July, 2019

# Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan District (WINUM) OPTIMISTS IN ACTION!!



#### Special points of interest:

- Governor Elect Dan's Greeting
- 100 Years
  Optimist International Celebration in Louisville
- 4th Quarter Convention—Day Filled with Fun, Great Ideas and Information
- Honor Club Requirements
- Distinguish Club Requirements
- 2019-2020 WINUM Conference and Convention Dates



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## **Greetings From the WINUM Governor**

#### Hi WINUM Optimists!

I would like to thank you for a great year and putting your confidence in me during this Centennial year of Optimist International. As a District, WINUM is currently plus 19 in membership and ranked # 12 as in Optimist International. At the Optimist International Convention in Louisville, KY, WINUM was recognized as a Pacesetter District and provided positive membership support to the Great Plains Region which was tied for #1 with the Northeast & Great Lakes Region. Our region: Great Plains which includes Optimist members in Wisconsin North (WINUM), Southern Wisconsin (SWIS), Iowa, Nebraska, Dakotas Minnesota & Manitoba (DMM), and Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan,





and Northern Wyoming (AMS & NW) is currently #1!! Great job VP Edie Harris for your leadership and enthusiasm.

I want to personally invite each WINUM district member to consider attending the 4th Quarter Convention on Sept. 20 and 21 in Eau Claire. I guarantee it will be an enjoyable experience providing each member with additional ideas to

take back to their clubs to help more communities support kids. We are fortunate to have three guest speakers that are willing to share their expertise with are membership on topics such as cyberbullying, helping kids engage in Wisconsin's natural resources/ forest environments, leadership skills for all members, and being engaged in the Optimist movement at all stages of one's life. Please consider inviting your Junior Optimist and College club members as well since our speakers and their topics will be engaging to our younger Optimist membership.

Finally, consider attending the 4th quarter convention to celebrate the end of a great year and welcome our upcoming Governor for the 2019-2020 year Dan O'Leary and his leadership team.

As the 2018-2019 Optimist year come into the Final Stretch, please make sure that all your club paperwork is submitted to Optimist International. All of our clubs in WINUM are doing outstanding service and deserve to be properly recognized by Optimist International.. But that recognition may be lost if OI does not know what your club has accomplished this year. Encourage your Club President and Secretary to complete the Club Pride report; sponsor a new Optimist member to help your club be plus three in membership by September 30; recommend to your Club Board to support the Optimist International Foundation with a donation; recognize a community or club member; and participate in a New Optimist Welcome (NOW) event.

It has been a pleasure to support your Optimism this year and meet so many great WINUM Optimist. Thanks again for your membership, your service to your communities and your engagement in making the lives of children a little better one project at a time.

Yours in Optimism,

Jodi

## **Greetings from Governor Elect Dan O'Leary**



Greetings for Governor-Elect Dan O'Leary

The 2019-2020 Optimist year is fast approaching and Jodi Arriola's "year was a huge success. I am looking forward to Serving the Youth of our District and I plan to continue with the positive health of our membership : thanks to Jodi's Leadership. I hope to build stronger Teams within each zone and will take every opportunity to meet with your Clubs and be available throughout the year for any support you will need. I encourage all clubs to have at least (1) special project and to include "all" members in the planning & participation. I will also encourage the Presidents/Lieutenant Governors to reach out personally, to all members that have given notice or are considering leaving their Clubs. Find out the reasons and support their concerns and/or work with them to resolve any issues. Member retention may be as simple as "listening". Let your Club Presidents/ Leadership know what your special interests or expertise may be so they can keep you involved and utilize your skills. Make certain to show appreciation and "thank " each other for their support. Share the 'Promise Yourself' Creed whenever possible!

Each Club should make an effort to foster relationships with past Members and invite them back into our clubs. These members bring with them experience and will add to the health of our Clubs. There may be a point in their Lives where they have additional time to rejoin a service organization and partner with our younger members. Another goal I have is to retain communications with Lieutenant Governor's and Club Leaders via (phone calls, invites, member involvement, Zone meetings etc.) Please help to support my plan by contacting your schools and have them include your special

> events and information on their face book/websites etc. Use flyers in the local stores and businesses to help us "spread the word". Utilize free advertisements and local newspapers. By increasing our Club memberships, we will be increasing the District memberships which provides us with the opportunity to "Serve More Youth" in our District.

> BE THE LEADER. Optimists have challenges...not problems. As a Team, we can conquer these challenges. Thank you for joining my Team! I am looking forward to partnering with you all in the next year and helping to "Make a Difference" in the lives of our youth.

Dan Governor Elect WINUM District 2019-2020





## 2019 Annual Optimist International Convention June 30-July 3, 2019



## Louisville welcomed Optimist International in 2019!

Dan O'Leary , 2019/2020 WINUM Governor Elect and Mary Joan attended the annual Optimist International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky from June 27 thru July 3. This year was the 100th year Celebration. There was a record high of over 1,300 Optimist Members and family in attendance. There were several days of training and a variety of Speakers providing information and tools to help support us in "Serving our Youth". A Centennial Parade was held downtown and an Optimist march including many young people from Jr Optimist Groups. The Parade ended with an unveiling of an historic marker displaying the "Birth Of Optimist International" in June 1919. A beautiful City that provided us with a very inspiring and positive experience with the opportunity to meet many people all over the World that are partnering with us to help "Make a Difference" in the lives of our youth.





### **Pacesetter Awards**

Cheryl Bolton Sue Armstrong Gwen Gable Liz Jackson

Jodi Arriola Eric Christian Mark Feilmann Ron Whitaker Cathy Hicks

Maureen Crombie



## **WINUM 4th Quarter Convention** Sleep Inn & Suites, Eau Claire WI – September 20-21, 2019 **Meeting Highlights**

(all topics & events subject to change)

## Friday, September 20

### Executive Board Meeting at 5 PM at 29 Pines followed by \*\*\*\*Picnic—Steak Fry at Hoffman Hill

State Recreation Area (Hoffman Hills is a 707-acre unit of the Wisconsin state park system near Menomonie. A network of trails provides access to wooded hills, prairie, and wetlands. There are three picnic areas and a 60-foot observation tower built by the Menomonie Optimist Club) at the park. Bring your hiking shoes since there is a short uphill climb

to the tower. \*\*\*\*\*\* Hospitality!

### Saturday, September 21

Our International Representative will be Patsy Garner, from Fort Worth, Texas.

As a member of the Optimist Intl Board of Directors, Patsy brings a message from International President Rebecca Butler-Mona and will be assisting with training sessions throughout the weekend!

> Josh Zaidel will also be our guest to speak about the Optimist movement throughout a member's life as a past college Optimist member of the UW-Whitewater Optimist Club, a charter member of the Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club, 2016-2017 SWIS District Governor and 2020 International Convention Host Area Co-Chair in Chicagoland. If you are a Junior or College Optimist, please consider coming to the convention to learn about Josh's journey through leadership in this great organization.

#### Let's Learn More About Cyber-Bullying:

Cyberbullying has unique concerns in that it can be: **Persistent –** Digital devices offer an ability to immediately and continuously communicate 24 hours a day, so it can be difficult for children experiencing cyberbullying to find relief. Permanent – Most information communicated electronically is permanent and public, if not reported and removed. A negative online reputation, including for those who bully, can impact college admissions, employment, and other areas of life. Hard to Notice - Because teachers and parents may not overhear or see cyberbullying taking place, it is harder to recognize. (www.stopbullying.gov)

> Dr.Justin W. Patchin, a criminal justice faculty in the department of Political Science at UW-Eau Claire since 2004 and co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, an on-line information clearinghouse will be also be our speaker. Since 2002, he has been exploring the intersection of teens and technology, with particular focus on cyberbullying, social networking, and sexting. He travels around the United States and abroad training educators, counselors, law enforcement officers, parents, and youth on how to prevent and respond to adolescent misuses of technology. Additional information can be found at the Cyberbullying Research Center website:

https://cyberbullying.org/ or uwec.edu and search Dr. Justin Patchin

Election of Governor-Elect for the 2019-20 Optimist year and Governor for 2020-2021.

Will you be a Club Officer during the 2019-2020 Optimist year or are you interested in growing your leadership? Meet your fellow WINUM team members at leadership training sessions with our next Governor, Dan O'Leary, OI Representative Patsy Garner and past SWIS Governor Josh Zaidel. This is guaranteed to be a fun, engaging session for all WINUM membership.

Installation Luncheon: Welcome the 2019-2020 WINUM District Team!!

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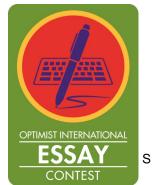


Many students participated in local Optimist club Essay contests this year. The topic of the 2018-2019 Optimist International Essay: *When all the Worlds Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary.* Each club within the WINUM district who had an Essay Contest had the opportunity to submit their top student essay to the District contest for judging. The top three winners of the WINUM District:

Kate Boersma - 1st Place Hometown: Rothchild Sponsor Club: Everest Area Optimist Club

Grayson Schroeder - 2nd Place Hometown: Neenah Sponsor Club: Oshkosh Noon Optimist Club

Anna Schultz - 3rd Place Hometown: Kewanee ponsoring Club: Kewaunee Optimist Club



The Optimist International 2019-2020 Essay Topic: Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams you iMagine?

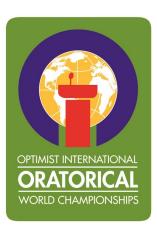
During the 3rd Quarter Conference held at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Weston Optimist attendees had the opportunity to listen to great Orators from throughout the WINUM District speaking on the topic of *Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality*.

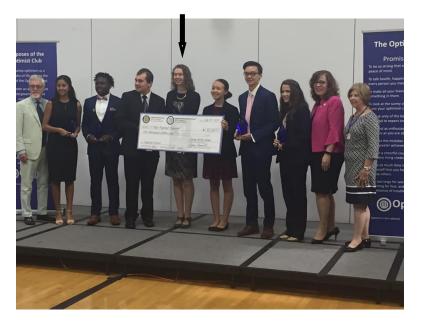
First Place Winner and WINUM's representative at the Worldwide Championships is Regina Gravrok. Regina lives in Eau Claire, WI and is sponsored by the Menomonie Optimist Club.

Second Place Winner is Hanna Payne. Hanna lives in Green Bay, WI and is sponsored by Green Bay Preble Optimist Club. Hanna is in 8th grade.

Third Place Winner Sophie Brandt. Sophie lives in Chilton and is sponsored by the Chilton Optimist Club.

Regina Gravrok, pictured at the Reginal Championships in St. Louis won the Great Plains Competition and an additional \$10,000 scholarship and advanced to the World Championship Competition the next day in St. Louis. Congratulation!!





The Optimist Oratorical Topic for the 2019-2020 Optimist Year has already been chosen and information concerning participation can be found on the Optimist International Website.

Consider promoting and holding an Oratorical Competition at your club or zone during the next Optimist year.

2019-2020 Optimist International Oratorical Topic: Just iMagine a Would without Boundaries



- 91 WINUM Optimist Members are Dime-A-Day Members
- \$9332.73 unrestricted donation to the Optimist International Foundation
  - \$5.20 per WINUM member has been donated to the Optimist International Foundation
  - \$1967.01 donations to the Childhood Cancer Fund
  - \$700. to the Health & Wellness Fund

#### OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Our 2018 – 2019 Optimist Centennial Year goal was set at \$16,750.00 in Unrestricted Funds. As you can see from our July YTD, we are short of our goal by \$7417.27. As you might remember, these donations support our District Essay, Oratorical, and Communication Contest of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) Contests and monetary scholarships for the winners.

Please consider being at minimum a Dime-A-Day Member (\$36.50) if you are not, and to look at a Century Club Membership (\$100.00). Further, make sure your club becomes a Dollar-A-Day Member (\$365.00), or better gives \$500.00 or more.

Please remember, all checks must be made payable to OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (O.I.F.) and be mailed directly to OIF or Jan Van Dreser, 2018 – WINUM D.F.R. – 2019

## **Centennial Commemorative Coin**

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation has available a special commemorative coin to celebrate this milestone. The coin, with the 100th anniversary logo on one side and the Optimist International Foundation logo on the other, highlights the partnership between the two organizations in furthering the mission of Optimism worldwide. This partnership has helped children and communities in thousands of ways: from scholarships to support of Junior Optimist International, to Club Grants and so much more. The proceeds from the 100th anniversary coin will be dedicated to help launch of the new Optimist International effort: the Childhood Health & Wellness program. This high-guality keepsake will be a 1.5-inch bronze coin, in a blue velour box. The donation will be \$100



## DON'T FORGET THE 2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES

## Valid October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

International President Rebecca Butler-Mona has established a special incentive for the 2018-2019 Optimist year to help Clubs reach out to past Optimist Members who are not currently Members of a Club. These past Members may be recruited into ANY Optimist Club, whether it be the Club they were originally part of or a different Club for only \$30 in international dues for their first year back! The \$15.00 registration fee is also waived! Members may not be dropped and re-added within the same Optimist year.

#### The \$30 dollar membership for new members:

- under the age of 30
- teachers and staff

for the first year as an Optimist also remains in effect for the 2018-2019 Optimist year.

#### <u>Zone 1</u>

Angie Reimer Lt. Governor

Optimist Club of Chippewa Falls

Bloomer Area Optimist Club

**Optimist Club of Hallie** 

Optimist Club of Menomonie

River Falls Area Optimist Club

**Superior Optimist Club** 

UW-River Falls Optimist Club

**UWEC Optimist Club** 

#### <u>Zone 2</u>

Vanessa Rueth Lt. Governor

**Optimist Club of Antigo** 

Everest Area Optimist Club

Optimist Club of Merrill

Prentice Area Optimist Club

> Wausau Breakfast Optimist Club

Optimist Club of Wausau

#### Zone 3

Aleese Fielder Lt. Governor

Mosinee Area Optimist Club

> Optimist Club of Neillsville

> Optimist Club of Stevens Point

Optimist Club of WIsconsin Rapids



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#### Zone 7

John Leonhard Lt. Governor

Optimist Club of Appleton

Hilbert-Potter Optimist Club

Optimist Club of Green leaf-Wrightstown

Sherwood Area Optimist Club

#### Zone 8

Mark Sprangers Lt. Governor

Optimist Club of North Fond Du Lac

Optimist Club of Fond Du Lac

Optimist Club of Fond Du Lac-Noon

Optimist Club of Oshkosh

Optimist Club of Plymouth

Optimist Club of Sheboygan



## Wisconsin-North Upper Michigan District

A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst and it sparks extraordinary results.





#### **Optimist Mission:**

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

#### **Optimist Vision:**

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

#### **Optimist Creed**

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind

To talk heath, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet

To make all your friends feel 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, to noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

## **Conferences/Convention Dates**

## WINUM District

WINUM Convention —4th Quarter

September 20 & 21, 2019 Pines 29, Eau Claire, WI

## 2019-2020 OPTIMIST YEAR

Nov 1-2, 2019 Fox Hills Resort, Mishicot

Feb 7-8, 2020 2020 Hotel Marshfield, Marshfield

May 1-2, 2020 Tundra Lodge, Green bay

Aug 7-8, 2020 Best Western Plus Conference Center, Eau Claire

#### **OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

June 27-30, 2020 Schaumburg-Chicago Northwest, IL

## 2018-2019 Leadership Team

International President: Rebecca Butler Mona Vice President: Edie Harris Governor: Jodi Arriola Past Governor: Tony Yaggie Secretary: Roni Kaczor-Smith Treasurer: Deborah Braden Governor-Elect: Dan O'Leary

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