

## THE OK BROWSER

Newsletter for the Oklahoma District of Optimist International, January 2007  
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**As we face the Year ahead Optimist see  
Hope, expectations and possibilities.  
"Start from wherever you are and with  
whatever you've got." – Jim Rohn**

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### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Oklahoma Friends of Youth:

Our Second Quarter Conference promises to be a great one and is coming up February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The main conference will be held in Broken Arrow at the Bass Pro. Awards will be presented for all the achievements that individuals and clubs made during the 2005-2006 term.

Those that made the First Quarter Conference know about the great time we had with the gorilla and the fishing event. These two events raised nearly \$650 for the Foundation and Cancer Fund. Judy Osborn and Teri Hill are to be commended for their efforts. I'm not sure what surprises will turn up at our next conference but I know we will enjoy ourselves

With bylaw changes made at the first conference, it's even more important that each club send their President or Representative to each conference and convention. Without a quorum of Club representatives it will be very difficult or impossible for the district to conduct business or pass resolutions necessary for the governance of the District.

The Club Presidents are members of the District Board of Directors. If the Club President is unable to attend the District Conference the Club needs to send a Representative from their Club. The Representative will need to have a letter signed by the Club President giving that person authority to vote on their Club's behalf. At present we have 30 clubs. That means we need a quorum of 16 Club Presidents.

Our Executive Board will convene at the Clarion Hotel at 9:00 PM on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is important to have as many Lt. Governors at this meeting as possible. Your valuable input will be greatly appreciated. Committee Chairs and other interested Club Members are also welcome. The Broken Arrow Club has graciously volunteered to host the hospitality suite at the hotel. The doors of the Bass Pro for the Conference will be open at 9:00 AM on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Clarion Hotel is located one mile west of Bass Pro. Check the conference registration form for further details.

See **you** in Broken Arrow.

Leonard Casey

Oklahoma District Optimist Governor

### CHAPLAIN'S WORD

*Thomasine Ward, Chaplain*

After nearly 17 years of regular attendance at our Pryor Creek Optimist breakfast club meetings, I have seen countless numbers of eggs ordered, served, and eaten. More often than not, the eggs have been *sunny side* up. Given the *sunny side* up preference shown by Optimists, it reminded me of our creed which encourages us "***To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.***" Could it be that those eggs exhibits and reinforces our creed? I like to think so. What images are your optic nerves transmitting to your brain? See 2 Corinthians 4:18 for a *sunny side* outlook on life.

**OPTIMIST NEW YEARS RESOLUTION**

*Ron Whitaker, Club Services*

Have you made an Optimist New Years resolution? How about one that says "I'll bring in one new member before October of 2007?" That doesn't sound too hard does it? Well, if you do, on the average 33 more kids will be served in the year. Is there a better resolution than to help kids? Club Services stands ready to help you with a program to get new members. I won't run the program for you, but will help you get it organized. And, as a club, how about building a new club before October 2007? I know that Ron Osborn is ready to help...and Club Services can help too. Call me at (918) 249-8353 or I'll see you at the February Conference here in Broken Arrow.

**ZONE #8 IS DOING GREAT**

*Sharon Shoemake, Lt. Governor, Zone #8*

The Chickasha Optimist Club did well with the Christmas Tree Lot. They also brought joy and happiness to many children at their Kids Christmas Party on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Shawnee Optimist did several parades that included lots of children. All three Optimist Clubs in Zone #8, (Anadarko, Chickasha and Shawnee) are "Reaching Out to Kids within Reach."

**FAVORABLE PUBLICITY**

*Thomasine Ward, Public Relations*

As the 05-06 Optimist year was ending, our club secretary prepared and presented to us, a list of all the meetings and activities held during the previous 12 months. Not only was the list long but it was impressive, prompting many of us to say, "Did we do all that?" Yes, together we had done all that! We do accomplish a lot for the good of the youth in our communities. We are motivated by the service project itself, although favorable public opinion is always something we hope for and enjoy. Our club gathers the pictures, media coverage print, and the Community Service Activity (CPA) report form, which we fill out and send to Optimist International. Recognition and honor for a project is a reward in itself and we do like favorable publicity for a completed project

**JUNIOR GOLFERS**

*Kirk Dale, Golf*

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Optimist Club of Tulsa Jr. Golf Classic will be held on Monday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Mohawk Park on the Woodbine Course.

The Oklahoma District Optimist Junior Golf Championship will be held on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Page Belcher Stone Creek Golf Course.

**RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE**

*Judy Osborn, Foundation*

Did you know that you can raise money for your Club and the Foundation recycling old cell phones and printer cartridges (inkjet and toner)? There is a program available. Just log on to <http://www.oifoundation.org/index2.htm> then click on RECYCLE YOUR EMPTY INKJET CARTRIDGES, you need to register to participate in the RECYCLING PROGRAM. If you have any questions, you can call Shari at the number listed for the Recycling Company or you can call Judy Osborn at (918) 357-2601.

Thank you soooooo much for all the donations to Childhood Cancer and the OI Foundation at the Fall Conference in Mustang. **DON'T FORGET** to dress your Gorilla anyway you want and bring your little Gorilla back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conference with your personal donation or your Club's donation to the Foundation. You might be the winner of the **BANANA AWARD**, or one of the other awards that will be given away. **A BIG THANK YOU TO "SUNSHINE"** you made our 1<sup>st</sup> Conference really really FUN!!!!

**ESSAY DEADLINE FEBRUARY 28, 2007**

*Teri Hill, Essay*

"I Want To Make A Difference Because." Deadline to enter each club's winning Essay in the Oklahoma District Essay Contest is February 28, 2007. Contestants must be under the age of 19 years as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Each Club should mail the **original copy** of the winning Essay (only 1 entry allowed per club) to reach me: Teri Hill....3691 N 4327 Rd....Pryor OK 74361 **by February 28, 2007** for District Judging. *Be sure to send the Essay Contest Entry Form, Birth Record and a \$30.00 dollar check.* Any questions call me at (918) 825-2100 office or home (918) 825 4533.

**THE TIME IS NOW**

*Carroll Smith, Achievement and Awards*

Working toward the Awards presented by the District will help to build your club and keep communications open. Having pride in your club brings pride in the helping of Youth to be the best they can be.

The time is **NOW** to look at the Awards and to start working on them. They are not for just a few members, but for the entire club to have pride in what the club does as a whole. Please take a good look at the Awards and pick not just one but several. Optimist Awards give a sense of achievement to the club and the Youth you serve, and, helps to press on to the greater achievement of the future.

You may contact me at (405) 946-6084, with any questions that may arise.

**A BIT OF THIS AND A BIT OF THAT**

*Jo Anne Casey, Editor*

During this 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Governor Leonard has been out and about. He and Ronnie Oaborn, New Club Building Chairperson, had lunch with the Checotah Club. Governor and I attended the Broken Arrow Club Installation Banquet. We visited the Lawton/LaSil Club evening meeting. It was nice to meet old and new friends. Lt. Governor/President Walt Gwin treated us to dinner after the meeting. Thanks Walt. Early the next morning we were having breakfast with the Lawton Breakfast Optimist

Club. Sally and I were the only ladies attending. President Ben Partin and all the guys had a great time. Glad I got up early and didn't miss this meeting. In Muskogee we were inspired and amazed. The Muskogee Breakfast Club and the Muskogee Noon Club hosted a Youth Appreciation Banquet. 24 Outstanding Youth from Hilldale High School and Muskogee High School were introduced and their awesome achievements in school and life was honored. On December 8<sup>th</sup> we attended the Foster Children's Christmas Party hosted by the Bixby Optimist Club. Foster children of ages 0-15 years old received many nice gifts an evening of Pizza, clowns and special attention. These kids really touched our hearts as the Optimist Members touched their little lives. The week before Christmas Gov. Leonard left early for breakfast at 6:30 AM in McAlester. President Alden Schoeberl and the Optimist Members in McAlester are an up-an-at'um Club. From McAlester the Gov. traveled on to Ardmore to meet with President Tanya Cross and the busy Optimist Members of Ardmore. Gov. Leonard is busy being an active member of the Pryor Creek and Claremore Optimist Club. Assistant Governor Tim Pate and his wife Connie hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Claremore Optimist Christmas Party. A wonderful evening of Fun, Fellowship and Food. Looking forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Party.

The Pryor Creek Club has 4 generations as Optimist Members. Jo Anne Casey, Daughter Teri, Granddaughter Suanne and Great Grandson Buddy. Buddy has been regular in attendance at the meetings and all club activities since he was 6 months old. I was telling Ron Graves, OI guest last year, about him and he said, "you know he can be a member, there is no age limit" at that time Buddy had just turned 1 year old. So being an Optimistic Proud Great Grandmother I paid his registration fees. Just think how long he can be an Optimist Member! He not only can have people bring out the best in him, he can start "Bringing Out The Best In Kids" at an early age.

**PLEASE SHARE THE REGISTRATION FORMS, AGENDA AND THE NEWSLETTER WITH THE MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB.....NOT EVERYONE GETS A COPY OF THIS MAIL-OUT. THE REGISTRATION FORMS, AGENDA AND BROWSER CAN BE VIEWED ON THE OKLAHOMA WEB-SITE. [www.okoptimist.com](http://www.okoptimist.com)**



Who do you think are considered the "Christmas Clowns"? We will leave it up to you to decide!



Four generations of Pryor Creek Optimist members: Suanne, Teri, Jo Anne and Buddy



Mike Mark and Don Crall, Bixby Optimist Club



Bixby's Optimist Club Foster Children's Christmas party



Governor Leonard Casey, President Steve Langley and Officers of Broken Arrow Optimist Club