



**SWIS District 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Conference  
Executive Board Meeting  
Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells, WI  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010**



Governor Jerry Schewe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Mahogany Room of the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Board members were present: Governor Jerry Schewe; Governor-elect Cory Ann St. Marie-Carls; Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Spindler; Immediate Past Governor Barb Nelson; Past Governor, Michael Shields; Zone 1 Lt. Gov: Larry Barbera; Zone 2 Lt. Gov. Kevin Austin; Zone 3 Lt. Gov. Vern Andren; Zone 5 Lt. Gov. Grace Policastro.

Guest included: Past Governor and current OI Board Member, Jim Kondrasuk; District Foundation Rep, Andy LaVoi; CPA Chair, Rick Sill, OI Regional VP, Joanne Ganske, Past Governors, Sue Kranz, John Wyttenbach, Sue Kranz, Todd McMillin; VP Elect – Great Plains Region, Gloria Kloster; Sec/Treas Racine Tuesday Optimist Club, Sandra McClaron; Oratorical Chair, Jim Costanzo. Introductions of all those present were taken followed by the Attendance signing.

Governor Jerry Schewe introduced guests: Gloria Kloster, OI VP Elect-Regional, and Joanne Ganske, OI Regional VP.

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Sec/Treasurer, Bonnie Spindler, gave the reports. The minutes from the February 5<sup>th</sup> Quarterly conference were moved by Kevin Austin and seconded by Tom Wohlleber, and passed. The 2009-10 Treasurer's report was moved by Kevin Austin and seconded by Larry Barbera, and passed.

**District Reports:**

**Zone 1:** Larry Barbera, Zone 1 Lt. Governor, gave a report as follows. Current Milwaukee Club meeting, Barb Brinkmann working with them, to rejuvenate the club. The New Metro Milwaukee Club is meeting every Thursday, close to the 25 needed to charter, Cory Ann & others working with them. Other clubs are holding they're own in membership. He's been meeting with clubs. Brookfield Club is in the process of disbanding.

**Zone 2:** Kevin Austin, Zone 2 Lt. Governor, indicated that clubs have difficulty with membership and also problems having optimists step up to new positions. Five clubs did not respond with information, the others had activities/events in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Membership decline in 6 of the clubs.

**Zone 3:** Vern Andren, Zone 3 Lt. Governor, reported he was impressed by some of the small clubs and what they've accomplished. Beaver Dam has new officers, holding their own. The clubs are all holding their own even though membership growth is a continuing situation.

**Zone 4:** Tom Wohlleber, Zone 4 Lt. Governor, reported that the Baraboo Club had over 60 kids in the Club Oratorical Contest and the Mazo-Heights Club had over 80 kids in the Essay Contest. Poynette is disbanding. He met with Sauk Prairie and Baraboo optimists to attempt to resurrect the Reedsburg Club. A Zone 4 Oratorical Contest was scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. Sent 2 girls and 1 boy to the SWIS District Contest.

**Zone 5:** Grace Policastro, Zone 5 Lt. Governor, reported that she has visited most all the clubs in the zone. (Not the LaX Clubs due to distance). 6 Clubs were originally planning to have kids in Club Oratorical Contests, 4 kids cam to the Zone contest and all 4 went to the SWIS District. Bike Safety is starting up in the spring in many clubs.

**OI Foundation:** Andy LaVoi, OI Chair indicated that \$7,675 was donated as of the end of March, with the SWIS District being 14<sup>th</sup> in OI. He also reported of awards to be given at the conference to optimists meeting various monetary goals. The money is used for: CCDHH, Oratorical, Essay, OI Magazines, other costs. Jerry Schewe explained the 'pass through' form on [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) website, that can be used by clubs due to the change to 501C4 club status (501C3 is not being pursued). Organizations that want to give to an optimist club/event, can make checks to the OI Foundation (a 501C3), send it to OI with the form, OI will return a check to the club, which the club can work out with the organization creating the check. The organization can then write-off the donation on their taxes.

**CPA Report:** Rick Sill, CPA Chair indicated that he received a CPA from the West Madison Club. Bonnie Spindler will be e-mailing out about the CPA Process as a reminder to all the clubs as a need for honor club.

**New Milwaukee Area Club:** Cory Ann St. Marie-Carls, Governor Elect reported that there are 22 members in this club and some of them are at the conference to learn more about Optimism. They will be chartering soon.

**Oratorical Contest Report:** Jim Costanzo, Oratorical Chair shared that there were 7 boys and 8 girls competing for 6 professional judges. Each contestant will give his or her speech twice on the "Cyber Communication ...Problem or Progress?" topic. Scholarships of \$2,500 for a boy and a girl winner, with each giving their speech again at lunch.

#### **Old Business:**

**October 2010 Parallel District Conference:** Cory Ann St. Marie-Carls, Governor Elect 10-11 and Gloria Kloster, VP Regional Elect, shared information about the 'Parallel District Conference' to be held Nov. 5-7 in Minnesota (near the Mall of America). There will be time allotted for separate district meetings of each of the 7 districts attending. The price is being kept to a minimum to help with attendance. There will be members from: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, Wyoming, Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska, Wisconsin invited. Special guests and trainers from each of the six Great Plains Districts will be providing training. There will be lots of workshops, roundtables, OI sessions, and celebrating 0910 team successes. Governor Jerry and Cory Ann will determine incentives on dollars available for those planning on going in an ad-hoc committee. More information will be coming.

**Governor Elect Nominations:** Yet to be determined by the Past Governor's.

**Lt. Governor Election Process:** At the conference, each zone will be allowed time to come up with a Lt. Governor for their zone. One additional Zone, for larger clubs, will be formed to make 6 zones. Kevin Austin (Zone 2) and Larry Barbera (Zone 1 OR Large Club Zone) indicated they would continue in a Lt. Governor position.

**OIF Contributions:** Andy LaVoi will be giving out awards at the conference for OI 'cumulative' donations.

**OIF Scholarship Naming:** No report, ad-hoc committee will be meeting in the future.

#### **New Business**

**Morton Curling Donation Request:** Thank-you note sent for the \$500 contribution given them. With the district not a qualified fund-raising entity, future contribution requests may not be considered. More discussion and decisions need to be made on requesting funds from the SWIS District for events/activities.

**Football Sweepstakes Update:** A variety of changes has resulted in the Middleton Club not being able to contribute any money to the district, as was agreed upon several years ago. Part of the agreement also allowed the organizers to make presentations at the district conferences. With the change in financial status, and to be fair to the other clubs, a Governor's decision has been made that: **'A Club will not be allowed to talk about their fundraisers during the general session at conferences. Electronic promotion and displays tables in the hallways will still be allowed.'**

#### **International Visitor's & Governor's Remarks:**

**Gloria Kloster, OI Regional Vice President Elect,** also shared with the Executive Committee, see above.

Governor's Remarks by Jerry Schewe were brief with the time being late.

Next Meeting will be **August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010** at the Radisson Inn, Pewaukee.

Immediate Past Governor, Barb Nelson led everyone in the Optimist Creed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Bonnie Spindler, SWIS Secretary/Treasurer 0910**