



Ky-WV Optimist

Official Newsletter of the Kentucky/West Virginia District
Optimist International



1st Quarter Issue

October, November, December 2019

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Dates to Remember

Oct 11-13 - 1st Qtr Mtg: Lake Cumberland, Jamestown, KY

Feb 7-9 - 2nd Qtr Mtg: London, KY

April 24-26 - 3rd Qtr Mtg: Morehead, KY

June 27-30 - International Convention: Chicago, IL

Date TBD - District Convention Location TBD

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From the Governor

Thanks for your hard work

It is already September which is hard to believe. First, I want to thank every Kentucky-West Virginia OPTIMIST for being an optimist and working hard for the kids in your community. Without you, we would not have a District which I am very proud to be a part of.



Governor
Jean Smith

Special thanks to the Bardstown Optimist Club for hosting our August Convention. There was training for Governor Designate Beth Kerns 2019-2020 year. We enjoyed the company of Optimist International Representative Russ Thomas. Of course the food was wonderful and the outdoor theater was very entertaining. I was entertained at the Pickin for the kids at Laurel-London Optimist Club which they raise funds for Christmas. The music was great and the food was wonderful.. They had corn bread and

fried green tomatoes. You should put it on your calendar for next year. Thanks to all members that have added new members. I would like to mention some members that have added several members over the years. These are optimist that I received pins for Ramona Allen-Ramsey 15 members, Frances Lee, Tom Bolls, and Jean Smith have reached 25 members. If you haven't added a member this year please do. All you have to do is JUST ASK. One of the most fantastic things that has happen is that the District winner Oratorical contestant Michael Morgan won Mid-Atlantic region and than he came in second in the world contest at St Louis. I am so proud of Michael and he was so excited himself. I want to thank everyone for letting me be your Governor. It has been a wonderful year. I have enjoyed visiting clubs, events and it makes me sad that I would not do it all. One regret is that I didn't have my friend Past International

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From the Gov-Designate

Int'l Convention was exciting

YOU are invited to join me and my team as we kick off the next century in Optimism.

Our incoming International President, Adrian Elcock is envisioning and creating next steps for Optimist International as we start our second century. His goal is for Optimist International to become the Premier Service Organization in the World.



Gov-Designate
Beth Kerns

He is doing this by utilizing two catch words: iMagine and iServe in combination with the OI logo.

iMagine what youth in our communities need. Are there gaps that need to be filled in order to help them succeed, grow, and become prepared to be our future?

iMaginehow we can impact youth in our community. We can be their mentors, their hope, and their inspiration for a more positive future.

iMagine new ways we can inspire

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KYWV winner takes 2nd at International

When one asks why should our club have an essay and/or an oratorical contest, just ask Michael Morgan who participated in the Optimist Club of Louisville essay contest. This governor's scholar and now senior at Manual H.S. in Louisville, Kentucky was searching for scholarship opportunities and found the Optimist Club essay contest online. He submitted an essay and won the Optimist Club of Louisville contest and then the Kentucky-West Virginia district receiving a \$2,500 scholarship from the OI Foundation. It didn't stop there as he entered the Louisville Optimist Club Oratorical contest thanks to member, Ed Smith. Michael won the Kentucky-West Virginia district, the Mid-Atlantic region and finished second in the International World in St. Louis to net him another \$17,500 in scholarship money. Currently, his college interests include Boston University, the University of Michigan and locally, Kentucky and Centre. His extra-curricular include track and football.

One only had to read his essay or hear him give his speech to realize Michael is one in which Optimist should proud to support. The Louisville Club, proud of Michael's success, invited him back to a club luncheon for members to hear his oration.

Michael says "Winning the district



Optimist International Foundation President Melvin D Bannister (left) presents Michael Morgan of Kentucky with a check for 10,000 as Optimist International President Rebecca Butler Mona assists.

essay contest was a big boost not only to my financial situation, but my confidence as well. The support of the Louisville Optimist Club after my essay victory is what pushed me to work hard in order to make it to the Oratorical championships. The world championship was an unforgettable experience that I would never have been able to participate in if not for the support and guidance of those at the Louisville Optimist Club. I was able to further refine my public speaking skills as well as meet other students from

across the globe. The Optimist Club has truly been a blessing in my life, and I am truly grateful for how this organization has helped myself and countless other like-minded students throughout the world. The opportunities Optimist International has for the youth are amazing, and I can't wait to share them with my community and my peers."

This should be motivation enough to hold these contests since we are "Friends of Youth".

Bill Rybak
District Essay Contest Chair

Governor

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Vice President Willie Lee to share my year. I knew he believed in me when he ask me to be Assist to the Governor during his year has Governor. Congratulations to our new Governor Designate Beth Kerns and Governor Elect Bill Redwine. I am sure they will work hard for the District and do a outstanding job. We have a few days left in our year so let's get busy and make your club honor or distinguished. I am here for you if you need anything just call or email me. Love to you and you family.

Promise Yourself
Governor Jean

Gov.-Designate

Continued from page 1

our clubs and the KY-WV District by thinking outside the box and creating excitement that will be contagious and engage our members to be more involved and proud to be an Optimist.

iServe as a member of an Optimist Club, Optimist District, and Optimist International. By creating new service projects that are needed in our communities we can attract new members.

iServe by inviting youth to grow and reach new potential when competing in our scholarship competitions.

iServe by spreading smiles with youth when participating in vari-

ous events such as reading programs, one on one mentoring, Easter Egg hunts, bicycle rodeos, Halloween Parties, Secret Santa gift giving, sporting events, and many other Optimist inspired opportunities.

You do not want to miss our first meeting of this new century of Optimism when we meet at Lake Cumberland, KY on October 11-13, 2019. At this District Conference you will receive training, inspiration, and new ideas on how you can spread Optimism in your community.

Please plan on attending and bringing at least one first-timer with you. I look forward to seeing you there!

Gov-Designate Beth

KYWV helped make International Convention a success

WE DID IT!!

What a team of volunteers! We hosted the Centennial Optimist International Convention in Louisville June 29-July 3, 2019, with honor and pride!

From the Centennial Walk on Saturday, June 29, that led to the unveiling of the historical marker in front of the Kentucky International Convention Center to the last note played at the President's Banquet on Wednesday, July 3, Optimists made memories that will last a lifetime. I heard on more than one occasion, "This is the best convention I have ever attended!"

Special thanks to committee KYWV District chairs: Wayne Dunn, Judy Zeigler, Denise Haynes, Sandy Ruman, Marie Gamble, Mayghin Levine and Gene Blanchet. YOU made it happen!!

Also, special thanks to the Optimist Club of Louisville, one of the original



KYWV Host District volunteers for the International Convention pose for a photograph during our District Convention.

eight clubs, for sponsoring the Old Timer's Breakfast.

Now on to the next 100 years of

Optimism!

Ronnie Dunn, Co-Chair
Host Area Committee



Lexington club charters in June

The Optimist Club of Lexington was chartered in June with the following members (left to right): Jennifer Wang, Chee Yin, Patsy Carruthers, Meradeth Devine, Neil Griffith, Sheila Griffith, Ann Albrecht, Jeff Albrecht, Brian Durham, and John Darnato. Absent Jeffrey Carruthers, Bob Gray, Kim Gray, Greg Rickert, Sean Smith,

and Stacy Smith.

The club will be having their installation dinner at 7pm on September 9th. It is open to all Optimists and will be held at Rabbit Run Clubhouse, 1920 Ft Harrods Dr in Lexington. If you plan to attend, please let club secretary Patsy Carruthers know at her email: patsy.carruthers@uky.edu.

Attention: LtGov's and other District officers:

Please submit any expense vouchers/ claims to Secretary/Treasure Becky Distler at no later than Sept 12, in order that reimbursements may be made in a timely fashion and the District's accounts may be closed prior to the end of September.

Any claims for reimbursement received after September 12 may be delayed until after the start of the new Optimist year due to establishing new banking authorization(s).

The 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 some-

thing 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.



Committee Chairs for 2019-20

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Gov, Gov Elect, Sec/Treas,
input from Zones

Candidate Qualifications

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Finance

Ramona Allen-Ramsey
Gov, Gov Elect, Ed, Becky

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(Chicago) June 27-30
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LtGov's for 2019-20

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KYWV Website:

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Facebook:

www.facebook.com/KYWVOptimist

Can you change
your world?



"JUST ASK"

Invite somebody
into your world

Club News



Music Festival raises money for kids

The Laurel-London Optimist Club put on their annual Pickin For The Kids July 26 & 27. They had gospel music on Friday night and bluegrass on Saturday night with several different bands each night.

Sponsors, ticket sales, and concessions made it possible to raise \$9000.

Robert Prince has planned these festivals for 10 years.

Everyone had a wonderful time, with a raffle table and lots of good food. The club uses the funds to help kids at Christmas.

If you missed it this year, we hope you can make it next year.

Morehead helps fund computer upgrades at Gateway Children's Advocacy Center

The Morehead Club recently awarded \$1,500 to Gateway Children's Advocacy Center (GCAC) to enable the center to make computer upgrades. They also received a \$5,000 grant from Toyota. The total of funds needed for upgrades is in excess of \$11,000 for equipment and software.

The mission of GCAC is to coordinate services to sexually and physically

abused children as well as human trafficking victims in the Gateway area in a safe and nurturing environment where trauma is lessened and healing is enhanced.

The Center needs computer upgrades as the current systems are operating inefficiently and can't be used for all the children, families and community partners as needed.

President Bill Redwine said, "this is exactly the type of project that Optimist International is looking for local clubs to fund."

He added, "our primary mission is to support youth programs in our community and that includes more than just athletics and your typical school related projects."

Alex Ruman elected president of J'town Club

Below is a picture of the historic marker commemorating the 100th anniversary of Optimist International in Louisville. It is located on 4th Street between Market and Jefferson streets. Susan Ruman and her son Alex are shown in the picture. Alex will serve as the Jeffersontown Optimist Club President from October 1st, 2019 through September 30th, 2020.



4 in District receive BOE awards

Governor Jean Smith, Lt Governor Ellen Yhompson, and President Bill Redwine receiving their Builder of Excellence Awards, and Past Governor Ed Smith received two BOE Awards at the International Convention in Louisville.



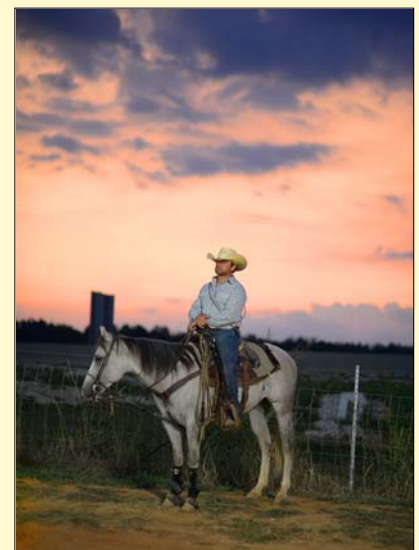
Radcliff club sponsors BeastMode Track Club

Radcliff OPTIMIST Club President Sam Christy attended the annual awards ceremony for the BeastMode Hardin County Track Club, which the OPTIMIST Club helps to co-sponsor. The Awards Picnic was held on the lower level of Radcliff's Saunders Springs Nature Preserve with over 40 parents, coaches, team members and supporters. Christy congratulated coaches Brandon Butler and Sonny Collins for their extraordinary work and results with this group of Hardin County youth.



Saddle up!

On August 9th and 10th the Rineyville Club put on our 26th annual rodeo at the Hardin county fairgrounds with Lone Star Rodeo providing the entertainment. The company, based in Hopkinsville, has been in operation for over 40 years. Our half-time show was put on by the One Arm Bandit Company featuring Amanda Payne. Friday night was a record crowd for the opening night and Saturday night was standing room only, and weather was perfect. We also had local youth groups helping us out, like our JOI club, local high school football, volleyball and softball teams, helping with things like concessions, parking cars, and cleaning up.





A logo featuring a cowboy hat with the word "RINEVILLE" written across the brim. Below the hat, the word "ROBOO" is written in a large, stylized, white font with a brown outline. There are five small stars between the hat and the word.





Registration Form
 Kentucky / West Virginia District
 of Optimist International
 1st Quarter District Meeting, Oct 11-13, 2018
“iMagine & iServe”

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, Jamestown, KY
 Hosted by Bluegrass Optimist Club

Name _____ Club Name _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____ Club Office _____

Phone Number _____ District Office _____

Children Attending _____ First District Meeting? Yes _____ No _____

Pre-Registration (individual) \$10.00 _____ **For Pre-Registration rate, form must be received by October 1, 2019**

Pre-Registration (family) \$15.00 _____

-- OR --

On-Site Registration (individual) \$15.00 _____ These rates apply after October 1, 2019 and at the door.

On-Site Registration (family) \$20.00 _____

All Meals will be at the Rowena Landing Restaurant. You may order off the menu or select the buffet and will be “pay on your own”. Breakfast Hours 7:00 am – 10:30 am

We will have an area to sit together while dining. For seating purposes please indicate which meals you will be attending and number that will be dining for each meal.

Friday Night Dinner: YES, number dining _____ NO not dining _____

Saturday Lunch: YES, number dining _____ NO not dining _____

Saturday Dinner: YES, number dining _____ NO not dining _____

Questions? Please call Jean Smith at 502-321-4969 or email at jean.smith.optimist@gmail.com. Make checks payable to: Kentucky / West Virginia District and mail with this form to: Jean Smith, 10345 Mt Eden Road, Waddy, KY 40076

Reserve rooms directly with the hotel by October 1, 2019. Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, 5465 State Park Road, Jamestown, KY 42629 Phone: 270-343-3111. Block of rooms at \$85.96 (Single or Double) plus tax per night on 10/11/19 – 10/12/19. When making reservation use Group Code 2428