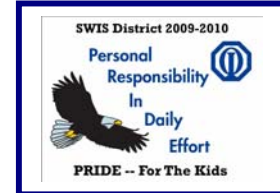




**SWIS District 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Conference  
General Session  
Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells, WI  
Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**



Governor, Jerry Schewe called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at Wisconsin Dells.

Kevin Austin led the Parade of Banners. Immediate Past Governor, Barb Nelson led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Governor Jerry Schewe introduced all past governor's present, new members and sponsors, new clubs (Milwaukee Area), first time attendees, Gloria Kloster, VP Elect Regional District The first timers received a governor's pin and introduced themselves to the optimists present.

**SWIS District JOOI:** Gabrielle Breadon gave a brief presentation of the JOOI group that was meeting at the same time. There was training, planning, and JOOI Governor / board elections to be accomplished.

**SWIS Oratorical Contest:** The Boy and Girl Contests were held at the same time as the general conference. There were 7 boys competing and 8 girls who were sponsored by various SWIS Clubs.

### **Consent Agenda**

It had previously moved and seconded by the Executive Committee to approve the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Convention and the Financial Report. A request was made for consent: Moved (Kevin Austin, Delavan) and Seconded (Tom Frank, Mequon), and passed.

### **Old Business**

**Governor Elect Nominations:** Election planned for SWIS District Convention, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lt. Governor Elect Nominations:** Each of the 5 zones, plus a large club zone, totaling 6 groups were given 15 minutes to discuss possible Lt. Governor's for their zone. Kevin Austin (Zone 2) and Larry Barbera (Large Club Zone), Gary Engelke (Zone 5), with other zones to report later.

### **New Business: None**

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership Report:** Gary Engelke, Membership Chair shared that the Cottage Grove, Platteville Area, and Milwaukee Metro Club all have a good start in membership. There has been a loss in membership in some of the other clubs. Jerry shared that one of the incentives is that for every 5 members an optimist sponsors, they would receive \$5.00 from OI. (*That's for previous optimists sponsored also*).

**New Community Growth:** Dwaine Sievers, NCG Chair shared about the 3 new clubs just built: Cottage Grove; Platteville Area; Milwaukee Metro. He shared that the inspiration for these and all clubs is to increase/sustain membership to impact 35 kids with each member. The International Convention will be held in the Milwaukee area in 2 years and these new and continuing clubs will have a presence there.

**OI Foundation:** Andy LaVoi, OI Foundation Chair, shared that donations help for reimbursements to the clubs for the CCDHH, Oratorical, Essay, OI Publications, etc. The dues could be approximately \$30/year more for each optimist, if there was no OI Foundation to support these activities. He also shared about the 'Dime-A-Day' program and encouraged all those present to be in it. Collection was made of those present for the foundation. Awards were given to: Baraboo & Delavan-Darien (365 Patch); McFarland (District Benefactor); Platteville (Eminent Benefactor); Mazomanie (Honored Benefactor), and Sue Kranz (Personal Eminent Benefactor). A challenge was also made by Joanne Ganske, that she would provide a \$1.50 incentive for anyone that signed up for 'Dime-a-Day' at the conference.

**OI Foundation ‘Pass Through’:** Jerry Schewe presented a program to optimist clubs for ‘passing through’ the OI Foundation (501C3), to acquire a tax write-off for any ‘gift’ destined for a charitable project, from a local organization. There is a need to have checks made out to the ‘OI Foundation’, with an attached ‘Pass Through’ Form, [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) website. A check will be made out directly to the sponsoring club (501C4), (at NO charge), a receipt will be provided, and they can work out the details with an organization they work with. OI is not pursuing acquiring a 501C3 for clubs (so that donations made to them can be written off). All clubs will remain 501C4, with by-laws update being requested through [www.optimistleaders.org](http://www.optimistleaders.org).

If clubs would like to contribute to the Childhood Cancer program, they can also use this pass through process. As an incentive, the West Madison Club will match the first \$2,500 from clubs. More information can be gotten from John Litscher, CCC Chair.

### **PGI Skills Module**

**Choosing Optimism:** Governor, Jerry Schewe went over the Personal Growth and Involvement – PGI Module. He shared with optimists about the 10 levels available, and that quite a few of those present have already accomplished 1-3 levels. Many of the SWIS Officers are above level 3, with Dwaine Sievers being at Level 7 and Joanne Ganske, Jim Kondrasuk, Jerry Schewe and Todd McMillin achieving Level 10. Each Optimist can learn more about the levels and what they need to do in [www.optimistleaders.org](http://www.optimistleaders.org) and [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) websites. This is a challenge for each optimist to accomplish as much as they can to improve their skills.

### **Training With Short Video’s:**

Governor Jerry Schewe used the [www.simpletruths.com](http://www.simpletruths.com) website to show some short video’s. These were used to enhance the various aspects of the optimist world as follows:

- 1) **Short Frog Video:** Exploring procrastination in asking people to join clubs. “Just Ask’. Discussion was held about commitment, truth, excellence, passion, habit, discipline, desire to set examples, doing things out of habit. With any new members, a conclusion was to give a new member a task and let them run with it.
- 2) **The Push – Eagle Video:** Sometimes we need it; sometimes we need to give it. Knowledge is power, grow leaders by mentoring,
- 3) **Love is spelled TIME to a Child:** To the world you might be one person but you might be the world to him/her.
- 4) **Power of Teamwork, Blue Angels Video:** Build team around values. Put the team first, the level of trust on a team means you can communicate ‘vertically and horizontally. Each member has a role in a team’s success.

### **Parallel District Conference**

International Vice President Elect Great Plains Region Gloria Kloster, shared about the November 5 –7<sup>th</sup> ‘Parallel District Conference’ that will be held in Bloomington, MN. All members from the Great Plains District are invited, which includes Wisconsin. There will be special guests, trainers, table topics, and individual district business sessions, region-wide club showcases of service/fundraising projects, besides entertainment, awards, and prizes. More information will be coming at the SWIS Convention in August.

**CCDHH, Essay, And Oratorical Winners:** The Essay Winner: Meghan Bennett, Mequon/Thiensville Club read her Essay. The CCDHH Winner, Heather Mattmann, Monroe presented her Essay. All the Oratorical winners were honored with a plaque. The Girl winner, Sadhana Pittala Madison Breakfast presented her speech and the Boy winner Vishal Narayanaswamy Madison Breakfast presented his speech. Each of these winners will receive the \$2,500 scholarship to the school of their choice.

**Next Meeting:** The next conference will be on August 14<sup>th</sup>, Pewaukee Radisson Inn. JJ Sellend, Menomonee Falls, led Optimist Creed for CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls, Gov. Elect (laryngitis).

Respectfully submitted,  
**Bonnie Spindler**, SWIS Sec/Treasurer 0910