic Planning Chair

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With the continuing uncertainty of the times, the Iowa Optimist Strategic Planning Committee did not feel that a formal plan to present District-wide can be provided. However, **strongly encouraging that each club should be communicating and “meeting” in some shape or form**, whether this be by emails, Zoom, or socially distanced at a park/ large facility. The impact Optimist Clubs can make to communities and the young people in them is significant, especially in this time of duress. Following are suggestions for Clubs. Take the basic concept and adapt it to your membership and those you serve. Working together is key!!!

If you have a Flag Program, **continue to keep visible** during the Holidays that are on your subscription. Adjust your methods to adhere to recommended social distancing.

Fishing derbies can still be held. With some creative spacing, kids and Optimists/volunteers can team up for a great experience!

Hold a Bike Rodeos or a Bike-a-thon

Sponsor a Youth putting green or a golfing outing

Have 5K Run/Walk for a common cause (ex. Food pantry)

Working together but separately for a common cause:

Keeping Iowa Beautiful—Everyone in your group has a trash bag. Each of you takes a different area to collect. Doing the same thing, for the same purpose, at the same place, but working independently.

Mask drive for first responders

Have a Food Drive. Donors come when convenient for them, drop off items to an open car trunk, truck or trailer. When full, the goods are delivered to the local food pantry. Depending on the facility, help will be provided to off-load or make arrangements so help will be there to unload.

Adopt a Block! One club saw a need to provide lunches for a mobile home park. Members prepared a designated number of lunches each and delivered them to a central point at the mobile home park.

FUND RAISERS

Drive through meals.

Meals were prepared and packaged to go by a small group of members following all the regulations. Another group of members were available to take the orders from people in cars and bring them the bagged meals. Money (free will donations) was received in receptacles at the site. Other members were able to deliver orders to porches or business entrances. Money was left in the same area so minimal contact.

Zoom Trivia Night

Event was promoted and plan for delivery of payment to a cause was made. Zoom invite sent once payment received. Teams could be made through Zoom breakouts (or simply through chat in the Zoom meeting

The Optimist Creed written by Christian Daa Larson



Christian Daa Larson: (1866– 1955) was an American New Thought leader and teacher, as well as a prolific author of metaphysical and New Thought books. He is credited by Horatio Dresser as being a founder in the New Thought movement. Many of Larson's books remain in print today, more than 100 years after they were first published, and his writings influenced notable New Thought authors and leaders, including Religious Science founder Ernest Holmes.

Larson was **born near Forrest City, Iowa**, of Norwegian descent. **He attended Iowa State College** and Meadville Theological School, a Unitarian theological school in Meadville, Pennsylvania. In his early twenties he became interested in the Mental Science teachings of Helen Wilmans, Henry Wood, and Charles Brodie Patterson.

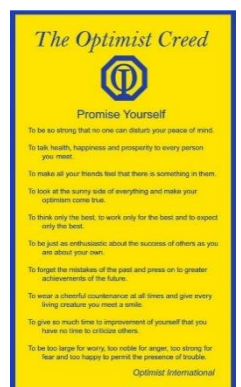
In 1898 Larson relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio. In January 1901, he organized the New Thought Temple at his residence at 947 West 17th St. In September 1901 he began to publish *Eternal Progress*, for several years one of the leading New Thought periodicals, building it to a circulation of over a quarter of a million. Meanwhile, he began his prolific book writing career.

Larson relocated to Los Angeles, California, around 1911. He married wife Georgea L. DuBois on February 14, 1918. They had two children, Louise DuBois Larson (born 1920) and Christian D. Larson Jr. (born 1924). The family lived in Beverly Hills for many years.

Larson later became honorary president of the International New Thought Alliance and lectured extensively during the 1920s and 1930s. He was a colleague of such notables as William Walker Atkinson, Charles Brodie Patterson, and Home of Truth founder Annie Rix Militz.

Early in the career of Ernest Holmes, Larson's writings so impressed him that he abandoned Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science textbook *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* for them. Ernest and his brother Fenwicke Holmes took a correspondence course with Larson, and in his biography of his brother, *Ernest Holmes: His Life and Times*, Fenwicke elaborates on the influence of Larson's thought on Ernest, ranking Larson's *The Ideal Made Real* (1912) with Ralph Waldo Trine's *In Tune with the Infinite* in its influence over him. In 1918, Larson joined the staff of Science of Mind Magazine as an associate editor and frequent contributor. He was on the permanent faculty of Ernest Holmes' Institute of Religious Science as a teacher.

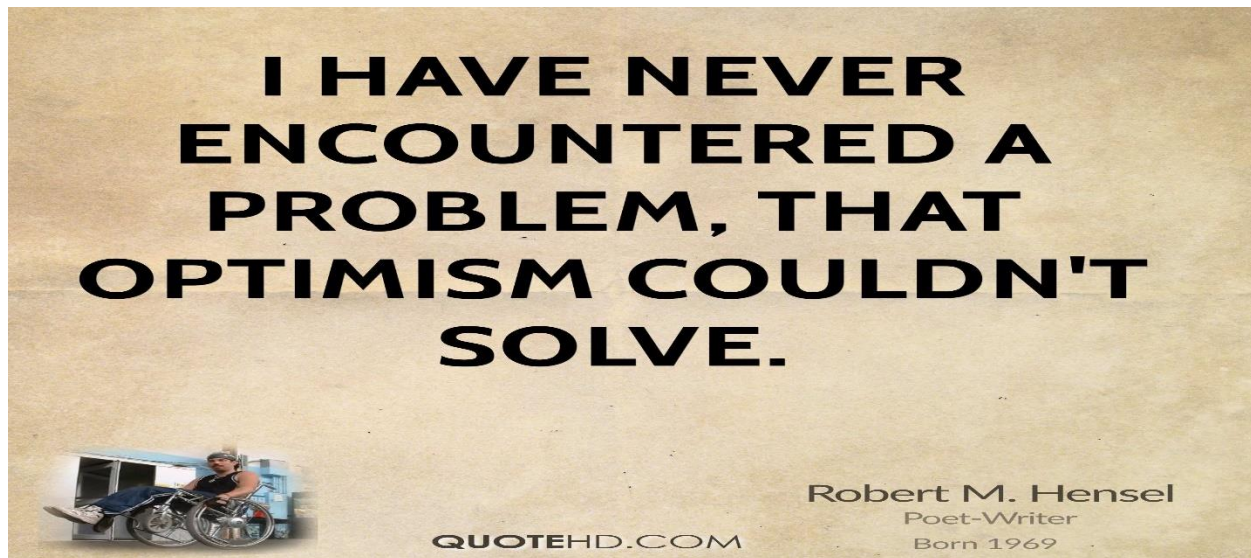
In 1912 Larson published a poem that eventually became the Optimist Creed, which in 1922 was adopted by Optimist International, better known as the Optimist Clubs.



**Did you know that there are two more lines to the
Poem that is not in our Creed?**

“To think well of yourself and to proclaim
this fact to the world,
not in loud words but great deeds.

To live in faith that the whole world is on your side
so long as you are true to the best that is in you.”



Optimism is essential to achievement
and it is also the foundation of
courage and true progress.

-- Nicholas Murray Butler