

The Southern Exposure



INDIANA SOUTH DISTRICT – OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Volume 14, Issue 3

April 2009

2008-2009

“Stand Tall For Kids”

Tony Trimble, Governor

Gary Burk, Secretary-Treasurer

Jerry Schue, Immediate Past Governor

Rich Slayton, Past Governor

Sandi Holstein, Governor Elect

Lt. Governors

Zone 1: **Pat France**

Zone 2: **Hank Herpel, Jr**

Zone 3: **Andy Tice**

Zone 4/5: **Frank Deckard**

Zone 6: **Charles Schladand**

Zone 7: **Teresa Richardson**

Zone 8: **Larry Neisen**

Zone 9: **Edwin Rinehart**

Club Presidents

Presidents of all Clubs in the District serve as members of the District Board of Directors.

Attention:

Committee Chairs & Lt. Governors

The deadline for submitting articles for the next District Bulletin is **July 27, 2009**. Send your articles to p_grant@fastmail.fm if you have e-mail. If you prefer, send it snail-mail: 770 N CR 625 E, Avon, IN 46123.

DON'T FORGET!

From the Governor:

THE PRESIDENT IS COMING!!

No, not Barak Obama. BETTER! OI President **Don Sievers** and his first lady, **Anita**, will be visiting at our third quarter meeting. We will welcome them to Bloomington on April 17th.

It will be a full weekend with oratorical and essay contests and Lt. Governor elections. There will be training and, of course, some surprises. On Saturday night we will honor our president and first lady at the traditional President's Banquet.

The weekend will end with a celebration of the new **South Gibson Optimist Club** at a charter party on Sunday afternoon in Fort Branch. I hope you'll all join us.

On St. Patrick's Day, Optimist International was one of five service organizations honored by resolutions in both houses of the Indiana Legislature. It was my privilege to represent Indiana South at the ceremony.

I have had the opportunity to visit many of your clubs and to participate in several projects. The 2008-2009 year is nearly half over and you are all doing a great job of "Standing Tall for Kids." Keep up the good work.

See ya in Bloomington!
Governor Tony

Respect for Law Camps

These three-day camps are an exciting look at law enforcement for students entering 5th and 6th grades. Police officers staff the co-ed camps and programs include spectacular demonstrations by Emergency Response Team members, Bomb Squads, Underwater Search and Rescue Teams and police dogs. Campers participate in recreational activities, make new friends and go home with a new respect for themselves and others.

Campers Entering Grades 5-6 \$105.00 Fee...Co-Ed

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| University of Southern Indiana | June 4-6 |
| Vincennes University | June 11-13 |
| Hanover College | June 25-27 |
| University of Indianapolis | June 25-27 |
| Anderson University | July 9-11 |
| University of Notre Dame | July 16-18 |

For an application go to: www.in.gov/isp/2329.htm

Bob Thompson, R.F.L. Chair



We're celebrating

Please join us for

The South Gibson Optimist Club
(The first club formed in Indiana South District in 2008-09)

Charter Presentation

Sunday, April 19, 2009
Social Hour 4:30 P.M. (C.S.T.)
Dinner 5:00 P.M. (C.S.T.)

Holy Cross School Cafeteria
202 S. Church Street and Strain Street
Fort Branch, IN 47648

RSVP by April 13 to
Betty Strickland
P. O. Box 278
Haubstadt, IN 47639
812-453-2194

Cost of meal is \$15.00 per person

Sponsored by
Evansville Eastside Optimist Club
North Vermillion Optimist Club

Bringing Out the Best in Kids

Pictures from the 2nd Quarter Conference in Bloomington



THE OPTIMIST ECONOMIC CRISIS

The Optimist International Board of Directors will recommend to the delegates at the International Convention in Florida in July that the annual International dues be increased by \$10 in order to solve the organization's dire financial situation. Please click [here](#) for the seriousness of the situation, how it came about, what has already been done to address it and what might happen if allowed to continue.

How to Succeed in Your Important Roles

attend the following training sessions at the International Convention

The following prepares incoming leaders for their year in office.

Club President-Elects **Achieving Success as a President**

Friday, July 10 - 7-8:30 am- Breakfast with 2009-2010 President Mark Shriver (meal ticket required)

Saturday, July 11 - 9am-1pm

Club Secretary-Treasurer Designate Training

Maintaining the Club Funds, Record Keeping and and Financial reporting

Saturday, July 11 9am-1pm

District Lt. Governor-Elect

Keeping the Optimism Alive by providing leadership, guidance and motivation to Clubs in a your Zone

Friday, July 10 - 7-8:30 am Breakfast with 2009-2010 President Mark Shriver (meal ticket required)

Saturday, July 11 - 9am-1pm

District Secretary-Treasurer Designate Training

Keeping Optimist District's Going -- Maintaining District Funds, Record Keeping and Financial reporting Wednesday, July 8 - 9am-3pm

District Governors

Focusing on your Year

Wednesday, July 8 - 1:15-2:15pm

Friday, July 10 - 9:30am-Noon

District Governors-Elect

Successfully Leading Your Team

Wednesday, July 8 - 1-5pm

Saturday, July 11 - 9am-1pm

District Chair Designate Training

Wednesday, July 8 1-5 pm

How to be the Best Chair Possible for your District

Activities, JOOI, Leadership Development, New Club Building, Membership, Club Services & College Clubs

Back to School Workshops

Enhance your Personal Self and Optimist Involvement

NEW THIS YEAR -- Wednesday Workshops

Wednesday, July 8 9-10:15 am, 10:30-11:45 am and 2-3:15 pm

Friday, July 10 9-10:15am and 10:30-11:45am

Saturday, July 11 9-10:15am, 10:30-11:45am and Noon - 1:15 pm

Quack! Quack! Quack!

GET YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW TO SUPPORT CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Optimist International will be sponsoring a CCC Duck Race at the 2009 International Convention with proceeds benefiting the Research Fund in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Johns Hopkins or the Canadian Childhood Cancer Campaign.

It's only ten bucks US/CN a duck! The good news is that everyone can participate, even if they will not be attending Convention. Members can purchase as many ducks as they like. Payment must be sent with a CCC duck order form via credit card, money order or check. Please make checks payable to 'OIF-CCC.'

The form is available at the following link:

http://www.optimist.org/forms/CCC_Duck_Race_Order_Form_2009.pdf

Forms can be mailed or faxed to Optimist International. Order forms must be submitted by June 19 or ducks must be purchased at the Convention.

The first duck to cross the finish line wins its owner the grand prize of \$100 US. The second-place finisher receives \$50 US and the third duck across the line gets \$25 US. Checks will be mailed after Convention.

If you have any questions, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via e-mail at ccc@optimist.org. Order your ducks today to ensure your District has its ducks in a row at the International Convention!

Register for the Optimist International Convention by April 15 and not only will you save \$35 but you automatically enter the drawing for a chance to win one of four fabulous prizes! Please keep reading for details.

Yours in Optimism, Ron Whitaker, 2008-2009 Convention Committee Chair

4th Prize

One night stay at the **Gaylord Palms Resort** and Convention Center a \$145++ value.

3rd Prize

Two Free Convention Registrations for the **2010 Convention in Denver, Colorado**, July 7-10 a \$370 value.

2nd Prize

One (1) day pass for up to five (5) people to Epcot and Animal Kingdom or Hollywood Studios (MGM). **Offer good for Tuesday, July 7.**

1st Prize

One (1) day pass for up to five (5) people to Epcot and Animal Kingdom or Hollywood Studios (MGM). **Offer good for Sunday, July 12.**

WINNERS NOTIFIED ON FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009



Begin today to plan your 2009 Summer Getaway in sunny Florida for the 91st Annual Convention in Kissimmee, Florida. This Convention will be held at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center. It is located just 1.5 miles from the front gate of Walt Disney World, in close proximity to other Orlando theme parks, and just 20 minutes from Orlando International airport.

Why not make this a 2009 Summer Vacation and also attend the Convention....it's all under one roof at the Gaylord Palms. For reservations call 407/586-2000 or visit the web page designed just for us by the Palms in the housing section of the International Convention page of www.optimist.org.

Housing forms and Convention Registration forms will be available at our District Meeting in Bloomington.

YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

A 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably combed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready.

As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

'I love it,' he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

'Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room, just wait.'

'That doesn't have anything to do with it,' he replied.

'Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged ... it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. 'It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away. Just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account you withdraw from what you've put in.

So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories! Thank you for your part in filling my Memory bank. I am still depositing.'

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

Condolences to Pat France on the loss of her mother. Pat, our prayers are with you.

The Pickle Jar

The pickle jar as far back as I can remember sat on the floor beside the dresser in my parents' bedroom. When he got ready for bed, Dad would empty his pockets and toss his coins into the jar. As a small boy I was always fascinated at the sounds the coins made as they were dropped into the jar. They landed with a merry jingle when the jar was almost empty. Then the tones gradually muted to a dull thud as the jar was filled.

I used to squat on the floor in front of the jar and admire the copper and silver circles that glistened like a pirate's treasure when the sun poured through the bedroom window. When the jar was filled, Dad would sit at the kitchen table and roll the coins before taking them to the bank.

Taking the coins to the bank was always a big production. Stacked neatly in a small cardboard box, the coins were placed between Dad and me on the seat of his old truck. Each and every time, as we drove to the bank, Dad would look at me hopefully, 'Those coins are going to keep you out of the textile mill, son. You're going to do better than me. This old mill town's not going to hold you back.'

Also, each and every time, as he slid the box of rolled coins across the counter at the bank toward the cashier, he would grin proudly 'These are for my son's college fund. He'll never work at the mill all his life like me.'

We would always celebrate each deposit by stopping for an ice cream cone. I always got chocolate. Dad always got vanilla. When the clerk at the ice cream parlor handed Dad his change, he would show me the few coins nestled in his palm. 'When we get home, we'll start filling the jar again.' He always let me drop the first coins into the empty jar. As they rattled around with a brief, happy jingle, we grinned at each other. 'You'll get to college on pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters,' he said. 'But you'll get there; I'll see to that.'

No matter how rough things got at home, Dad continued to doggedly drop his coins into the jar. Even the summer when Dad got laid off from the mill, and Mama had to serve dried beans several times a week, not a single dime was taken from the jar. To the contrary, as Dad looked across the table at me, pouring catsup over my beans to make them more palatable, he became more determined than ever to make a way out for me. 'When you finish college, Son,' he told me, his eyes glistening, 'You'll never have to eat beans again - unless you want to.'

The years passed, and I finished college and took a job in another town. Once, while visiting my parents, I used the phone in their bedroom, and noticed that the pickle jar was gone. It had served its purpose and had been removed. A lump rose in my throat as I stared at the spot beside the dresser where the jar had always stood. My dad was a man of few words, and never lectured me on the values of determination, perseverance, and faith. The pickle jar had taught me all these virtues far more eloquently than the most flowery of words could have done. When I married, I told my wife Susan about the significant part the lowly pickle jar had played in my life as a boy. In my mind, it defined, more than anything else, how much my dad had loved me.

The first Christmas after our daughter Jessica was born, we spent the holiday with my parents. After dinner, Mom and Dad sat next to each other on the sofa, taking turns cuddling their first grandchild. Jessica began to whimper softly, and Susan took her from Dad's arms. 'She probably needs to be changed,' she said, carrying the baby into my parents' bedroom to diaper her. When Susan came back into the living room, there was a strange mist in her eyes.

She handed Jessica back to Dad before taking my hand and leading me into the room. 'Look,' she said softly, her eyes directing me to a spot on the floor beside the dresser. To my amazement, there, as if it had never been removed, stood the old pickle jar, the bottom already covered with coins. I walked over to the pickle jar, dug down into my pocket, and pulled out a fistful of coins. With a gamut of emotions choking me, I dropped the coins into the jar. I looked up and saw that Dad, carrying Jessica, had slipped quietly into the room. Our eyes locked, and I knew he was feeling the same emotions I felt. Neither one of us could speak.

Sometimes we are too busy adding up our troubles that we forget to count our blessings.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life, for better or for worse.

The best and most beautiful things cannot be seen or touched - they must be felt with the heart - Helen Keller



■ 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 to 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.*

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.

-Optimist Mission Statement

Indiana South District
Optimist International
The Southern Exposure
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Address Correction Requested

Optimist:

The Southern Exposure is published for all Optimists located in the Indiana South District, Optimist International. The editor is Paul R. Grant, 770 N CR 625 E, Avon, IN 46123. Submissions may be sent to p_grant@fastmail.fm and are subject to extreme editing.

Club Presidents: Please make copies of this Bulletin and distribute to the members of your club.



Give Me "Five" for the Kids
Donne-m'en « cinq » pour les enfants
2008-2009