



# Ky-WV Optimist

Official Newsletter of the Kentucky/West Virginia District  
Optimist International



2nd Quarter Follow-up Issue

Winter, 2020

## What's Inside

News update	page 2
Oratorical contest	page 3
District is Distinguished	page 4
TriStar Shootout	page 5
Club news	page 7
Registration Form	page 7

## 2020 Dates to Remember

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

**June 27-30** - International  
Convention: Chicago, IL

**August** - District Convention  
Location TBD

### Website:

[www.kentuckywestvirginiaoptimist.org](http://www.kentuckywestvirginiaoptimist.org)

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/KYWVOptimist](https://www.facebook.com/KYWVOptimist)

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## From the Governor

# We felt the LOVE

Valentine's Day came early for all of us that attended the KY-WV District Meeting February 7-9, 2020 hosted by Laurel-London Optimist Club. The love was felt by each and everyone of us. It wasn't what was said, or done, or anything in particular. IT WAS FEELING THAT WE ALL FELT. Thank you all for possibly the BEST District Meeting we have had for a long time. Gosh.....I am blessed to have you all on my team!!!



Governor  
Beth Kerns

Laurel-London outdid themselves with hosting us. The Hospitality Room was fantastic with so much delicious food and drinks. The TriStar Competition went well and we had lots of very happy kids. There were smiles on all of their faces. Our Saturday night dinner was wonderfully prepared by Laurel-London head cook Abel and his helpers. We were entertained by a local 4 piece bluegrass band. (see picture at

bottom)

Throughout my year I am presenting a special Challenge Coin to those that demonstrate their dedication to live the Optimist Creed. I presented Stuart Maiden a coin during the TriStar Competition for his many years of service to conduct this competition for our youth. (see picture below)

Optimistically,  
Governor Beth



## District News

# District news update

Thank you all for possibly the BEST District Meeting we have had for a long time. It wasn't what was said, or done, or anything in particular. IT WAS FEELING THAT WE ALL FELT. Gosh.....I am blessed to have you all on my team!!!

I was on an International Zoom call in early February with OI President Adrian Elcock, OI Staff, Vice-Presidents, and Governors. I wanted to make sure that you all have all the latest information. So I am going to highlight what was talked about. If you have any questions PLEASE call me. Keep in mind I start my cruise on Saturday, Feb 15 and will not return till Feb 22.

### MEMBERS

1. Overall our member RETENTION is strong. Adrian's goal is 96% and we are at 93%. We need to retain more than we lose. OI is sending out personal letters to every deleted member and an email too.

2. Need more volume of new members. Remember, the clubs are the center of our universe. For clubs that have 5-10 members, build them up.

### CLUBS

1. Adrian is calling all clubs starting March 1. Make sure you have made contact with your clubs before he calls them. From our District Meeting I know that the Lt Govs are reaching out to their clubs. But some are not responding, but please keep trying.

2. Clubs on the 120 day list. While dues are very important we don't want to lose any clubs if they are having financial problems. Talk to them and try to work out a payment plan.

### NEW YOUTH PROGRAMS

On website under Member Resources, Other.

1. Spark in the Park
2. Photography (based on the Creed)
3. Painting
4. Kids Speak Out

### NEW TECHNOLOGY

1. iMAGINE.org Soft launch late April. Geared to nonmembers, very user

friendly. Will not replace Optimist.org

2. Optimist App is built (Ramona they finally listened to us) iPhone/Android Takes the place of the printed book at Convention, Will allow us to do scheduling during OI Convention, provide links to speakers, can do our reviews, post to our calendars.

3. Learning Management System = Optimist University. Will have all Officer Training & reports. We will be able to see who has taken the training and completed the reports.

4. Simultaneous Interpretations at Convention. Download the app, streamed in real time with very short delay, multiple languages. Previous interpretations cost \$300 per member, this is only \$50 per member

5. Social Media encourage your clubs to use these platforms as a way of letting people know who we are and what we do and to pass on information about our events.

**CONVENTION PLANNING** Jun 27 - Jul 2

Old & New innovation & Tradition Registration

Whole new level

New Marketing Strategies

Jermaine Harris

Opening Ceremonies: Caribbean themed that will tickle all of your senses, energy, fellowship, clubs

Please make sure that you have hotel reservations for Chicago if you have trouble with this call Ronda at OI she should be able to help you, We need to be there on Sunday for our first meeting at 9am (Times may change) so everyone should come in on Saturday.

### DISTRICTS

1. OI is looking at the possibility of merging districts that are struggling with Leadership, membership, finances

2. #1 problem for us all we are not developing new leaders for our districts if we have strong leaders we can overcome the other problems.

3. Club Fitness committee's in each district should be working with clubs

that are struggling with membership and other problems in the clubs, the international club fitness committee would like a score card for each club that way they can track the clubs that need help, you can find this on the OI website.

4. Presidential Incentives - make sure each club is aware of the incentives for this year

5. KY-WV was mentioned. What are we going to do when a club doesn't want to be a part of District. We must have a plan. He does not want children to become a pawn....we are a youth based organization. If someone is 100% right, then someone must be 100% wrong. This is never the case. VP-Gov-Pres should meet for a resolution.

### OI STAFF

Be patient with finance department. One employee lost her sister and is now caring for the sister's children. Another employee's brother just found out he has terminal cancer. A former, knowledgeable employee has agreed to come back and help.

### BY LAWS

All clubs should have received updated OI By Laws. ALL CLUBS MUST update their bylaws to protect against insurance liabilities. No more details were given about this, but I am wondering if it has to do with the Florida lawsuit. If someone wants to look into this fine. If not I will when I get home in a couple weeks.

Thank you ALL for your support, guidance, knowledge and love. If not for each and everyone of you I do not know what I would do with everything that has been placed upon my shoulders.

Thanks again,

Beth

iMAGINE iSERVE

**Club Publicity Chairs: we need your photos and news. Send to editor Ken Distler at [digipic@bardstowncable.net](mailto:digipic@bardstowncable.net)**

## RECRUIT A Teacher for \$30

Last year's "Recruit a Teacher" incentive was so well-received that Optimist International has renewed it for the entire 2019-2020 Optimist year!

From October 1st, 2019 until September 30th, 2020, Optimist Clubs are encouraged to recruit teachers from their local schools. Optimist International is waiving the \$15.00 membership fee and offering a year's dues for only \$30!

Why Teachers?

Optimist Members of all professions are important to Clubs, so why the emphasis on teachers?

A strong connection with local schools is extremely beneficial for your Optimist Club. More teachers on your roster strengthens this connection.

They can open doors for attracting more students to our youth projects – including Oratorical, Essay, Sports and other programs.

Teachers are able to provide first-hand insight into the needs of the children of your community.

They provide the foundation for new Junior Optimist Clubs. Your Optimist Club will serve more children!

Who Qualifies?

- Teachers
- Administrators
- College professors
- Coaches employed by the school
- Aides

Please contact the Membership Department with any questions: (800) 500-8130 ext. 226 or e-mail [danny.schuetter@optimist.org](mailto:danny.schuetter@optimist.org).

This promotion is for new Optimist Members only. It may not be used in conjunction with any other membership promotions, including "Friend of Optimist." Clubs will be billed \$30.00 at the time the teacher is added to their roster and then will not be billed dues for that Member for a calendar year.

## OIF's club grant program accepting applications

This is a reminder that the Club Grant Program is accepting applications through Friday, March 13. Please share with your Clubs to submit an application if they are starting a new project. A chance to get a \$500 Matching Grant.

Information and application can be found on [www.oifoundation.org](http://www.oifoundation.org) Below is the banner they will find on the website. Submission of the application is easy and quick. Encourage they read

the directions completely. And submit all required information.

Questions? Call the OIF office at 800 500 8130. Any OIF Staff person can assist.

Ellen Thompson  
District Foundation Chair

## 2020 District Oratorical Contest fast approaching

### Oratorical Contest

**Topic** for the 2019-20 school year is: "Just iMagine a World without Boundaries"

**When:** Deadline for District Level is April 10, 2020. Entry Fee \$50.

**Where:** The contest will be held at Rowan County Senior High School in the Performing Arts Center 499 Viking Drive Morehead, Ky. The contest will begin at 2:00 pm.

**For More Information Contact:**  
Jean Smith C: 502-321-4969 H: 502-738-5506

## Thanks for support

I would like to thank the individuals and the clubs who helped by giving donations to Cumberland Valley Domestic Violence Services Inc. at our 2nd Quarter District meeting.

The money raised was \$305; this will help these families that are recovering from domestic violence.

The shelter serves 8 counties; Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Laurel, Knox, Rockcastle, and Whitley.

Thanks to Beth Kerns, Bardstown Club, Russell-Logan Co. Club, Cannonsburg Club, Linda Woodford of West Charleston Club, Tom Birch, Ramona Ramsey, Jean Smith, and Laurel-London Club.

To empower the support to our youth, Stuart Maiden

## Participate in District-wide service projects and make an impact in your community

Let's see what kind of impact we can make across the Kentucky - West Virginia District as we collectively participate in a different project each quarter in each of our local communities. Please take pictures and send them to [beth.kerns@yahoo.com](mailto:beth.kerns@yahoo.com). At the end of each quarter I will post all the pictures on our KY-WV District Facebook page to show the impact we, as Optimists, have collectively made across our District.

The guidelines below can be adapted for your local community. If you already do a project that fits one of these categories you can use it and not create a new project. These service projects will allow all club members to participate and feel a sense of accomplishment as they bring smiles to youth.

**3rd Quarter** - Summer Fun. Help a

child or youth group during the summer by tutoring, mentoring, sponsoring a youth for a summer camp, take a disadvantaged youth group to the movies, a ballgame, or amusement park. Partner with other organizations/businesses to get discounts to make this project more affordable.

**4th Quarter** - Back to School. Help youth as they head back to school. This could be donating backpacks and school supplies, adopt a classroom, arrange for a youth focused day spa by organizing barbers and beauticians to give free haircuts, manicures, etc. to help improve their self-image.

Remember - adapt these themes to fit into your local community. Wear Optimist branded items. Be sure to take lots of photos. Post them on your Facebook pages and tag club members.

# KYWV earned Distinguished status for 2018-19!



Immediate past Optimist International President Rebecca Butler Mona sent a message to the Kentucky West Virginia District during our 2nd Quarter Meeting and congratulated the District on being a Distinguished District for 2018-19. Ed Smith presented Immediate Past Distinguished Governor Jean Smith with Honor and Distinguished certificates on behalf of President Rebecca.



Immediate Past Distinguished Governor Jean Smith received a special ring (shown at left) from Optimist International in recognition of the District's achievements last year.

### Newsletter Deadline

Club Officers, Lt. Governors and other District Leadership Team members are reminded that articles for the 3rd Quarter Newsletter are due no later than **March 29th**.

Please e-mail your article, announcements, and photographs to the editor at: [digipic@bardstowncable.net](mailto:digipic@bardstowncable.net)

# Youth athletes honored at TriStar Shootout

The best fun is watching 18 kids' performance in the TriStar / Shootout Contest on February 8, 2020. The contest had two stages, the regular Basketball TriStar contest and a ten shot Shootout contest. The boy and the girl with the highest "score total" between the TriStar and the Shootout, will be crowned King and Queen of the Court.

The clubs that support kids in this contest were Optimist Club of Louisville, Optimist Club of Russell/Logan Co., and Optimist Club of Laurel-London. I do appreciate the help in running this contest from KYWV District members and Laurel-London Club was the host club for the contest.

## Awards

Jaslyn Philpot, 9 year old girls division, 1st place in TriStar and Shootout

Emily Smith, 10 year old girls division, 1st place in TriStar and Shootout

Kori Smith, 11 year old girls division, 1st place in TriStar and Shootout, also the Queen of the Court

Malachi Jones, 10 year old boys division, 1st place in TriStar

Treyvon Pendergrass, 10 year old boys division, 2nd place in TriStar and 1st place in the Shootout

Braxton Coleman, 10 year old boys division, 2nd place in the Shootout

Le' Mauric Pendergrass, 11 year old

boys division, 1st place in TriStar and the King of the Court

Jacobie Wilson-Wickliffe, 11 year old boys division, 2nd place in TriStar

Raiden Sultz, 11 year old boys division, 1st place in the Shootout

Jailyn Hervey, 11 year old boys division, 2nd place in the Shootout

Judah Weaver, 12 year old boys division, 1st place in TriStar and 1st place in the Shootout

Bramare Johnson, 12 year old boys division, 2nd in TriStar and 2nd place in the Shootout

Cam Taylor, 13 year old boys division, 1st place in TriStar and 1st in the Shootout



## 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 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.

# Club News

## Lexington holds first Essay Contest



The new Optimist Club of Lexington has hosted their first Essay contest. First place winner was Alexandria Seese a Sophomore from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School.

## Radcliff essay winner advances to District



Radcliff held its annual essay contest competition at the Golden China Buffet. Pictured above with the winners are (L-R) Club President Shari Smith, Dawnette Mackey - 3rd Place, Abigail Ashlock - 1st Place, Breonna Wright - 2nd Place, and club member Teresa Price, Essay Contest Chairperson. Each winner received a Certificate, a medallion, and a cash award: 1st Place \$100, 2nd Place \$50, and 3rd Place \$25.

Ashlock will move on to the Kentucky - West Virginia District Level Competition where the 1st Place award includes a \$2,500 scholarship.

## Radcliff hears about dental mission

At the Optimist Club of Radcliff's February 11th meeting presenter Venus Cornette gave a multimedia presentation on the work of Crossing Nations 2GETHER in selected villages in Cambodia. Describing the living conditions as truly third world where water sources are contaminated streams, and eating raw sugar cane results in terrible dental condition beginning in childhood, Cornette described her groups work and goals.

The group raises money to support a three-week dental program where dental professionals go to the villages and do preventive and corrective procedures as well making educational presentations in the schools. The end goal is to construct a year-round facility for use by visiting dental professionals on a rotational basis.

Optimist Club President Shari Smith presented Cornette with a check to support their mission.



## Radcliff gives to Helping Hand of Hope



The Optimist Club of Radcliff conducts several projects throughout the year in support of local charities and needs. Most recently the Club donated full-size personal care items to Helping Hand of Hope. Pictured above are Optimist Club President Shari Smith, and member Frances Lee standing behind Helping Hand of Hope's Hope Burke and Debbie Morris.



Registration Form  
 Kentucky / West Virginia District  
 of Optimist International  
 3rd Quarter District Meeting April 24-25, 2020  
 “Just iMAGINE a World without Boundaries”  
 Hampton Inn, 500 Hampton Way, Morehead, KY 40351 (606)780-0601  
 Hosted by Morehead Optimist Club

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Office \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ District Office \_\_\_\_\_

Children Attending \_\_\_\_\_ First District Meeting? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration Rate** (individual) \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Form must be received by April 10, 2020 (family) \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

-- OR --

**On-Site Registration** (individual) \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

These rates apply after April 10, 2020 and at the door. (family) \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee for Non-District Members** is \$100.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_  
 (does not include special invited guests, OI Representatives, OI Trainers)

**Friday Night Dinner:** Join us at Cave Run Bingo Hall (6950 US 60 W Farmers, KY) for Food & Bingo for those that want to play. Meet in Lobby @ 5:00 Depart @ 5:15

**Saturday Breakfast** included with nights lodging

**Lunch on Saturday** will be catered at hotel - \$15 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Oratorical competition** will be held at Rowan County Senior High School in the Performing Arts Center, 499 Viking Drive, Morehead, KY

**Saturday Night Dinner** will be at Reno's Roadhouse Dutch Treat, 1695 Flemingsburg Road, Morehead, KY

**Registration total plus Saturday Lunch total = Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please call Bill Redwine or email at billredwine@gmail.com. Make checks payable to: Kentucky / West Virginia District and mail with this form to: Bill Redwine, 446 Forest Hills Drive, Morehead, KY 40351-8860(606)356-0666

**Reserve rooms directly with the hotel by April 10, 2020.** Hampton Inn, 500 Hampton Way, Morehead, KY 40351 (606)780-0601 Block of rooms at \$99.00 (Queen or King) plus tax per night on April 24 and 25, 2020. When making reservation mention KY-WV Optimist District