

The ALABAMA-LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI **ACTION NEWS**



Official Publication of the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi District of Optimist International

JANUARY 2012

GOVERNOR

Helen E. Howard
P.O. Box 1202
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36087
Home: 334-727-3316
Cell: 334-332-4033
hunn49@charter.net

SEC/TREASURER

Harold Stratz
PO Box 143
Hillsboro, AL 35643
Home: 256-637-9181
Cell: 256-565-0122
Fax: 256-637-2677
hstratz@bellsouth.net

GOVERNOR-ELECT

David Mills
7544 Pinnacle Court
Montgomery, AL 36117
Home: 334-273-8064
Cell: 334-538-7895
dmills7584@msn.com

BULLETIN EDITOR

Nancy Ryan
95 Heritage Dr.
Springville, AL 35146
Home: 205-467-9170
Cell: 205-531-5992
editor@al-la-ms.org

ZONE - LT. GOVERNOR

- 1 - [Norma Stewart](#)
- 2 - [James Miner](#)
- 3 - [Tom Howell](#)
- 4 - [Elaine Poole](#)
- 5 - [Arthur L. Mack](#)
- 6 - [Peggy Ann Pope](#)
- 7 - [Mary Beth Evans](#)
- 8 - vacant
- 9 - [Pamela Black](#)
- 10 - [Dorothy Wilson](#)
- 11 - [Rudy Morton](#)
- 12 - [Lenor B. Cox](#)

[AL-LA-MS District website](#)
[Optimist International website](#)
[Optimist Leaders Online](#)
[OI Foundation website](#)

Governor's Corner ...

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the second quarter of our Optimist year. As we continue our focus on improving the lives of the youth in our communities, I am asking each Club to host a NOW program during the month of February. Let's show some "LOVE" for our communities and invite others to join us in our efforts to make life better for our neighbors.

Focus on the Creed and think for a moment about being "just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own." Asking a friend to join your Club can begin with an invitation to attend a Club activity. When others see what we do and experience the joy we get from helping others, they will be more inclined to become members. To "Just Ask" is still the easiest thing to do.

District Membership Chair Ben Spencer is asking all Clubs to bring their 3-foot ruler and be ready to share your Club's goals with the District. Today we have 1,816 members and must end the year with 1,830. We will be highlighting our "Super Recruiters" at the District meeting. Encourage your Membership Chairs to attend this meeting.

I am still waiting on a call about our 1st New Club of the year. All Governors will attend a conference in Orlando next week. **I will have a meeting with President Jack on Thursday, January 12th, at 5 p.m.** You may contact me by cell phone. Please let me hear from you. Remember, the District will get credit for a full Club when we charter a "Pilot Club." Pilot Clubs can be chartered with just 15 members.

Gov. Helen

OI VICE PRESIDENT ROSE KOHLER TO VISIT DISTRICT

Optimist International Vice President Rose Kohler will be the OI Representative for the AL-LA-MS District 2nd Quarter Meeting in Orange Beach, AL, January 27-29. Please plan to attend and to help welcome Rose to our outstanding District!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 13 Deadline for room reservations
2nd Quarter District Meeting:
[Hampton Inn and Suites](#)
[25518 Perdido Beach Blvd.](#)
Orange Beach, AL
251-923-4400
- 15 1st Quarter [A & A Report](#) due.
- 20 Deadline for [2nd Quarter District Meeting Registration](#)
- 27-29 2nd Quarter District Meeting -
Orange Beach, AL

FEBRUARY

- 28 Deadline to submit Club Essay
Winner to District Chairman,
Sherrie Cook
2117 Woodmere Loop
Montgomery, AL 36117
334-315-5257
sherrie.cook@era.com

**2ND QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING
JANUARY 27-29, 2012 / ORANGE BEACH, AL**



OPTIMISM ...

A Philosophy of Life

Here are a few examples of how Optimism is working in the District:

ATHENS will be sponsoring its Annual Pancake Breakfast at First Christian Church on January 21st from 7-11 a.m.

BIRMINGHAM & LEEDS, in partnership with the Youth of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Miss Trussville 2012 Chandler Champion, co-sponsored a *Foster Parents' Day Out* on Saturday Dec. 17 to allow time for parents to Christmas shop and/or go out to lunch. A total of 15 foster and/or biological children and 8 Youth participated in the event.

BIRMINGHAM WEST END will serve as volunteers & chaperons at the annual Sickle Cell Gala for the Central Alabama Chapter on January 28th.

BOSSIER CITY will be providing donations to the American Red Cross and to the Houghton High School Band to help purchase a trailer to haul equipment.

DAPHNE helped to provide Christmas gifts for over 100 children who might not have otherwise received gifts at their annual *Kids Christmas Party*.

DOWNTOWN MERIDIAN presented its 2nd Annual *Friend of Youth Award* to Gary Turbville, in recognition of his work through his *Cans for Kids* organization, which donates 100% of its funds, obtained primarily by recycling empty beverage cans, to provide assistance to families during the year, as well as providing presents and food at Christmas time for between 140-250 children.

HUNTSVILLE Club member Fabiani Duarte has been meeting with Huntsville's Superintendent of Schools and will be speaking to 8 Middle School Principals from the point of view of spreading Optimism through the creation of more JOOI Clubs, and getting returning Veterans to serve as student mentors.

MADISON helped put on the 8th annual *Operation Christmas Bear Party* on December 10th, for the families of active military National Guard and Reservists and families of Department of Defense civilians deployed in a war zone.

METRO-TUSCALOOSA will be participating in the "Secret Meals Drive" sponsored by Alabama Credit Union in Northport to provide meals for children who get meals during the week at school, but don't have meals on the weekends. Teachers place the meals in the students' backpacks while children are out of the classroom, so that no one else knows who is receiving the free meals.

MOBILE treated 150 children to pizza and presents at the Optimist Boys & Girls Club annual Christmas Party.

PERDIDO BAY served over 350 breakfasts and provided gifts for 134 kids (ages 0 to 8) at their annual *Kids Christmas Breakfast Party with Santa*.

TALLADEGA sponsored the family of their Cancer Care Child for Christmas. Club members brought food for all to the Christmas social and brought presents for the family. A few gifts were opened by 6-year-old Alex and her 8-year-old sister, Haley, at the party. The rest were taken home to open on Christmas morning. Gov. Helen Howard was also a guest at the party.



Metro-Tuscaloosa Club President Gwen Little (in Santa hat) poses with Mrs. Burnett's 3rd grade class at University Place Elementary School at the Club's *Multiplication Challenge* Christmas Party. Other Club members participating in classroom parties at University Place and MLK Elementary School were Brenda Gay (Coordinator), Cecilia Ryan, Richard Moton, Annette Williams, Sheila Lee, Celestine Morgan-Russell and Ethel Morgan-Patton. Club members work with students and challenge them to learn their multiplication tables and reward the students with several parties for encouragement throughout the year.

Santa (Bill Cherolis) enjoyed posing for pictures and handing out gifts to children at the **Daphne** Club's *Kids Christmas Party* on Dec. 22.



Birmingham West End Members Jacob Ransom (far left), Meichelle Williams (3rd from left) & President Shammara Hasty (far right) presented baskets of art supplies for Christmas to Rose Walker, Director of Resource Development, and a fellow worker with the A. G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club.

**ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS PROGRAM
FOURTH QUARTER RESULTS
2010-2011**

Debbie Merritt, A & A Chair, 2010-2011, has announced the following results for the quarter ending September 30, 2011. The results are for the TOP 5 ZONES, the TOP TEN CLUBS (size not considered) and the TOP TEN CLUBS in the three size categories.

CATEGORY I – TOP TEN (25 or < members)

- 1 – Decatur
- 2 – Metro-Tuscaloosa
- 3 – Jennings
- 4 – Montgomery Downtown
- 5 – Huntsville Noon
- 6 – Hornbeck
- 7 – Senatobia
- 8 – Cleveland
- 9 – Butler County
- 10 – Mobile Crichton

CATEGORY II – TOP TEN (26-50 members)

- 1 – Huntsville
- 2 – Selma
- 3 – Hernando
- 4 – Montgomery Central
- 5 – Mobile
- 6 – Birmingham West End
- 7 – Talladega
- 8 – Daphne
- 9 – Athens
- 10 – Huntsville Evening

CATEGORY III – TOP TEN (50+ members)

- 1 – Birmingham
- 2 – Perdido Bay
- 3 – Bossier City
- 4 – Tuskegee
- 5 – New Iberia
- 6 – Lafayette
- 7 – Starkville
- 8 – Gretna West Bank

ZONE STANDINGS

- 1 – Zone 1
- 2 – Zone 5
- 3 – Zone 3
- 4 – Zone 9
- 5 – Zone 6

OVERALL TOP TEN

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 – Birmingham | 6 – Montgomery Central |
| 2 – Perdido Bay | 7 – Bossier City |
| 3 – Huntsville | 8 – Mobile |
| 4 – Selma | 9 – Birmingham West End |
| 5 – Hernando | 10 – Talladega |

DIME-A-DAY PLUS



Just a reminder that in honor of Optimist International Foundation's 40th Anniversary celebration, this year's Dime-A-Day program has been transformed to Dime-A-Day PLUS! The [Dime-A-Day PLUS program](#) is a \$40 contribution – still just a dime a day PLUS a little extra! Join the celebration and make your contribution today.

For more information, please visit www.oifoundation.org/programs/dime-a-day or contact the District OI Foundation Representative [Jim Miner](#) at 256-232-7977 for more details.

Bring Your PGI Passports to the District Meeting

District Leadership Development Chairman Janet Smith requests that each Optimist please bring your PGI Passport to the 2nd Quarter District Meeting on January 27-29. There will be two different modules presented during the weekend, which will count toward certain requirements in your passport.



JOOI NEWS

The invoices for the JOOI Clubs' District dues were mailed to the Sponsor Club Secretary-Treasurer. Dues should be paid by February 2nd.

Along with the dues, a registration form was mailed for the JOOI District Convention, which will be held March 10-11, 2012, at the Holiday Inn Express / Quality Inn in Meridian, MS. Deadline to register for the event is on or before March 2nd.

Please coordinate these items with your JOOI Club. Each JOOI Club is encouraged to have a representative at the convention.

For more information about [JOOI Clubs](#), please contact District Chair Dorothy Irvin at irvinroscoed@dallask12.org or 334-872-4940.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AWARDS

Don't wait until the end of the Optimist year to start working on your CPA books. Get a head start by working on your book at the time of, or just after your project is completed. For more information, check out the OI website to learn more about the [Community Projects Awards Program](#) or contact District Chairman [Barbara Allen](#) at 334-277-1026.

REMINDERS



- District and OI Dues statements for the second quarter were mailed out and you should soon receive the dues statement from Optimist International.
- Inputs for the February-March Issue of the **Action News** must be received by Feb. 29, 2012.



ESSAY CONTEST

During their December meeting, the O I Board of Directors voted to discontinue the International level of the Essay contest beginning in the 2011-2012 year. The scholarships at the International level were previously discontinued and this change was made to ensure that all Optimist contests are equitable.

The theme for the [2011-2012 Essay Contest](#) is "How My Positive Outlook Benefits My Community."

*New Eligibility requirements: The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of Dec 31 of the 2011-2012 school year (Dec 31, 2011) who have not yet graduated from High School or the equivalent. Club must submit winning entry to District by February 28, 2012. For more information, please contact District Chair Sherrie Cook at 334-315-5257 or sherrie.cook@era.com.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

The theme for the [2011-2012 Oratorical Contest](#) is "How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles."

*New Eligibility requirements are the same as for the Essay Contest. Club must have their winning Boy and Girl enter the Zone contest, which must be held by March 31, 2012. Regional Contests will be held April 14, 2012. District Final is April 28, 2012.

For more information, please contact District Chair Linda DeMarco at 205-979-8993 or lhdemarco@bellsouth.net.



CCDHH

The theme for the [2011-2012 CCDHH](#) is also "How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles." Students who are certified to have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more may compete in this contest, which is open to students through grade 12. For more information, please contact District Chair Vera Hendrix at 256-315-0174 or vhendrix@bellsouth.net.

2011-2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Second Quarter

January 27-29, 2012
Orange Beach, AL

Third Quarter

April 27-29, 2012
Starkville, MS

Fourth Quarter Convention

August 9-12, 2012
Tuskegee University, AL

Always do right; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

Mark Twain

Committee Chairs

Achievement & Awards.....	Michelle Letson
Candidate Qualifications.....	Pamela Gargis
CCDHH.....	Vera Hendrix
Childhood Cancer Program.....	David Mills
Community Projects Awards (CPA).....	Barbara Allen
District Conferences & Convention.....	Harold Stratz
Essay Contest.....	Sherrie Cook
Finance.....	Jimmy Radford
HOBY.....	Lytle E. Allen
Internet Safety.....	Pamela Black
Jr. Golf.....	Harold Stratz
Leadership Development.....	Janet Smith
Membership.....	Ben Spencer
New Club Building.....	Willie Haygood
Oratorical Contest.....	Linda DeMarco
Personal Growth & Involvement (PGI)..	Tolanda Beal
Public Relations.....	Arthur L. Mack
Sergeant-At-Arms.....	Linda Braswell
Supplies and Marketing.....	Tom Causey
Youth Clubs.....	Dorothy Irvin
O.I. Convention Ambassador.....	James Adams
O.I. Foundation Representative.....	James Miner
Webmaster.....	Tom Casteel

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.*

Optimist International



Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi District
Nancy Ryan, Bulletin Editor
95 Heritage Drive
Springville, AL 35146



DATED INFORMATION ENCLOSED