



**Michigan  
District**



**Opti Views**

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Michigan District Optimist International Newsletter

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### **Governor**

**Steve Sucher**

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### **District Secretary-**

**Treasurer**

**Maggie Rollinger**

### **Immediate Past**

**Governor**

**Cherryl Thames**

### **District**

**Governor-Elect**

**Monetta Foster**

### **Assistant Governor**

**Region 1**

**Jerry Stroik**

### **Assistant Governor**

**Region 2**

**Terry Eisen**

### **Assistant Governor**

**Region 3**

**Tom Longhway**

### **Assistant Governor**

**Region 4**

**Juanita Bell**

## **Stand Tall For Youth**

It is an honor to serve as the 2015-2016 Michigan District Governor. You have placed a lot of confidence in me and my leadership abilities. I am humbled to have this title and role.

Optimist International President Dave Bruns' theme is "Optimists bring out the very BEST in youth, in our local communities, in our Clubs, and in ourselves—Right Here, Right Now!" The Michigan District models this theme now and into the future.



Governor Cherryl Thames had a very successful year with her "Dare To Excel!" year. She challenged the organization to excel and that we did. Our District can be very proud of the positive impact that we made on our youth and our clubs. The Bay City Noon Optimist Club was recognized as the #1 club in all of Optimist International. The Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo (BOCK) was also in the top 5 for this honor. The Michigan District is #1 district with the most number of clubs. We are also the #1 district in contributions to Optimist International Foundation. And we are the largest district in terms of membership in all of Optimist International!

My theme is "Stand Tall For Youth". It is not our vertical height that makes us stand tall. It is the activities we take as Optimists that have a positive

impact on all youth regardless of gender, race, socio-economic level, or physical ability.

My goals are to focus on leadership development, membership, and new club building. Development of leaders at the club and district level is vital to our organization. We need to make members feel comfortable to take on more responsibility and grow within their clubs. We also need members to feel comfortable in getting involved at the district level. We need to retain and grow membership so we can impact more youth in our communities. And finally we need to build new clubs in areas that we presently don't serve. There are many youth in these areas that can benefit from our activities and services.

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

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

(Continued from page 1)

I attended Governor-Elect training in the spring. One of the presentations was on "Mission/Purpose Driven Optimist Clubs". I learned that our organization will grow when we share with others the true benefits of membership in an Optimist Club. For years we have talked about how Optimists "Bring Out The Best In Kids". And for this to happen we should not start with what we do or how we do it. We need to first focus on why we are Optimists.

Simon Sinek is the author of the book "Start With Why". He states "People don't choose your organization because of what you do. They choose it because of *why* you do it." By starting with "Why?" we touch peoples hearts and inspire them.

An example used in training was Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. The reason the "I Have A Dream" speech was so effective is it gave us the why we would all want equal rights for everyone. We all want our children to be judged by their actions, not the color of their skin. Just speaking about the philosophical or Constitutional reasons for equal rights does not motivate people to work for change. The "How" was rallying supporters who shared his Dream. People were inspired by the why, they rallied in great numbers to advocate for change. The "What" or result was the passage of Civil Rights Legislation. People were inspired because "I Have A Dream" and not "I Have A Plan". Purpose driven leaders invite those who share their dreams to join them.

So how does this relate to our organization? What is the purpose of our clubs and members? Our "Why" is to promote Optimism as a way of life. Our "How" is by serving children, our communities and our members to be THE BEST they can be. And our "What" is by providing service through various projects as well as self-improvement for our members.

So here is the value of being a member of our organization:

- "Optimism—Positive Attitude
- "Meaning/Purpose—Being a Force for Positive Change in

the World

- "Engagement—Taking Action to Build a Better Future
- "Relationships—Making Friends that Share your Optimism
- "Professional Leadership Development—Improvement of Yourself and Others
- "Networking—Making Business and Social Connections Outside Usual Circle

So I am wanting to become a purpose driven leader. My dream is to keep the Michigan District as the #1 District in Optimist International. I would never have attempted this dream without the training offered by Optimist International and the Michigan District. I also would not attempt this without the great team we have within the Michigan District.

The Michigan District has great quarterly conferences. Each quarterly conference provides for team building, sharing of ideas, fellowship, motivation, leadership development, and personal growth. These conferences are for the benefit of members. I would like to see more attendees at our conferences so more people get this benefit and make our organization stronger.

So what is your "Why"?

Yours in Optimism,  
Steve

## STAND TALL FOR YOUTH



## District Finance Changes

***Maggie Rollinger - Michigan District Secretary-Treasurer***  
***[mar523@wowway.com](mailto:mar523@wowway.com) or (586) 436-5613***

Greetings and welcome to the "Stand Tall for Youth" Optimist year. For those of you who don't know me. I have been a charter member of the Roseville Optimist Club since 1992. I have been treasurer of my club for many years and was also secretary for many years. I am also past president of our club. I have also been Lt. Gov. for zone 16, P.G.I. Chair, Activity Chair, and proud Builder of Excellence.

I am excited to join Governor Steve's "Stand Tall for Youth" team as the Michigan District Secretary/Treasurer! His team has been working hard to ensure the continued success of the great Michigan District.

Michigan District dues will be sent to your club's secretary/treasurer in October, by Optimist International along with your International Dues. Prompt payment of dues will assure that the District can continue to offer training to our members and officers as well as support programs such as Jr. Golf, Oratorical and Essay Contest, PGI, Internet Safety and Childhood Cancer. Elaine Lyons and Marc Katz have been a tremendous help in giving me the training necessary to do this job and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Training – District and Club Officer Training was held July 25. We have also had training at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter convention at both sessions we provided valuable materials to assist our incoming officers as the "Stand Tall for Youth in the 2015 -2016 Optimist year.

## Welcome New Members... Welcome to our Team !

Optimist volunteers continually make this world a better place to live. There are over 70,000 individual Members who belong to more than 2,400 autonomous Clubs. Optimists conduct 65,000 service projects each year, serving six million young people. Optimists also spend \$78 million on their communities annually.

Welcome to all our new team members to the Michigan District that were added between 06/01/2015 and 08/31/2015. Sponsors are listed in italics.



### AUBURN HILLS

Donald Grice *Thomas Tanghe*  
Thomas Tanghe *Gayle Barr*

### BAY CITY

Samantha Dore *Becke Popour*  
Bethany Dutcher *Marlene Mika*  
Tyler Gerard *Robert Lachance*

### BFT-MASON

Michael Anderson *Alan Awalt*

### BIRMINGHAM

Mark Evo *Richard Stasys*  
Audrey Shapero *Richard Stasys*

### BLOOMFIELD HILLS

O. L.h.s.a *Adela Piper*

### BLUEGILL-ST. HELEN

Anthony Hoffman *Trishia Benjamin*  
Lois Hoffman *Trishia Benjamin*  
Summer Male *Melissa Langley*

### BRIGHTON

Amber Cafini *Michael Bonk*

### CARDINAL-SKIDWAY LAKE

Vickie Barnes  
Brenda Bates  
Shari Bouquenoy  
Matt Coburn  
Susan Colvin  
Virginia Counselman  
Margaret Elkins  
Elizabeth Grabow  
Elizabeth Grabow  
Patricia Jenkins  
Sue Kardasz  
Kathleen Kompoltowicz  
Cyndi Lang  
April Mason  
Dorothy "Bunny" Miller  
Mary Ellen Pataky  
Stephen Peckham  
Joseph Perrera  
Kathleen Rase  
William [Bill] Rase  
Shelly Schwenkler  
Janet Smith  
Kathleen Smith  
Jovan Williamson  
Wanda Willis

### CENTRAL MACOMB

Cindy Krzewewski *Elaine Lyon*

### CLARKSTON AREA

Linda Danek *Linda Knott*  
Gary Kaul *Betty Reilly*

### CLINTON TOWNSHIP AREA

Susan Macfarland *Margaret Howard*  
Riddhi Sawant *Theresa Jarratt*

### DECATUR

Emily Carrington *Dan Carrington*

### DETROIT-HARTFORD COMMUNITY

Lisa Aleobua *Patricia Dewberry*

### DETROIT-METRO RIVERFRONT

Teneka Pitts *Marietta Franklin*  
Charlene White *Toni Battle*  
Jennie Whitfield *Fatima Plater*

### FLINT-DOWNTOWN

Nathan Davidson *Mike Buckel*

### FRIEND OF PATRIOTS-WARREN

Theresa Jarrett *David Fries*  
Catherine Miller *Patricia Sellers*  
Jennifer Miller *Michael Salyers*  
Sharon Perry *Michael Salyers*  
Sue Salyers *Michael Salyers*  
Julie Schmidt *Michael Salyers*

### GRAND BLANC

Michelle Francisco *Daniel Draper*  
Diane Minnich *Cathy Lane*

### HURON VALLEY

Tom Gaunt *Beverly Orndorf*

### KALAMAZOO-BFT

Nancy Gallihugh *Mindy Miller*  
Tammy Parat *Joanne Avriett*

### KUPSIA AGENTS OF MILLENNIUM PROGRESS (KAMP), UG

Willington Baluku *Josam Kule MR*  
Monday Wilson Bwambale  
*Josam Kule MR*  
Starnly Friday *Josam Kule MR*  
Nelson Kisembo *Josam Kule MR*  
Jimmy Leebeu *Josam Kule MR*  
Jockus Masereka *Josam Kule MR*  
Mapoze Selevest Masereka  
*Josam Kule MR*  
Annet Masika *Josam Kule MR*  
Elizabeth Mbambu *Josam Kule MR*  
Umar Thembo *Josam Kule MR*

### LIVONIA

Mika Dajos *Robert Schiller*

### LUDINGTON

Eric Janowiak *Melissa Young*  
Gene Kyle *Annette Quillan*  
Ruthann Kyle *Annette Quillan*  
Andrea Scarfone *Melissa Young*

### MOUNT CLEMENS

Edward Bruley *Pat Rabaut Miller*  
Lisa Kelley *Jerry Kuhl*

### PENNFIELD-BATTLE CREEK

Michelle Kline *Rita Wooten*

### PLYMOUTH-CANTON

Jerold Meier *Joyce Silagy*

### PONTIAC

Bonnie Balduf  
Lisa Kelley

### ROGERS CITY-LUNCHEON

Shawn Hoag *Myron Peltz*

### SCOTTVILLE

Brenda Tarsa *Gayle Newton*  
Darcey Wells *Diane Watts*

### TRAVERSE CITY

Jeff Broderick *Carol Vernam*

### WATERFORD TOWNSHIP-BFT

Terrence Currin *William Maxfield*

### WEST BLOOMFIELD

William Berris *Robert Schiller*  
Janet Hass *Geebee Thimotheose*  
Curt Lawson *Alan Laduke*





## Michigan District Policy Changes

Marc Katz • [marcoblue1@gmail.com](mailto:marcoblue1@gmail.com) • (248) 219-5949

At the Michigan District Optimist Convention there were a number of proposed Policy changes that were presented to the delegates for consideration. The following is an overview of the action taken by the delegates:

- The forward of the policies was amended to include most of Section 1A from the current policies
- For an individual to serve as Governor of the Michigan District they must have served a full term as a Club President and a majority of a full term as a Lieutenant Governor
- The District Historian shall keep the minutes and records of the District along with the District Secretary-Treasurer
- The policy for the District to have a separate budget for the District Convention was deleted as the Convention budget is already part of the part of the annual District budget

- The District Reserve Fund will have an amount not to exceed \$10,000
- The five Areas for the Oratorical Contest will be determined by the County that a club is in
- The proposed policy on Club Fundraising at District Meetings was referred back to the Governance Committee

As an informational item, the Michigan District Policy Committee will now be known as the Michigan District Governance Committee.

The revised District Policies will be printed in the Michigan District Directory and will be available on the Michigan District website (<http://www.michiganoptimists.org/resources/policies.html>).

## New Club Building News

Pat Rabaut Miller • (586) 731-1831

Charlie King • (313) 729-6277

According to Arnold Palmer, "The road to success is always under construction" as is the road to our success, as a District, is also always under construction.

Start thinking about the communities in your area. A 'community' could be a traditional geographic area or perhaps an existing community, like a sports team or a church. Once the community has been identified the construction begins!

As with any construction project, there are steps to take as you build a new club including conducting a needs assessment; recruiting new members; conduct meetings with the potential members; follow-up / communications with those interested and then chartering the club.

Why do we care about building new clubs? Probably the most important thing to remember is that for every new member recruited we can help about 33 children in the area so if we build a new club with 25 members we can help an additional 825 kids in the targeted area. It's all about the kids!

We are here to help you with your building project. We have the supplies you need including training materials; draft press releases; new member orientation information, etc. We have also created a New Club Building team across our District who are here to help your efforts including Charlie King, Pat Rabaut Miller and Dave Fries in SE Michigan; Wilma VanLoo and Tedd Dotts in Western Michigan and Mary Aubin and Chuck Snyder in northern Michigan. We welcome any members who have a passion for New Club Building – just let us know.

Please join us on November 7<sup>th</sup> during the 1Q meeting in Troy to learn all about the steps to plan for and build a new club.

In the mean time, as Petula Clark sang, "Call me (us), Don't be afraid, you can call me (us) . . .

## From the Webmaster's Desk

Theresa Jarratt • [me@theresajarratt.com](mailto:me@theresajarratt.com) • (586) 306-7284

**Club Website – FREE** - Did you know that your club is entitled to a free district website? The district offers each club it's own WordPress website to list your events, pictures or postings online. Club websites are easy to update and maintain and easy to setup. Contact me for more information about your club website.



**Access to District Directory** – you will need access to get access to the district directory – this access is granted to members only and you will need to have a username and password to get access. Please send an email to me that you need

access and it will be verified and granted.

District Website URLs:

[www.michiganoptimists.org](http://www.michiganoptimists.org) |  
[www.mioptimist.org](http://www.mioptimist.org)

Club Website URL: [www.michiganoptimists.org/clubs/17052](http://www.michiganoptimists.org/clubs/17052) (e.g. for club 17052)

*I am looking for anyone who is interested in learning more about being a member of the web committee to help improve the district website. Please contact me and let me know if you are interested.*

## Fill the Foundation Basket!

**Barry Burnham - Michigan District Foundation Representative**

**[barry.burnham@me.com](mailto:barry.burnham@me.com) or (586) 703-4435**

Hard to believe it, but here we are, already starting a new Optimist year!! Last year was great under the leadership of Governor Cherryl and her Team, and this year promises to be just as exciting and fun under the leadership of Governor Steve and his Team!!

My role this year is to serve as District Foundation Representative (DFR) for the Mighty Michigan District. Mighty? Absolutely!! The Michigan District has not only been number one in member numbers, but also has been numero uno in donations to the OI Foundation!!

**The Foundation's mission is:** Seeking, receiving and managing funds and real property for the benefit of Optimist International and its Member Clubs in its charitable, literary and educational activities.

What is so important about the Foundation? In short, the Foundation funds all of the Optimist programs all over the world, including the Oratorical and Essay contests for every District, in terms of scholarship money for each District winner, as well as outside campaigns such as Childhood Cancer. Our support is critical to the overall success of our organization.

The goal for the Michigan District for 2015-16 is to raise \$38,000 in unrestricted funds. This is less than last year's actual and is a most reasonable goal. As in past years, we'll continue our silent auctions and 50/50 raffles at our quarterly

District meetings. But I would like to kick this up a notch this year. I would like to ask each of the Clubs to set an individual goal to raise \$365 to donate to the Foundation by sponsoring at least one fundraiser, such as a golf outing, bake sale, etc. This is particularly important, since it potentially raises donations from individuals outside of our Optimist Family. Please note that this DOES NOT replace our traditional individual programs such as Dime-A-Day, Century Circle, etc. We still want to urge our Members to consider these donations as well.

Finally, I would like to urge each Club to appoint a Club Foundation Representative (CFR). This Member would act as a liaison between me, the Club and the Foundation, and would provide information and updates about the Foundation and District funds raised.

As always, thanks to each of you for your support of the Foundation. It is extremely important that we continue our fundraising efforts.

Also, I would like to ask as many clubs that want to, to bring a basket full of "goodies" representing their service area, that could be auctioned off, to raise money for the foundation. For each basket donated, I will read an announcement about your club at an upcoming event. You decide on the size and the decoration of the basket!

Barry Burnham  
Michigan District Foundation Representative



## Rediscover Optimism in Quebec 2016

**Dave Fries - Michigan Optimist International Convention Ambassador**

**[david.t.fries.civ@mail.mil](mailto:david.t.fries.civ@mail.mil) or (586) 219-7021**

Optimists from around the world will travel to the 98th Optimist International Convention, June 30-July 2, 2016. This year's theme is "Rediscover Optimism in Quebec 2016".

Quebec City, a World Heritage Treasure is surrounded by gorgeous landscapes, Historical, cultural and outdoor activities, exquisite foods as well as international events await. And, yes, Optimists from all parts of the globe, including you, and the Michigan District, will be arriving the week of July 30th - July 2nd, 2016 for the most fun we will have at an Optimist Convention ever! Rediscover Optimism in Quebec!

Centrally located in downtown Quebec City, one of Canada's prime meeting destinations, the Quebec City Conventions Centre is where the convention activities will take place. The Centre is within walking distance of the main hotel Hilton Quebec and is surrounded by some of the city's most memorable sightseeing. The Hilton Quebec is only 25 minutes from the Quebec City Jean Lesage International Airport.

The convention is a must for all incoming presidents and secretaries and treasurers, and lieutenant governors. The training will be the very best! Check your Optimist magazine for the proposed training agenda. Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity to be with the Michigan District at the 2016 OI Convention in Quebec Canada.

<http://www.optimist.org/Documents/2016-convention-save-the-date.pdf>





## Thank You for Daring to Excel!

**Cherryl R. Thames**

[cherrylthames1@att.net](mailto:cherrylthames1@att.net) or (248) 506-5118  
Michigan District Immediate Past Governor

DEAR FELLOW MICHIGAN DISTRICT OPTIMISTS

What an *amazing* year it has been! This has truly been one of the highest honors of my life to have served as your Governor for the 2014 - 2015 Optimist year! The most rewarding and exciting part of this year has been to see and learn about all of the incredible work our members do to benefit the children and families of the Michigan District.

What an honor it has been to help celebrate with you the 2013-2014 Distinguished District Governor for Most New Clubs Built - David Fries, the #1 Vice President - Harry Margo, the 1st Overall Optimist Club of the Year and the 1st Distinguished Leadership Development Chair. And, all of the 2014-2015 BOEs, the PGI Level 10's and other PGI level achievements, 4 OIF Club Grant Winners, the Hall of Fame Inductees, the Optimist Member and Corporate Sponsor of the Year, the Oratorical, Essay and Junior Golf contest winners, all of the new Adult and JOOI Optimist Clubs, the Outstanding Lt. Governors for each quarter and so much more.

As I write this last article as Governor, there is still much to do and numerous activities planned for the remainder of the 2014-2015 year. By your successes we have proved that we can Equip, Engage, Empower, and Energize our members to Excel and do great and extraordinary things.

I have not received the final results of our achievements for the year, but I know that Michigan Rocks! The preliminary indica-

tion is that we will recognize at least 50 Clubs as Honor Clubs, and that number could grow to 65 or even higher! This is positive proof of the great Club leaders and members that we have. And, we remain the largest District in all of Optimist International.

I truly thank our District Leadership Team for stepping up and Daring to Excel! The A&A Chair set this year's benchmark at 70 submitted reports per quarter and that goal was met and/or exceed each quarter. The Childhood Cancer Walk in Ann Arbor raised more than \$6,000 of which four \$1,000 club grants/donations were made. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen.

The 4th Quarter Meeting and Convention in Traverse City will be one that I will always remember. Our OI Representative, Executive Director - Benny Ellerbe, was outstanding during his first official visit to the Michigan District. And, if you heard him speak, I am sure that you benefited from the wisdom, knowledge and story-telling that he shared.

I look forward to celebrating your dedication and success with you at our second quarter District meeting in February. Until then, I wish you all the best for the new Optimist Year, and may you continue to operate with the same enthusiasm and commitment as you have in the past.

Best regards in Optimism,  
Cherryl R. Thames, Immediate Past Governor



## “HOW MY BEST BRINGS OUT the BEST in OTHERS”

**Joette Kunse - Michigan District Oratorical Contest Chair**

[jkhorses@comcast.net](mailto:jkhorses@comcast.net) or (248) 620-2984

As Optimist clubs are planning for the 2015-2016 Optimist year, please consider an Oratorical Contest. You may have a student in your community that could win \$22,500 in scholarships.

Optimist International is adding two new competition levels to the Oratorical Contest in 2016. One winner of the Michigan District contest will win \$2,500 and will go on to compete in a Great Lakes Regional competition with a winning prize of \$5,000. If a Michigan student wins the Great Lakes Regional, he or she will go to St. Louis, MO on June 23 to compete in the International Oratorical competition and compete with other Regional winners for a scholarship prize of \$15,000.

So how do clubs get started. Download the Planning Guide and contest application from [www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships5.cfm](http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships5.cfm).

This year's topic is “**How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others**”. Clubs that hold a local Oratorical Contest give young

people a chance to speak about their opinions regarding the world they live in, an opportunity to earn scholarship funds, and introduce the club to the community, parents, schools and youth.

It is not too early to meet with the school district or private schools and introduce them to the Oratorical Contest.

At the November conference, send your club Oratorical chairperson to the breakout session on the Oratorical Contest. Download the You Tube video on the OI site and ask your local public access television to run it to help create awareness of the Oratorical contest.

Clubs should plan to hold their Oratorical Contest by mid March 2016. Winners of those contests will go to the Michigan Regional contests in April, followed by the District contest.

If you have questions, please feel free to call me at 248 620 2984 or email me at [jkhorses@comcast.net](mailto:jkhorses@comcast.net).



## District Optimist and Corporate Sponsor of the Year Award Winners!

Stacia Little • [hslittle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hslittle@sbcglobal.net)



### Michigan District - Optimist of the Year

The Optimist of the Year Award was presented to a surprised candidate, Don Munter! He was nominated by Fatima Plater and his club, Loving Community for the outstanding work that he has contributed over the years. Don is an integral part of his club, hosting club meetings at his home, chairing new club activities as the liaison for Good Shepherd Head Start, donating supplies and seasonal gifts to the children and providing financial support to the teachers. Other club projects that Don has taken the lead on is the "Kayda Project", that led to Loving Community paying tuition for two Ugandan girls and purchasing gifts for the past 3 years. Don also took the lead on sponsoring a children's bookshelf/library at Botsford Hospital's Emergency Room.

He has held positions in the Michigan District as Achievement & Awards and a member of the MI District Childhood Cancer Walk. In addition to serving as club secretary, Don participates with the Susan J. Komen 3 day Cancer walk, and serves as the secretary of Renaissance Head Start Board of Director's. Don works hard but never wants the spotlight for his efforts. Don is a retired educator in the Detroit Public Schools but has never retired from his love of children and youth to make a difference in their lives.

### Michigan District - Corporate Sponsor of the Year

The Corporate Sponsor Award was nominated by the Auburn Hills Optimist Club and awarded to Meijer Corporation, Brown Road Store in Auburn Hills, MI. The Meijer Store has supported this club for 12 years, donating \$2500 annually in food, gift cards and supplies for needy children for Christmas shopping. The club brings up to 25 children to the store with their "lists" to shop for family members to teach the "joy of giving". In addition to the Christmas event, Meijer supports the club in a back to school event that allows 15 children to shop for school supplies and clothing at a budget of \$75 to \$125.

The Auburn Hills Club has been the beneficiary of over \$30,000 in support from this Meijer store through this longstanding partnership.



*Both awards were presented with full acknowledgement of valued service and engraved with the recipient's name and Governor's slogan "Dare to Excel".*

## Stand Tall For Leadership Development

**Linda Owczarzak - Leadership Development Chairperson**

[linda.j.owczarzak@gmail.com](mailto:linda.j.owczarzak@gmail.com) or (734) 395-8313

2015 – 2016 is the year for new opportunities and developing leadership skills! Begin by attending the Michigan District First Quarter Meeting at the Troy Marriott on Big Beaver by I-75, November 6, 7 & 8.

Friday 1-4pm Immediate Past Governor Cheryl Thames will be presenting TEAM BUILDING.

Saturday's general session will provide District updates followed by a choice of training(s) all designed to support and develop you as a leader.

Teams of people are working to meet the needs of every club member. We are working to provide training, updates, new offerings and incentives: Membership, New Club Building (NCB), and New Optimist Wanted (NOW). Leadership training for all members including, but limited to President, Lt. Governor, Secretary/Treasurer, potential leaders are welcome!

Individual membership growth in the Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) program is ready to help you develop new skills and guide you in new opportunities.

Through-out the upcoming year we will provide direct presentations with the following Chairpersons to help you meet the needs of your club: Achievement & Awards, Childhood Cancer Campaign, Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Club Fitness, Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, Junior Golf, Marketing.

Do not miss this opportunity! See you there.

## “FOSTERING GROWTH”

### *Visibility, Viability and Vitality*

**Monetta I. Foster, Ed.D. - [mamapore888@comcast.net](mailto:mamapore888@comcast.net) or (248) 505-1584**

**Michigan District 2015-2016 Governor-Elect**



For 2016-2017, we will be “FOSTERING GROWTH through visibility, viability and vitality”. That’s right, we, the mighty Michigan District, will be that embryo that will release the visible, viable and vital seeds that will launch our district closer to Optimist International’s goal of 100,000 members by 2019. As we move with one common goal of making our communities better through volunteerism, our desired result of helping more youths to strive to be the very best they can be will continue to be a reality. Every member has the opportunity to boast of being a catalyst for ensuring that our district maintains its recognition for being among the top youth-serving districts in the world.

I really believe that our district is full of gifted individuals who understand how valuable we are to the children in our communities. Lots of credit goes to inspiration from our leaders, past and present, which are still among us; as well as those persons who have left great legacies or blueprints for us to follow. The energy, enthusiasm and creativity that each member brings to this organization are like none other. The friendships that are birthed out of a common thread that runs

through each project that is implemented are genuine and long-lasting as we discover how much we are more alike than different. The rewards that result from our giving are like boomerangs that energize us to keep the momentum moving forward.

As we begin another great year of service, let each of us pledge to make OPTIMIST more than just a buzz word still in the minds of many who have not comprehended what a dynamic organization this is. This can be accomplished with each of us setting a new goal of being a visible, viable and vital entity to be reckoned with in each community we serve.



## Fore !! Get Ready for 2016 Junior Golf

**Tom Longhway - CoChairperson - [tomtlongh@aol.com](mailto:tomtlongh@aol.com) or (248) 568-5608**

**Fred Lyon - CoChairperson - [fred.lyon@davalor.com](mailto:fred.lyon@davalor.com) or (586) 246-7407**



Doesn't everyone know of a kid who is a golfer? Wouldn't it be great if that girl/boy had a chance to live their dream by playing at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida – against other kids his age from around the WORLD ! They could even impress a college golf coach enough to give them a College Scholarship.

Get your club involved in conducting a local qualifying tournament.

Want a tip – contact your local club before this golf season ends – to set a date for next spring.

A few things to keep in mind:

1. Attend the Junior Golf Break-out Session at the 1<sup>st</sup>. Quarter Conference in Southfield.
2. Gather the following:
  - Name of your local Optimist Club, or combined clubs, or Zone

- Chairpersons' name, email and phone number (or Club President's name, email and phone number – if the chairperson has not yet been named).
- Name of Golf Course, including name of the Club Pro, email and/or phone number.
- Date of the Local Qualifying Tournament – at least 5 days prior to the beginning of the District Tournament – so set your Qualifier no later than June 8, 2016, please...

3. Send the info to Tom Longhway via email at [tomtlongh@aol.com](mailto:tomtlongh@aol.com) or Fred Lyon at [fred.lyon@davalor.com](mailto:fred.lyon@davalor.com).
4. Next year the Michigan District Tournament will be held June 13-14, 2016. This tournament will be held at Metamora Golf & Country Club.

Both Fred & I look forward to working with you to make that kid's dream come true.

## Optimist Junior Golf Program

Since 1978, Optimist-sponsored golf tournaments have served as a springboard for many of golf's greatest players. Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Davis Love III, Tiger Woods, Michelle McGann and Nancy Lopez are just a few of today's elite players who found their humble beginnings with the Optimists.

No other junior golf tournament quite compares to that of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, which focuses on fair competition and cultural understanding among youth. This unique tournament offers as broad a field and expanded age groups as any other in its class.





# Michigan District Optimist Calendar

**First Quarter (Oct - Dec)****Michigan District Meeting**

*November 6-8 - Detroit Troy Marriott  
200 W Big Beaver Rd, Troy, MI 48084*

**JOOI Winter Conference**

*January 23, 2016 - Clawson High School, Clawson*

**Second Quarter (Jan - Mar)****Michigan District Meeting**

*February 5-7, 2016 - Bay Valley Resort & Conference Center  
2470 Old Bridge Rd, Bay City, MI 48706*

**Third Quarter (Apr - June)****Michigan District Meeting**

*May 6-7, 2016 - DoubleTree by Hilton  
5801 Southfield Expressway, Detroit, Michigan 48228*

**98<sup>th</sup> Optimist International Convention**

*June 30-July 2, 2016 - Quebec City Conventions Centre, Quebec, Canada*

**Fourth Quarter (July - Sept)****Michigan District Convention**

*TBD*

**The Optimist Creed - Promise Yourself ...  
... To be just as enthusiastic  
about the success of others  
as you are about your own ...**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting Spouse / Youth Activity**

**Barb Sucher - Chairperson - [barbsucher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbsucher@sbcglobal.net)**

Meet Barb Sucher **on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** in the lobby of the Troy Marriott at 9:45 am. We will carpool to **Meadow Brook**, which is located in Rochester only 15 minutes from the hotel, to join a guided tour (1-1 ½ hours in length) of the estate's fabulous interior. A National Historic Landmark, Meadow Brook ([www.meadowbrookhall.org](http://www.meadowbrookhall.org)) is the historic home built by one of the automotive aristocracy's most remarkable women, Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of automobile pioneer John Dodge, and her second husband, lumber broker Alfred Wilson. Constructed between 1926 and 1929, for \$4 million,

Meadow Brook represents one of the finest examples of Tudor-revival architecture in America. After the tour, we will proceed to nearby **Max & Erma's** in the Village of Rochester Hills to enjoy a group luncheon.

**Costs:** Tickets to Meadow Brook are \$15/adult, \$10/seniors (62 and better), and youth 12 and under are free; tickets will be purchased at the venue. Lunch is at your own expense.

I'm looking forward to having you join me in exploring some of our region's finest heritage!

## Off We Go! It's a TALL New Year!

**Debbie Berry - Meetings and Conventions Chairperson**

[debinparis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debinparis@sbcglobal.net) (248) 467-0592

OH YEAH!!! That feeling of a FRESH NEW OPTIMIST YEAR is all around us! Your club team is in place, goals are set and you are ready! (well, almost!) The Michigan District Optimist Team is always working to get you down the field and into the end zone! Our **First Quarter** meeting at the **Troy Marriott** is just the remedy to keep you informed about the district and to help you reach your goals. We will be offering multiple training breakouts, lots of social time to meet and greet and Michigan District updates at general session. You won't want to miss the chance to learn all about Governor Steve's "Stand Tall" game plan and how we can all 'bring out the best in kids' as we have fun as Optimists.

The Troy Marriott is a brand new location for our district meeting! The staff is ready to assist in any way they can and it is a beautiful hotel – situated in a great location, just seconds away from the I-75 freeway! **November 6-8** will be here before you know it – the weekend includes Friday afternoon training/Executive Committee meeting/Hospitality Room, Saturday general session/breakouts/lunch keynote speaker/afternoon session/Sat evening entertainment and will conclude with breakfast with the Governor on Sunday morning...Mark your calendar!!! Discount for early registration (see back page) and we hope you join us for this important 'start of the new year' weekend! See you very soon!



### ***“Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction”***

**Mary Aubin — District Essay Contest Co-Chairperson —** [makoolade@gmail.com](mailto:makoolade@gmail.com)

**Mary Lowery — District Essay Contest Co-Chairperson —** [mlowery4055@yahoo.com](mailto:mlowery4055@yahoo.com)

- ♦ Who qualifies: Youth under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2015 located in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean
- ♦ How To Enter: Interested students must contact their local Optimist Club. They need to submit an essay on the pre-assigned topic. To find out a contact, please e-mail the Programs Department at [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).
- ♦ The Essay Contest planning pages are intended for use by Optimist Clubs in organizing and conducting a contest in their Club. They contain no information on entering the contest and are of no use to students wishing to enter the contest. Students must contact their local Optimist Club.
- ♦ When: All Club-level contests are held by early February. Student submissions will not be accepted after the Club-level contests have closed.
- ♦ Contest details can be found at <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm> or contact your District Co-Chairs for more information.

### ***OptiViews - Delivery Choices***

**Maureen Moore** [moorema@karmanos.org](mailto:moorema@karmanos.org)

*OptiViews* is the quarterly bulletin of the Michigan District. It is published at the start of every quarter of the Optimist year. *OptiViews* is available in both hard copy and electronic formats. Steps are taken to only mail a single edition to an address to minimize printing and postage costs. I need to be contacted if you desire to have multiple copies when you belong to multiple clubs. Most members do not want the extra copies but other members use those copies to recruit new members!

How you receive *OptiViews* is controlled by the District Correspondence setting for your member number at Optimist Leaders web site (<http://www.optimistleaders.org/>). The settings are:

- None (no hard copy or email)
- Email-only (no mailing)
- Hard copy only (no email)
- Both (mailing and hard copy)

Contact your Club Secretary/Treasurer or Club President to verify or change your setting.

Please contact me with any questions.



**Register TODAY for the Michigan Optimist  
2015-2016 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter District Conference  
Saturday, November 7, 2015 • 8:45 AM - 4:00 p.m.  
Detroit/Troy Marriot Hotel  
200 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48084**



***Please use a separate form for each Optimist Member***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club name: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ District Meeting First Timer? Yes ☐ No ☐

2015-2016 Office: \_\_\_\_\_

If attending, Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda for Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

- 1 – 2 PM: Pre-Registration
- 1 – 4 PM: PGI Advancement Module Workshop ( \$10 fee)
- 5:30-7 PM: Registration
- 7:30-9 PM: Executive Committee Meeting
- 8:00 PM: MI District Hospitality Room

**Agenda for Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM: Registration Opens

8:45AM: General Session will begin promptly

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Vickie Markavitch**

**Former Superintendent, Oakland Schools**

**Breakout Sessions include:** PGI, President/Sec. Treasurer/Lt. Gov. Training, Membership, Fundraising, Jr. Golf, NOW, New Club Building, Oratorical and Essay Contests.

**Please check the activities you will attend**

☐ **EARLY Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$65

(Postmarked or faxed by 10/19 and payment **MUST BE RECEIVED by 10/23**

(If payment not received, registration will be considered a late registration, with a higher fee assessed and lunch cannot be guaranteed.)

☐ **LATE Registration** (Lunch not guaranteed) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75

☐ **College Club Members:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30  
(Regular lunch)

☐ **Workshop (Friday)** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10

☐ **Past Governors Business Meeting 7:00 AM** \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free

☐ **Exec. Committee Breakfast Mtg 7:15 AM** \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free  
(Asst. and Lt. Governors)

☐ **Club Presidents Forum Breakfast, 7:15 AM** \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free

☐ **First Timer/Spouse/Guests Breakfast 7:30AM** \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free

☐ **Spouse, Youth & Guest Activity** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$  
(pay at venues, fees dependent on age)

☐ **Saturday Evening Dinner and Entertainment** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40

☐ **Sunday Governor Breakfast** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25

**TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

(All Refund requests must be made in writing at least 72 hours before the start of the Saturday business meeting per District Policies.)

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM**

**Speaker & Breakfast with the Governor**

**Hotel Reservations Information**

**Detroit/Troy Marriott**

**200 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084  
(877) 757-7131**

*Be sure to mention you are with the Michigan District Optimists*

**Code # MOQM0QA**

**Reservation deadline for special pricing:**

Special Optimist Room Rate: \$105  
(King or two Queen) plus applicable taxes

**Reservation Link!!!**

**Book your group rate for Michigan District Optimists Quarterly Meeting**

**Conference Registration**

Send or fax registrations by the deadline to:

**Maggie Rollinger, Secretary/Treasurer**

**27848 Eastwick Square**

**Roseville, MI 48066**

**Phone/586-777-5613**

**Fax/586-772-6261**

**Cell/586-436-5613**

Email: [mar523@wowway.com](mailto:mar523@wowway.com)

*Please, make checks payable to:  
Michigan District Optimist*





**Michigan District Optimist International**  
**9812 Rosedale**  
**St Clair Shores, MI 48080**

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

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: Michigan District [www.michiganoptimists.org](http://www.michiganoptimists.org)  
or the Optimist International Website at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)**

### **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 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.



*OptiViews* is published quarterly for \$5.00 per member, per year, by the Michigan District of Optimist International, 19812 Rosedale, St Clair Shores, MI 48080

*OptiViews* welcomes your local club photos and narrative for 'Optimists in Action'. Please email to Editor/Publisher Maureen Moore at [moorema@karmanos.org](mailto:moorema@karmanos.org) - **Deadline for next issue is December 1st.**