



SWIS Newsletter 2010 - 2011



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A message from Governor CoryAnn:

Dear fellow optimistic individuals,

In an effort to lead you to success this year, I have put together a calendar listing resources and invites for PARTICIPATION WITH YOUR DISTRICT. I wanted you to have this in your hands so we could all work together in Optimism in this District, as much as possible. SWIS is a Team! I can only be successful with your help. We are not alone in the good work that we do. Call, text, or email me with any questions - no question is too big or too small. I believe my motto of *"Power Up" for youth toward Unlimited Possibilities* captures the essence of Optimism. Join me! INVITE ME to talk about *"POWER UP" FOR YOUTH* at YOUR CLUB MEETING.

Cory Ann St. Marie-Carls

coryann.stmc@gmail.com

(262) 914-1020

SWIS 2010-11 Calendar Items

November 5 – 7, Great Plains Parallel District Conference, Bloomington MN, (held in place of our traditional SWIS November Conference) This is a mini-international convention! Register at www.optimist.org/pdc Call Cory for the "late registration discount" A drawing will be held including all SWIS attendees for 3 cash prizes! SWIS will also meet as a group & host hospitality.

December – Plan your membership drive: Schedule your Club's event between Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day! By scheduling you enter our contest to help "Power Up" to new heights of SWIS membership. Sign up with Membership Chair, Josh Zaidel and get a kit, with your "to do" list, post cards, District Power Up pins. Join the fun, we will do a lot to help you to success. joshzaidel@me.com

January – Plan your Optimist International Foundations Donations How about a special game, "Dime a Day", or raffle at club meetings for OI donations? Be creative. Remember, OIF now supports our programs such as JOOI Clubs, Internet Safety, Scholarships and more!!! Bring Donations to the February conference and you can

win big for your club.

February 5 – 6, District Conference & "Power Up" Club Membership Rally, Madison with NEW "30 Minutes to Get It" format, membership, essay, oratorical, JOOI updates, and special guest presenter!

February 28, Essay info to District Chair

April 9, District Tri-Star Basketball Competition & Super Zone Meeting #2, Mukwonago

April 15, Oratorical Zone winner info to District Chair

May 6 - 7, District Conference and Oratorical District Contest, Wisconsin Dells

July 3 - 5, International Convention, Baltimore see www.optimist.org for details.

August - District Convention – Milwaukee Report on your "Power Up" team success leading into Bonnie Spindler's year as Governor. Your club can do the presenting! Call or email Governor Cory for details.



CoryAnn's Background

CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls, current Governor of the Southern Wisconsin District of Optimist International, has adopted the "Power Up" for youth theme for her year emphasizing the Unlimited Possibilities we have as Optimist to impact the lives of youth. She started in Optimism as the Charter Vice President of the Kenosha Noon Optimist Club in 1991. She was Distinguished President of the Kenosha Noon Club in 1994 and Chartered the Octagon Club that year at Tremper High School, where she has been advisor for 15 years. She served a Membership Chair and in several project Chairman positions with the Kenosha Noon Club and remains a member. In 1995-97 she served as Lt. Governor and was Distinguished Lt. Governor in 1997. She was District Essay Chair from 2000 to 2004. In 2008, she was Lt. Governor again for Zone 2 and was Outstanding Distinguished Lt. Governor. She recently helped build the new Metro Milwaukee Club, where she is also a member. CoryAnn continues to be dedicated to being an Optimist and the work of Optimism because she believes in what the creed asks of us and in what Optimism can bring to our lives and the lives of the youth we serve. Her favorite moments in Optimism have come from her years as advisor for the Octagon Club and seeing the teenagers grow up and continue their service to the community and others as adults. She currently lives in St. Francis, WI with her husband Tom, who is also an Optimist member and former Club Treasurer and her son Layton Carls (6) who has always participated in Optimist projects/mtgs.



SWIS Website

Your SWIS District is now on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/SWIS-District-Optimists/164795740202145>. Please check it out & if you like what we are doing, click on the "like" link. If you don't like what you see or have suggestions on how to improve it, please let me know at info@swisdistrict.org.

Howard Crofoot

SWIS Webmaster & novice Facebook person

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Introducing Governor-Elect **Bonnie L. Spindler**



I have been given the honor of being elected as Governor Elect 10 –11 and Governor 11 –12. I appreciate the confidence that SWIS Optimists have to elect me to these distinguished offices.

I joined the Sauk Trails Optimist Club of Madison on August 14, 1997, over 13 years ago. The main reason I joined was a follow-up on working for 18 years with our three sons in the Boy Scout program, where they all became Eagle Scouts. Once they were grown, my husband Gene & I were looking for another organization that worked with youth and found the Optimists met that need.

I was Club President in 2001 – 2002, prepared the Sauk Trails Newsletter for 6 years, and held many chair positions over the years including: Membership; Oratorical; Essay; Sponsorship; Service Events; and many others. At the District level, I was SWIS Advertising /Promotion Chair 2006 – 2007; Lt. Governor 2007 – 2009; SWIS Secretary/Treasurer 2009-2010; and SWIS Newsletter Editor/Distributor 2002 – 2010.

One of the many favorite experiences that I've had is to see the smile on the faces of the Special Olympics Track Wheel Chair competitors when they achieve the goal they set for themselves in finishing at the annual track meet. Being a 'Friend of Youth' through family, church, scouts, the Optimist organization, and now as SWIS Governor Elect has provided many special memories and experiences.

I prepared this newsletter for the past 8 years. The SWIS Newsletter Chair, starting October 2010, is Joan Kenney, Baraboo Optimist. With her dedication and experience, she will be doing a fantastic job.

Communication is very important in the SWIS organization, which is an area that I would like to continue developing as Governor Elect 2010 –2011. Over the many years I've been doing the SWIS Newsletter, I've e-mailed to many Optimists and now have an opportunity to put a face to those e-mail addresses. My goal is to visit as many clubs as possible in the next couple months, as Governor Elect. I would like to find out from Optimists in clubs what are some of their most rewarding experiences, why they became Optimists, what are some of their challenges and what do they need from the SWIS organization.

Optimist Creed: Promise yourself:

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
 To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
 To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
 To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
 To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.
 To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
 To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
 To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
 To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
 To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble

Introducing Lt Governor Zone 1 Josh Zaidel

I am Josh Zaidel, Membership co-chair for the district as well as zone 1 Lt. Governor. I have been an optimist for 9 years, beginning with the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club, and am now a member of the Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club. I grew up and currently live in the Milwaukee area. I originally joined an Optimist club, for the mere fact that someone asked me (see, it works!). My favorite Optimist experience has to be the friendships that I have made along the way.



Zone 1

Burlington
Racine-F
Kenosha
Racine-W
Racine-T
Mequon/Thiensville
Milwaukee
Waukesha
West Bend
Mukwonago
Metro Milwaukee

Zone 2

Janesville-Wed
Janesville-Brfst
Milton
UW White
Janesville-Noon
Cambridge
Jefferson
Fort Atkinson
Beloit
Stoughton
Delavan
Oregon

Introducing Lt Governor Zone 2 Kevin Austin

I was born and raised in Delavan WI. I am married of 16 years. I have a 15year old son and a 12 year old daughter. I have been in the Delavan-Darien club for approximately 10 years. I was the president for the last 3 years. I am in my 2nd year as the zone 2 Lt. governor and co-chair of the extreme flow SWIS district sk8 comp series. I joined optimist to give kids activities that are a positive alternative to destructive activities that are happening in our communities. I was asked to be a Lt. governor and was happy to accept so i could see better on how we operate as a district. My favorite experience was during a fishing outing that we have. Two young kids wanted to fish but didn't have any poles. All our loaners were being used, but we have free raffle to all that enter. We still had some poles left to give away, so we rigged it a little so they would win the poles so they could fish. When they won the poles, the smile of surprise made it all worth it.





Zone 3

Beaver Dam
Madison -Brfst
East Madison
Madison
Monona Grove
Wauwaukee
Sun Prairie
McFarland
Fitchburg

Introducing Lt Governor Zone 3 Fred Krantz

I became an Optimist in 1987, (due to some arm-twisting) and enjoyed it so much I became club president for the 1988-1989 optimist year! I was Lt Governor in the WINUM district in 1990-1991, and Distinguished Secretary-Treasurer when Charles Wiles was OI President. I became Life member in 1991. After serving as club president a second time, I became Optimist Diplomatic Corp member #333 in 1993. I was Lt Governor in the SWIS district in 1996-1997, served as district Supply storekeeper for many years, and have been district photographer for the last 4/5 years.

Born and raised in Wisconsin, I'm currently single, (my wife died in 2004) with a son, daughter-in-law and a darling granddaughter named Irene.

Introducing Lt Governor Zone 4 Fred Dorn

I joined the Wauwaukee Optimist Club in June of 1984 and was President of the club just 2 years later. I have attended several International Conferences, including the conference in Montreal. I have been a Lt. Governor several times, have been the District Foundation Chair Person several times, and have agreed to be the Foundation Representative again this year. I feel that the most important thing that an Optimist needs to do, is to attend the District Conferences and Training sessions. This keeps one powered up for everything that occurs in one's life. I am Married to Maggie, my bride of 45 years, and we have two children who are above 40 years of age, and one brand new grandson as of September 1, 2010. At the club level, I am the current Treasurer, and I have been the President several times. My greatest experiences in Optimism have occurred when attending the District and International Conferences. Many new friends are discovered at these Conferences, and Maggie and I always look forward to seeing those old friends again.

Zone 4

Portage
Cross Plains
Verona
Mazomanie/Hgts
Mt. Horeb
Baraboo
Madison West
Sauk Trails-Madison





Zone 5

Darlington
Platteville
Dodgeville
Fennimore
LaCrosse-Brfst
Brodhead
Platteville Noon

Introducing Lt Governor Zone 5 Gary Engelke

Hi Joan, I have been a member for 6 years. Have held the 2nd VP through President and was on the District Membership last year which I don't feel I gave enough time and effort to. I hope to make being Lt-Governor a more involved effort into letting non members know what we do and become an Optimist them selves.

I joined because I have more time than when I ran my own business and liked the idea it is for the youth of the area and around the world. I like to think a couple of things stick out in my mind. The first is seeing the fried curds selling and knowing that the profit benefits the youth, and to be able to build a new club while being president. My wife (Eileen) is also a member of the Optimist so we enjoy it together. I have 3 children and 3 grand children and as everyone knows there is nothing better than grand children.

Introducing Lt Governor Zone 6 Larry Barbera

I'm a proud member and Past President of the Menomonee Falls Club. I've been with the Club since early 2000 when my daily schedule became more flexible. Two sons, both married, with three kids between them, and a daughter who's in her final year at Winona State. My wife Jan, originally from Kenosha, graduated from Oshkosh with a teaching degree, and I came out of the Business School at Eau Claire. I had the chance to spend 22 years with the Wisconsin National Guard and the Army Reserve and retired with the rank of Major. I'm still involved with a couple of businesses and Jan and I have been unfranchise owners with Market America going on thirteen years. This year I'm in the position of Lt. Governor for the newly created Zone 6 and I'm looking forward to getting to know and spending some time with those active folks. I served as Lt Gov for Zone 1 last year and we had some fun with some truly dedicated Optimists You have to admit, there's just nothing else to even compare to Optimism and what we do. Keep up the good work, have a terrific year, spread the word and expand the team.



Zone 6

Lodi
Middleton
Monona Grove
Lake Mills
McFarland
Men Falls
Monroe
Monroe Noon
Sauk Prairie
Whitewater

NEW for our "Power Up" year, you can get the point with our trainings in our "30 minutes to get it" format. A combination of "Rachel Ray 30 minute meals" and a "Minute to win It", the way only Optimists can present it!



Whitewater Students Help in BELIZE

As the year 2011 approaches, the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club is looking forward to winter break, as 13 members have chosen to spend their break volunteering in Belize. Two advisors will accompany the students on this mission trip from January 3- January 10, 2011. The group will spend their time at the Dream Center. This organization coordinates volunteers to assist people in need. Specifically, Student Optimists will help repair orphanages, volunteer within the community, provide supplies to the orphanages and schools, and build relationships with the children.

In order to pay for trip expenses we are accepting donations, both monetary and supply donations will be greatly appreciated. For example, paint brushes, arts/crafts, sports equipment, clothes for all ages, toiletries, books, toys and other educational supplies would be helpful.

If you have any questions please contact Kim Adams, Faculty Advisor for UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club 608.201.2151. Checks may be made payable to UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club and sent to:

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater,
800 W. Main St. University Center Rm 250 , Whitewater WI, 53190



IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

To register for the **November 5 -7** Minneapolis, MN, Parallel District Conference.
(Contact CoryAnn – she can help you get a special rate, even though time is running out!)

The link to the registration form is

http://www.optimist.org/Form/PDC/PDC_Great_Plains-Registration_Form.pdf

We'll be at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Bloomington (Minneapolis), MN near the Mall of America. http://www.optimist.org/Documents/PDC/PDC_Great_Plains-About&Agenda&Hotel.pdf has conference info.

Special Guests, Keynote Speakers and Faculty Members:

Danny & Jill Rodgers - International President & First Lady

Jim Kondrasuk - International Board Member

Jim Nagel - Senior Director of Member Services, Optimist International

Judi Smith - CEO, OI Foundation & OI Foundation Canada

Kai Gansner, Director of Member Services, Optimist International

Ronnie Dunn - Past International President, Certified International Trainer & Wayne Dunn - KYWV Governor

DANNY, JIM K, JIM N, JUDI, KAI & RONNIE WILL BE JOINED BY TRAINERS FROM THROUGHOUT OUR GREAT PLAINS REGION TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A VARIETY OF FIRST CLASS BREAKOUTS, ROUND TABLES AND TRAINING SESSIONS.



Essay Contest, 2010- 2011

How My Education is the KEY to a Successful Future. is the topic for this year's Essay Contest. All of the information you will need as a club chair for this contest is available at: the following link: www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm. This topic lends itself very well to the creative talents of our students of today.

A quick suggestion: Get into your schools now, before everyone else has had their contest approved by the schools. Let's put our heads together to give all of our writers a chance to enter this contest. The first place award is now \$2500.

If you have never held a contest in your club, or if you have held a contest and not had a great deal of success getting students involved, you can also have club members' children, grand-children & friends participate.

Don Kresch, Essay Chair dkresch@att.net

CCDHH Program, 2010 - 2011

The CCDHH (Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) contest will be in March again. The topic this year is: **"If I were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I would Address would be..."**

Students must have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more to be eligible to compete. Students may use sign language, oral presentation or a combination of both. Club prizes: – medallion; District prize: – plaque and **\$2,500** college scholarship for first-place winner.

There is general information on the OI Website at: www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships2.cfm. Look for more details to come as the date & details are firmed up.

If you have questions contact
Donna Cairy, CCDHH Chair
dlasiowski@charter.net

2011 ORATORICAL (SPEECH) CONTEST
**“If I were Leader of the Free World,
the First Issue I would Address would be...”**

Did you know that since its start in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest running program sponsored by Optimist International? It is one of the most popular OI programs with nearly 2,000 clubs participating each year awarding \$159,000 annually in scholarships to youth educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

A significant new change this year is that the contest is open to all boys and girls **under the age of 19 as of December 31st of the 2010-2011 school year**. This change is under review by OI for next year's contest due to the significant amount of feedback received. So far all the clubs that have contacted me are not in favor of the change. I have contacted OI several times to express my concerns and our District “may” be considered for a Pilot Program this year “if” OI decides to create two age categories for the Contest next year: 14 & under and 15-19. I would appreciate your feedback. You can also contact OI's Director of Programs Danielle Baugher directly with your feedback. Her contact information is (800)500-8130 x235 danille.baugher@optimist.org.

The Oratorical Contest is a great opportunity for the kids to gain experience in public speaking and have a chance to win a \$2,500 college scholarship – a huge increase over past years! We will continue the tradition of separate contests and scholarships for boys and girls. There is no minimum number of contestants at the Club Contest level. In addition, judges can be Optimist Club Members at the Club Contest level.

This year's theme will be challenging – **“If I were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I would Address would be...”**. Using this theme, boys and girls prepare and recite a 4 – 5 minute speech judged on Poise, Content, Delivery and Effectiveness.

You can start the process by obtaining the Oratorical Contest Club Chair Packet which is a complete planning guide for running a club contest. This information can be found on the Optimist International's web site at www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships4.cfm.

Club contests are usually held in January, February and March. The next level is Zone Contests which are held in March and April. The final District Contest will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at our 3rd District Conference in the Wisconsin Dells-Lake Delton area. Rise up and meet the challenge! Power Up For the Kids!

Jim Costanzo
District Oratorical Chair
(608) 849-7747
(608) 206-2060 (cell)
jvito@chorus.net



Southern Wisconsin Optimists

District Oratorical Contest

Topic: "If I were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I would Address would be..."
2010-2011

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2011

Awards: First place winners both receive a **\$2,500** college scholarship & plaque. All contestants receive lapel pins and framed certificates.

"NEW"Eligibility: Contestants under the age of **19** as of December 31st of the 2010-11 school year. There is no minimum age. Separate contests and awards will be held for girls and boys. No minimum number per Club Contest.

Requirements: Speech is limited to 4-5 minutes.

Components:

Poise (appearance, personality)	20 points
Content of speech	35 points
Delivery and presentation	35 points
Overall effectiveness	10 points

Schedule: Club Contests..... January, February, March

Zone Contests March and April

- Scheduled and organized by the Lt. Governors of each zone
- Minimum 3 Clubs and 3 boys or 3 girls per ZONE Contest.
- Must be completed by April 23, 2011
- Zone winner information submitted no later than April 25, 2011

District Contest..... Saturday, May 7, 2011

- 8:30 AM to Noon

Location: 3rd District Conference at the Kalahari Resort in the Lake Delton, WI

Contact: Jim Costanzo,
 District Chairperson
 5619 Cobblestone Lane
 Waunakee, WI 53597-9000
 Home phone: 608.849.7747
 Cell phone: 608.206.2060
 E-mail: jvito@chorus.net

