

## History of the Indiana North District and its Contributions to Optimist International

**Acknowledgements:** The time frame focused in this Update of the Indiana North District's history is 2002-03 to 2022-23, our current year in which this is written. The previous period of time is covered in Ken Brammer's book, History of the Indiana North District, which covers 1954 to 2003. In addition, I have included some basic history for preceding years. Since Indiana North District governors usually link their themes to the International and because the previous Ken Brammer history included them, the following chart combines Optimist International presidents, themes, and conventions while showing Indiana North's governors, themes, and conventions when available. Thank you to the many sources: Optimist International website, "Optimist Magazines", the book, Of Deeds and Dreams, old scrapbooks, Indiana South's website, and Indiana North District roster books. I want to thank all who contributed to this writing. If you have any additions or corrections, feel free to send them to me at my e-mail, Vivian Jackson, Indiana North District Historian, at [melvivjackson@aol.com](mailto:melvivjackson@aol.com) or call at 765-642-5438. I hope that each club selects a club historian to maintain a record of their club's past and share with the Indiana North District Optimists Website, as well. We have so much to be proud of.

## INTERNATIONAL OPTIMISM AND INDIANA NORTH TOGETHER

Program Year	Optimist International President & Convention	IN N	International and IN North	IN North District Governors	IN North Governor's Theme matches International "Making A Difference, Yes We Can!"
2022-23 From Kitchener West Ontario, Canada	<b>President Bob McFadyen</b>  OI Convention Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia 	<b>Indiana North District Convention Warsaw</b>  <b>Shelley Matheny from Elkhart</b>   <b>Secretary</b>   <b>James Smith Treasurer from New Castle</b>	<b>Middle America VP From IN N Julie Milliken Robison (Rich) from Elkhart Luncheon</b>  <b>"Believe, Inspire, Impact"</b> 	  <b>Governor Max "David" D. Soliday (Deb) from Hagerstown, IN</b>	  <b>Governor-elect Chris Whitehead from Lafayette Breakfast and Miami County IN</b>  

<p>2021-22</p> <p>From Breakfast Club of East Fort Worth, TX</p> 	<p><b>President Patsy Garner</b></p>  <p><b>50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Optimist Foundation</b> Membership 80,000</p>	<p><b>"Making A Difference, Yes We Can!"</b></p> <p><b>Remember then...</b></p> 	 <p><b>Optimist</b> Fall 2014</p> <p><b>AND NOW</b></p>  <p><b>RENO</b> Convention</p>	<p><b>Governor Sandy Rogers (Steve)</b></p>  <p>From West Jay</p>	<p><b>Shelley Matheny Secretary</b></p>   <p><b>Sandy's logo</b></p>  <p><b>James Smith Treasurer</b></p> 
<p><b>IN NORTH</b></p> <p>Lieutenant Governors</p> <p>Zone 2 Kris Mueller, Zone 3 Yvonne Southall, Zone 4 Josefa Schaper, Zone 5 Kathy Nelson, Zone 6 Pam Galloway, Zone 7 Nancy Barker, Zone 9 Brenda Baker</p>	<p><b>IN NORTH Governor Sandy Rogers, Cruising</b></p>  <p><b>IN North District Convention Middlebury, IN</b></p>	<p><b>IN NORTH</b></p>  <p><b>IN N Convention Group</b></p>  <p><b>Captain Al Kidder, Golf Chair, and Governor Sandy Rogers</b></p>	<p><b>IN NORTH</b></p>  <p><b>Past Governor Gary Addison holding his hidden drawing in a game</b></p> <p><b>Distinguished District Humanitarian Jacob Cook from Chesterfield</b></p> 	<p><b>IN NORTH</b></p>  <p><b>Steve and Ann Hughes, District Co-Chair of Childhood Health and Wellness once called Childhood Cancer Campaign &amp; Chaired by Ann since 2011.</b></p>	<p><b>IN NORTH</b></p>  <p><b>Shelley Manthey, District Secretary; Julie Robison, Middle America VP Designate; and Kris Mueller, Lt. Governor, Zone 2</b></p>

IN  
NORTH  
DISTRICT  
CONVENTION



**Chris Whitehead, the banker and Governor Elect, in midst of Murder Mystery led by Tanner Smale, Julie's son-in-law; In front Zone 4 Lt. Governor Josepha Schaper, (Back Left) Ann Hughes**



**Governor Rogers served as District Secretary/Treasurer in 2019-20.**



*Remember when Ailesia Franklin & Sandy Rogers model horse race winners rose collars in 2003.*



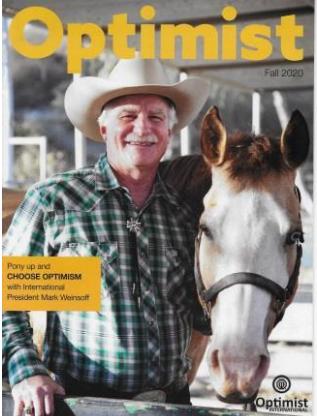
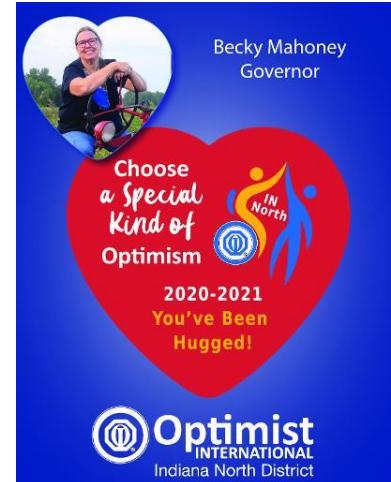
**Janitor in the Murder Mystery, Governor Designate Max Soliday,**

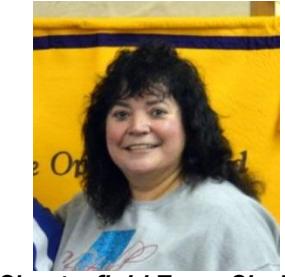
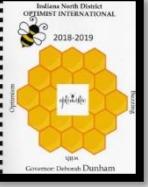


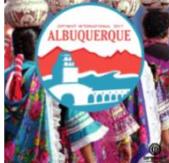
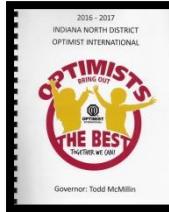
**Immediate Past Distinguished Governor Becky Mahoney as the gambler & the actress played by Kaitlyn Smale**

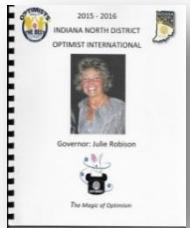
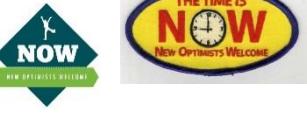
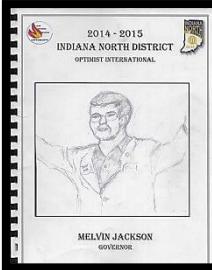
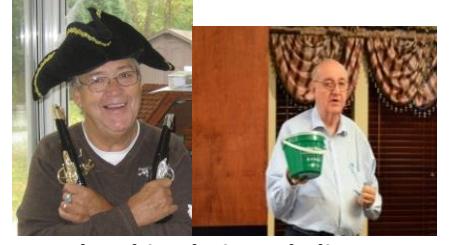


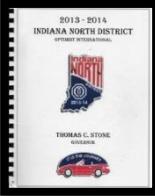
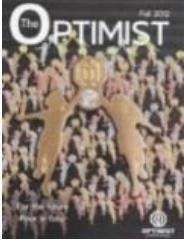
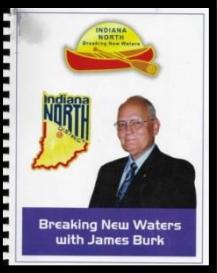
**Solemn moments saying good-bye to deceased members**

Year	International Presidents	President's Theme	O I & IN N	IN N District Governor	IN North Governor's Theme
<b>2020— 21</b> From Optimist Clubs of Santa Barbara Northside and UC, CA.  OI has almost 3,000 clubs and over 80,000 members in over 20 countries. Wow!   New Expansion  IN N DISTRICT <i>Distinguished</i> Optimist Sherry Minnick from West Jay	<b>President Mark Weinsoff</b>    Mark and his wife He introduced the WOW, Welcome Optimists Worldwide, to reimagine our NOW gatherings. He starred in VIDEOS of ENCOURAGEMENT.  	<b>"Choose Optimism"</b>    <b>Choose Optimism!</b>  <b>CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION</b> founded February 18, 1971 	<b>"Choose Optimism 2021"</b> Convention (REUNION) Atlanta, GA    <b>World Championship Oratorical and District Essay contests continue.</b>      "Facebook" Optimism	<b>Distinguished Governor Becky Mahoney (Pat)</b> From Rochester, IN    <b>Lieutenant Governors</b> Zone 2 Shelley Manthey, Zone 3 Tiffany Harrell, <i>Distinguished</i> , Zone 4 Josefa Schaper, Zone 5 Sandy Doyle, Zone 6 Pam Galloway, Zone 7 Nancy Barker, Zone 9 Jim Smith <b>New offerings on Indiana North Website</b> market us with a calendar, history, scholarship contests, & other club projects. Forms & links to the Optimist International Website are included. Everything on our website is available for public viewing except roster books.	<b>"Choose a Special Kind of Optimism"</b>      <b>Lezlie Stires</b>    <b>Treasurer</b>  <b>Secretary - Kris Dohrman</b>  

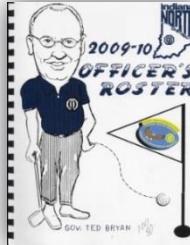
Year	O I Presidents	O I Theme & IN N	IN North	IN N District Governors	IN North District Theme
2019 - 2020 From Optimist Clubs of Barbados and Ocho, Jamaica	 <p><b>President Adrian M. Elcock</b> In spite of the Covid, the World Oratorical Championships continues and the Optimist International turns virtual. He develops new programs in the Arts.</p>  	<p><b>"Imagine: An Optimistic State-of-Mind."</b></p> <p>2020 Optimist</p>  <p><b>Virtual Convention Blues Brothers Impersonators.</b></p>  <p>In-person Chicago Convention Cancelled</p>	<p><b>IN NORTH LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS</b></p> <p>Zone 2 Shelley Manthey, Zone 3 Tiffany Harrell <b>Distinguished</b>, Zone 4 Roger Sherer, Zone 5 Ruth Berkey, Zone 6 Chris Whitehead, Zone 7 Mel Jackson, Zone 8 Max Soliday, Zone 9 James Smith</p> <p>IN N <b>Distinguished</b> Humanitarian Kathy Nelson from West Jay</p>	 <p><b>Karyn Gilly "FAB 4"</b></p>  <p><b>Sandra Doyle</b></p>  <p><b>Greg Palmer</b></p>  <p><b>Julie Robison</b></p>	 <p><b>IN North District Convention Goes Virtual. They ride a bus, but the kids don't go to school.</b></p>  <p><b>Secretary/Treasurer Sandy Rogers (assistant J. Dorman) DISTRICT CONVENTION is ZOOM (Middlebury cancelled)</b></p> 
2018 - 2019 From West Des Moines, IA	 <p><b>President Rebecca Butler Mona</b></p> <p><b>"What we do ...what you do...as Optimists absolutely makes a difference, whether to one or to many."</b></p> 	<p><b>"Bring Out the Best into the Next Century"</b></p> <p><b>100 Year Anniversary</b></p> <p>BRINGING OUT THE BEST INTO THE NEXT CENTURY</p> <p>"A Centennial Celebration International Convention Rides Into Louisville, KY"</p> <p><b>"Winning" 2019</b></p> <p>IN NORTH <b>Distinguished</b> Humanitarian Sabrina Brown from Warsaw Noon</p>	<p><b>IN N DISTRICT CONVENTION MIDDLEBURY IN LT. GOVERNORS</b></p> <p>Zone 2 Al Kidder; Zone 3 Becky Mahoney <b>Distinguished</b>; Zone 4 Karyn Gilly; Zone 5 Ailesia Franklin; Zone 6 Chris Whitehead; Zone 7 Mel Jackson; Zone 8 Max Soliday Zone 9; Mike Highmiller</p>	 <p><b>Governor Deborah Dunham (Tim)</b></p>  <p>Chesterfield Town Clerk/Treasurer proves "Busy as a Bee" works for Optimism with <b>BEEHIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>.</p>	<p><b>"Buzzing with Optimism"</b></p> <p><b>Jennifer Dorman</b> Secretary/Treasurer</p> <p><b>"Deb" Dunham &amp; "Mel" Jackson</b></p>  

Year	O I Presidents	O I & IN N	IN North	IN N District Governors	IN North District Theme
2017-2018  <i>From Atlanta, Georgia</i>	<b>President Nick Prillaman</b>    <b>Optimist Strong – Be the Difference”</b>	Ottawa Canada O. I.    Convention “We touch the future”    <b>NICK</b>	  <b>Lt. Governors</b> Zone 2 Al Kidder; Zone 3 Jennifer Dorman; Zone 4 Bruce Vosher; Zone 5 Sandy Rogers; <b>Distinguished</b> Zone 6 Chris Whitehead; Zone 7 Ron Levan; Zone 8 Max Soliday; Zone 9 Susan Delay	<b>Distinguished Governor Sandra Doyle</b>    <b>From Gaston, IN West Jay Optimist “Sparkle with Optimism”</b>  <i>IN N District Convention Muncie Horizon Center</i>	Governor “Sandy” and Vivian Jackson Design a sparkling patch for clubs who construct a NEW PROJECT.  Sandy uses personal contact with clubs and the development of new projects to help Indiana North District grow.      <b>Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Dorman</b>
2016 – 2017  <i>From East Madison, Southern Wisconsin</i>  New O I Logos approved and IN N District added.  	<b>President Jim Kondrasuk</b>    <b>“Together We Can” Convention, Albuquerque, N.M.</b>    <b>Judy LeMaster fom Portland Eve.</b>	INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT CONVENTION MIDDLEBURY  <b>Lieutenant Governors</b> Zone 2 Ann Hughes; Zone 4 Bruce Vashell Zone 5 Sandy Rogers <b>Distinguished Lt.</b> Governor from West Jay; Zone 7 Mel Jackson; Zone 8 Max Soliday; Zone 9 Lance Lumpkin. IN NORTH <b>Distinguished Optimist</b>  <b>Judy LeMaster fom Portland Eve.</b>	  <b>Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Dorman</b>    <b>Distinguished Humanitarian Tom Brosher from West Jay</b>	<b>CPA Chair Vivian Jackson created 3 banner patches for clubs to earn in</b>    <b>Communication: Present, Future and Past</b>	<b>Governor Todd McMillin</b> Past Governor of S. Wisconsin 2005 – 06 Vice President of OI 2015-16  <b>Governor of IN North 2016 – 17</b> From Huntington, IN “Optimists Bring Out the Best” “Together We Can”  

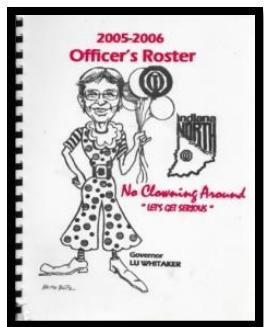
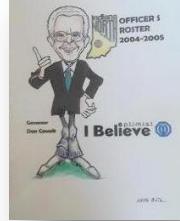
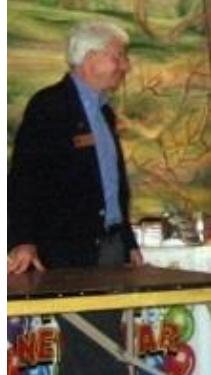
YEAR	O I PRESIDENTS	O I THEME	CONVENTIONS	IN N GOVERNORS	IN NORTH
<b>IN NORTH 2015 - 16</b> From White Lakes of Topeka, Kansas  	<b>David Bruns</b>    Began Optimist Oratorical World Championships in St. Louis Missouri 2016 Dave is beside Oratorical Winner.	<b>Bringing Out the Best in Youth, in Our Communities, and in Ourselves "RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!"</b>    <b>Convention Quebec City, Canada</b> 	  <b>Lt. Governors</b> Zone 2 Ann Hughes; Zone 4 Steve Paske; Zone 5 Sandy Rogers; <b>Distinguished</b> ; Zone 6 Doyle Godbolt; Zone 7 Thomas Stone, Zone 9 Max Soliday	<b>Julie Robison (Rich) Distinguished Governor</b> From Elkhart Luncheon Becomes Optimist International Vice President-elect 2021-22 Middle America Vivian Jackson created a NOW patch for holding a New Optimists Welcome meeting. OI Did one, too.   	"The Magic of Optimism" Julie is also the Facebook editor for the District.     Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Dorman <b>IN N Convention</b> <b>Essenhaus Middlebury, IN</b> IN N <b>Distinguished</b> Humanitarian Kathy Jones from West Jay
  <b>2014 - 2015</b> From Fort Worth Breakfast, Texas East  	<b>President Ken Garner</b> with future President Wife Patsy    	<b>"Bringing Out THE BEST in Kids"</b>   <b>"I AM AN OPTIMIST!"</b> New Orleans, LA O I Convention <b>IN N CONVENTION WARSAW</b> Sec./ Treasurer Jennifer Dorman IN N <b>Distinguished</b> Humanitarian    Warsaw	  <b>GOVERNOR MEL &amp; VIVIAN JACKSON at</b>     <b>O.I. Convention in New Orleans</b>	<b>Governor Melvin Jackson (Vivian) of Chesterfield</b>  <b>Vivian &amp; Mel Jackson Lieutenant Governors</b> Zone 2 Jim Baker; Zone 3 James Crandall; Zone 4 Steve Paske; Zone 5 Merylin Stroh; Zone 6 Doyle Godbolt; Zone 7 Jean Seipel; Zone 8 Mel Jackson; Zone 9 Ric Barr	<b>"On Fire with Optimism"</b>      <b>Membership Chair Ned Cline - Pennies for Peyton's Kids and Pirate Pins</b>

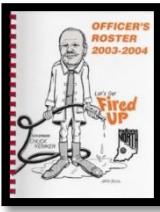
YEAR	OI PRESIDENT	OI & IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN N GOVERNOR	IN N THEME
2013 - 14 From Ausable-Port Franks, Ontario Canada	<b>President Ron Huxley</b> RON HUXLEY 2013-14 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT    Special Awards Issue   Numéro spécial sur les "MO" means My Optimism New SUMMITS New locations Internationally for OI 	   <b>IN N CONVENTION WARSAW</b>	Lieutenant Governors Zone 2 Julie Robison; Zone 3 John Sullivan; Zone 4 Joe Crozier; Zone 6 Doyle Godbolt; Zone 7 Jean Seipel; Zone 8 Tom Stone; Zone 9 Jameson McGrew	<b>Governor Thomas C. Stone*</b> (Sandy) From Elwood   <b>Secretary/Treasurer Karyn Gilly 2010-14</b> 	    <b>"It is the Journey"</b>
2012 - 13 From Saint-Jerome, Quebec	<b>President Jean-Claud St. Onge, "JC" OI VP</b> Jerry C. Schue, Santa Claus, IN Membership 92,763 	  <b>Pins OI</b>   <b>Convention - OHIO</b>  <b>IN N CONVENTION BEARCREEK</b>	<b>"For the Future"</b> "Pour le futur" Gold, Silver, Bronze    <b>Jim</b>	<b>Governor James Burk (Diane)</b> From Decatur   <b>Secretary/Treasurer Karyn Gilly</b> 	<b>"Breaking New Waters"</b>    <b>"Jim" Burk, Todd McMillin, Vivian &amp; Mel Jackson</b>  <b>Lieutenant Governors</b> Zone 2 Julie Robison Zone 3 John Sullivan Zone 4 Joe Crozier Zone 5 Laurinda Shope Zone 6 Doyle Godbolt Zone 7 Jean Seipel Zone 8 Rodney Barbee, Zone 9 Jameson McGrew  <b>IN N Distinguished Humanitarian Judith Williamson from Portland Breakfast</b>

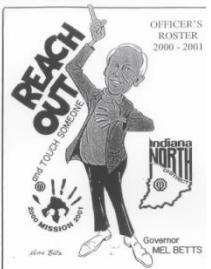
YEAR	OI PRESIDENT	OI & IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN N GOVERNOR	IN N THEME
<b>2011 - 12</b> <i>From Douglassville, Pennsylvania</i>  <b>IN N Distinguished Humanitarian</b> Doyle Godbolt; <b>Distinguished Optimist</b> Carol Leonhard from Portland Evening	<b>Jack Cresswell (Sue)</b>   <b>"Jack's Jottings"</b> Membership - 95,467	<b>"Experience Optimism" 100% and Then Some"</b> 2011-12   <b>2012 Optimist International 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin</b>	<b>Indiana North District Convention at Bear Creek Farms Resort, Bryant, IN</b>   <b>Last caricature</b>	<b>Michael Fisher</b> <b>Soaring with Optimism From New Castle</b>   <b>Breakfast Secretary/Treasurer Karyn Gilly 2010-14</b> 	<b>Soaring with Optimism</b>   <b>Lt. Governors</b> Zone 1 Paul Wellman; Zone 2 Julie Robison; Zone 3 Sam Whitaker; Zone 4 Joe Crozier; Zone 5 Sandra Doyle; Zone 6 Mahlon Butts; Zone 7 Anna Lamb; Zone 8. Brenda Baker; Zone 9. Everett Hampton; Zone 10 Patti Hayes
<b>2010 - 11</b> <i>From Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth</i>	<b>President Danny Rogers</b>   <b>"Bringing Out the Best in Kids"</b>	<b>OPTIMISTS - BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS</b> 2011   <b>MARYLAND CONVENTION</b> <b>IN NORTH CONVENTION BEAR CREEK</b>	<b>Governor Gregg Palmer (Mary) From Decatur/ Columbia City</b>   <b>Secretary/Treasurer Karyn Gilly 2010-14</b> 	<b>"Promise Yourself for the Kids"</b>   <b>Lt. Governors</b> Zone 1 Paul Wellman; Zone 2 Tonya Cionecka; Zone 3 Jim Reeve; Zone 4 James Burk; Zone 5 Judith Williamson; Zone 6 Rita Betts; Zone 7 Ben Flesher; Zone 8 Sandy Carpenter; Zone 9 Lillian Fisher; Zone 10 Patti Hayes	  <b>Gregg at District Meeting with Governor Deb Dunham in 2019</b>  <b>IN N Distinguished Optimist Sandy Rogers</b> and <b>Distinguished Humanitarian Mike Shannon</b> both from West Jay

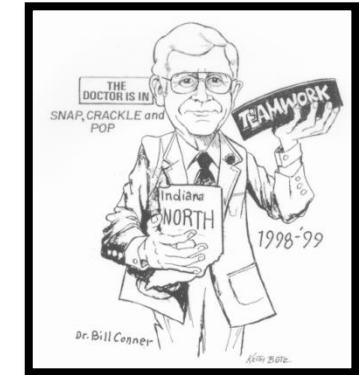
YEAR	O I PRESIDENT	O I THEME & OI & IN N CONVENTIONS	IN North	IN North	IN North
2009 - 2010  From Atlanta, Georgia Williamsburg, Virginia  IN North District <b>Distinguished</b> Optimist Lou Blattner from New Castle Breakfast	<b>President Mark Owings Shriver IV *</b>     <b>Faux Paw the Techno Cat For Safe Internet</b>	<b>"Promise Yourself for the Kids"</b>   Program for children and parents to learn about safe Internet Practices. Denver, CO Optimist International Convention  INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT CONVENTION BEAR CREEK, BRYANT, IN	Lieutenant Governors Zone 1 Paul Wellman, Zone 2 Tonya Cloneck, Zone 3 Jim Reese, Zone 4 None listed, but 6 clubs Zone 5 Judith Williamson, Zone 6 George Bittles, Zone 7 Ben Flesher, Zone 8 Sandy Carpenter, Zone 9 Ric Barr, Zone 10 Patti Hayes	    <b>Governor Ted Bryan*(Peggy) From Anderson Noon</b>	<b>"Promise, Value &amp; Influence for Kids"</b>    <b>CHESTERFIELD INSTALLATION:</b> Clark Sloan, Vivian Jackson, Ben Flesher, Rennae Clendenin, Barry Gaar, Kristin McUne, Jack Odle, Ted Bryan, Melvin and Matthew Jackson    <b>Secretary/Treasurer Karyn Gilly</b>
2008-09  From Jackson, Missouri  IN North District <b>Distinguished</b> Optimist Ailesia Frankton from West Jay	<b>President Donald R. Sievers</b>   <b>"Give Me 'five' for the Kids"</b> 	<b>Orlando</b>     Larry and Karyn Gilly with family at Zone meeting in Lapel, IN 09	Lt. Governors Zone 2 Kirk Miller, Zone 3 Sharon Meredith, Zone 4 Joseph H. Schaper, Zone 5 Gregg Palmer, Zone 6 Ann Shaw, Zone 7 Vivian Jackson, Zone 8 Al Gardner, Zone 9 Ric Barr, Zone 10 Patti Hayes	  <b>Governor Karyn Gilly (Larry*) From Bluffton Secretary</b>    <b>Sec./Treasurer</b>    <b>Karyn, Jennifer Dorman, Mel Jackson</b>    <b>Rita Betts 2005-09</b>	<b>"Here' for the Kids"</b>    <b>2009 Convention Bear Creek, Bryant, IN</b>

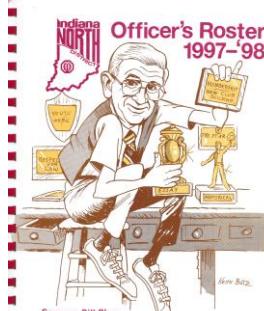
Year	OI President	OI & IN North	IN North	IN North	IN North & OI
2007 - 08  From Kingston Jamaica    1st International President Outside of U.S. and Canada	<b>President Theodore W. Golding</b>    O.I. Convention Grapevine, Texas July 2-5, 2008	<b>Bringing Out the Best in Children"</b>    "Theo" speaks at the Indiana North Convention for Governor Ron at Bear Creek, Bryant	Lieutenant Governors Zone 1 Two clubs, Zone 2 Al Kidder, Zone 3 Mary Ellen Jordan, Zone 4 Josepha H. Schaper, Zone 5 Sandy Rogers, Zone 6 Marc Plybon	<b>Governor Ron Donkers</b> (Patty) From Rochester, IN Warsaw Breakfast    Zone 7 Ted Bryan, Zone 8 Al Gardner, Zone 9 Michael Fisher, Zone 10, Patti Hayes	    Governor Ron Donkers, his First Lady Pat, President "Theo" gives her a kiss on the cheek. <b>IN North Convention, Bear Creek</b> Secretary/ Treasurer Rita Betts 2005-09  
2006 - 07  From Frankfort Kentucky	<b>President Ronnie Dunn</b>  "Love"  	<b>First woman Optimist International President</b>  Montreal, Quebec Optimist International Convention 2007  	    <b>(Shelly) From Warsaw Noon</b>	<b>Governor Dennis Reeve</b>    <b>Secretary/Treasurer Rita Betts</b>  	<b>"Be the Best"</b>  Roster Book Picture of Dennis

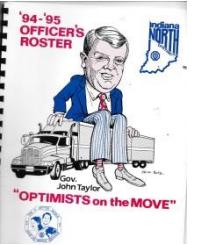
YEAR	OI President	OI & IN N Conventions	IN N	IN North	IN North
2005 - 06  <i>From Niles, Michigan</i>  JOOI OF READING   IN NORTH <b>Distinguished</b> OPTIMIST Sondra Dickson from Portland Breakfast	<b>President Michel Listenberger, O.D.</b>   <b>"Bringing Out the Best in Kids"</b>  Jr. Optimists Introduce the JOOI Reading Program	<b>OI CONVENTION Nashville, TN</b>  <b>IN N Convention Bear Creek Farms Resort Bryant, IN</b>  	<b>Governor Lu B. Whitaker</b> From Frankfort   Picture from 4/18/09	  Gov. Lu & future Gov. Mel Jackson <b>Secretary/Treasurer Rita Betts 2005 - 2009</b> 	<b>No Clowning Around "Let's Get Serious" Lu with Chuck Kemker at Bear Creek Lu</b>     <b>Lieutenant Governors Zone 1</b> Bernie Krueger, Zone 2 James Mann, (Linda) Zone 3 Ron Donkers, Zone 4 Dr. Bill Connor, Zone 5 Brad Daniels, Zone 6 Thomas R. Fisher, Zone 7 Mary L. Fouse, Zone 8 Chase Wagoner, Zone 9 Mike Burch, Zone 10 Arnold K. Nelson
2004 05  <i>From Hawkesbury, Ontario, Canada</i>  IN North District 2 <b>Distinguished</b> Optimists <b>Judith Williamson</b> From Portland Breakfast <b>Susan Bravard</b> from Indy Eastside	<b>President Yves Berthiaume</b>   <b>"I Believe"</b>  First Friend of Optimists class of memberships in 2005	  <b>New Orleans, Louisiana OI CONVENTION "I Believe" theme</b>	<b>Distinguished Governor Don Covalt (Karen)</b>    From Muncie Noon IN North District Two recognized <b>Distinguished</b> Humanitarians Ray White of New Castle Breakfast & Susan Bravard from Indy. Eastside	  ?, Ray White, his wife, Don Covalt <b>Lieutenant Governors</b> 2 Earned <b>Outstanding</b> Lt. Governor Dru Hall of West Jay and Lt. Governor Eric Baize of Muncie Noon	<b>Don</b>      <b>Gary Addison</b> Secretary/Treasurer

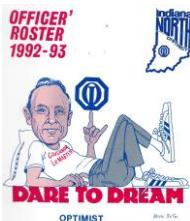
YEAR	O I PRESIDENT	IN N	IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN NORTH
2003-04 From Cambridge Wisconsin  Respect for Law IN North District 2 Distinguished Optimists Sandra Doyle  of West Jay and Ray White of New Castle Evening	<b>President Dwaine R. Sievers</b> "Yes We Can" St. Louis, MO OI CONVENTION 	<b>Bear Creek Farms, Bryant, Indiana North CONVENTION IN</b>  North District Distinguished Humanitarian Rev. Jerry Nelson of West Jay <b>LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS</b> ZONE 1 Bill Hanyzewski ZONE 2 James Mann ZONE 3 Co-Lt. Gov. Bob Hunt & Judy Stout	<b>St. Louis, Missouri "Yes We Can" "FIRE - UP OUR YOUTH"</b> <b>F - FAITH</b> <b>I - INSPIRE</b> <b>R - REWARD</b> <b>E - ENCOURAGE</b> <b>U - UNDERSTAND</b> <b>P - PROTECT</b> ZONE 4 Dr. Bill Conner ZONE 5 Sandra K. Harris ZONE 6 Keith Butz ZONE 7 Glen Ohmit	<b>Governor Chuck Kemker (Jeannie) From Rushville</b>  <b>Governor - Elect and /Secretary - Treasurer</b>  ZONE 8 Shirley Bichl ZONE 9 Marvin Collins ZONE 10 Charles Bravard	<b>"Let's Get Fired Up"</b> Chuck's Family  Chuck has conducted the yearly Convention "old timer's breakfast" honoring the Optimist Members who passed away that year with a candlelight and roses farewell.  New Club Winona Lake Indiana
2002 - 2003 From Leicester, North Carolina Vice President: Paula Reyling, Jasper, IN	<b>President William H. Teague</b> Kansas City, Missouri OI Convention	<b>"Where Every Kid Counts"</b> IN N Convention Bear Creek Farms Donald E. Covalt Sec./Treas.  Becky, Finn, & Randy Robinson Cowgirls for prize.	<b>Governor Ed Finn (Jo-Ann)</b>  From Lafayette Breakfast	<b>IN N Historian &amp; Jokester, Aubrey Rogers, ready for Stick Horse Race</b>  <b>Ed Finn &amp; Morton Salt District Distinguished Humanitarian</b> Phil Hamm of Knightstown	<b>"Where every Kid counts"</b> Anderson Noon Club's Ken Brammer, Indiana North District Historian, writes Indiana North History from its beginning in 1954 and ending in 2002 <b>Governor Ed Finn</b>    <b>Distinguished Optimist Roger Prescott of Portland Evening (rt.)</b>

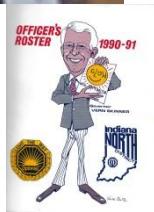
YEAR	OI PRESIDENT	IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN N GOVERNOR	IN N THEME
2001 - 02 From Springfield Missouri	<b>President Jerry Henderson</b>   <b>“Attitude”</b> <b>Indianapolis, IN</b> <b>Optimist International CONVENTION</b> <b>IN NORTH CONVENTION</b> <b>WARSAW, IN</b>	  <b>Lt. Governors</b> Zone 1 Bill Hanyzewsk; Zone 2 Kathy Dardis; Zone 3 Judy Stout; Zone 4 Tena Trumbull; Zone 5 Roger Sherer <b>Distinguished;</b> Zone 6 Lu Whitaker    <b>Outstanding;</b> Zone 7 Diana Dunham; Zone 8 Rosanne Gulley; Zone 9 Greg Sheward; Zone 10 Becky Branham	Donald E. Covalt Sec./Treasurer  2000 - 2003  <b>IN N DISTRICT</b> <b>Distinguished</b> Humanitarian Velma Rock of Portland Evening    Juanita and Mel Betts displaying t-shirts	<b>Juanita Sheward</b> (David) From New Castle Breakfast <b>Attitude Nurtures Growth</b>   <b>Encourager</b> <b>Leadership</b> Also, <b>Outstanding</b> Lieutenant Governor 1994-5 & 1998-9 	<b>Don Covalt and Juanita Sheward</b>   IN North District <b>Distinguished Optimist</b> Dru Hall of West Jay
2000 - 01 From Miami, FL Met at the White House with U.S. President George W. Bush to pledge for Optimists to assist in mentoring one million children.	<b>President Bob Garner</b>   <b>“Mission” CONVENTION</b> <b>Orlando, Florida</b>	  <b>IN CONVENTION BEAR CREEK FARMS RESORT</b> IN North District  <b>Distinguished Humanitarian</b> Phill Eherenman of Warsaw Breakfast	Lieutenant Governors Zone 1 Monroe Marker; Zone 2 Stanley Glanders; Zone 3 Carl Walters; Zone 4 Don Parker; Zone 5 Karyn Gilly; Zone 6 Edwin E. Finn; Zone 8 Kevin Stone; Zone 9 Charles Bell; Zone 10 Terry Titus  Gov. Mel later serves as Pres. of Optimist 2014-15 International Foundation	<b>Melvin Betts (Rita)</b> From Frankfort 	<b>“Reach Out”</b> <b>“Mel’s wife, Rita</b>  <b>Betts</b>    <b>Donald E. Covalt</b> <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>   <b>Distinguished Optimist</b> Dru Hall of West Jay & Juanita Sheward of New Castle Bft.

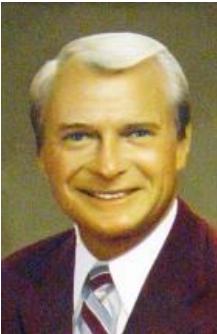
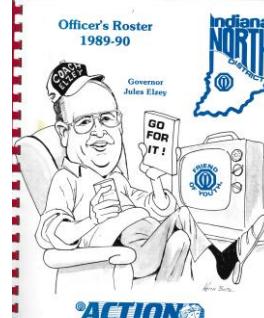
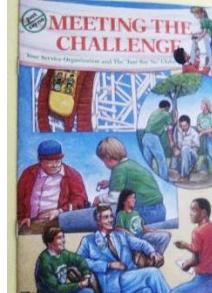
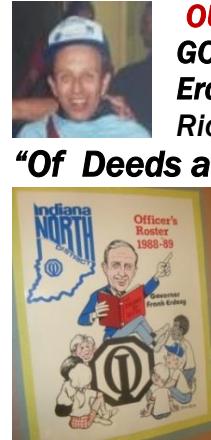
YEAR	O.I. PRESIDENT	IN N GOVERNOR	IN N	IN N	IN N THEME
1999 - 00 <i>From St. Hubert, Quebec, Canada</i>  <i>Inaugural Optimist International Junior Bowling Championship</i>	<b>President Andre Dubois</b>  <b>Optimist International THEME "Vision 2000"</b> <b>Reno, Nevada OI CONVENTION</b>	<b>Governor Robert E. Hunt*(Eleanore)</b>    <i>From Wabash, IN where he had been a Charter member &amp; past president of Wabash Optimist Club.</i> <i>Secretary/Treasurer Martha B. Frase</i> 	  <b>IN N CONVENTION BEAR CREEK FARMS RESORT, BRYANT, IN</b> <b>IN North District Distinguished Humanitarian Aubrey Rogers of Muncie</b> 	<b>Robert E. Hunt (Eleanor)</b> <b>From Wabash</b>  	<b>"I Want You"</b>  <b>LT. GOVERNORS</b> <b>Zone 1 William R. Jenkins; Zone 2 Dawn Schell; Zone 3 Linda Sampson; Zone 4 Ervin Goller; Zone 5. Karyn Gilly; Zone 6. Keith Rutz <b>Distinguished</b> Zone 7. Thomas C. Stone; Zone 8 Donald E Covalt; Zone 9. Joe Klemann Zone 10. Ron Sullivan; Zone 11. George Wissel <b>Outstanding</b> Lt. Governor Denny Andrews from Warsaw Breakfast</b>
1998 - 99 <i>From Severna Park, Maryland</i>	<b>James H. Hubbard</b>  <b>"Teamwork" Toronto, Ontario CONVENTION</b> <b>1998-1999 Vice President Ray Shaw Bluffton, IN</b>	<b>Celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Optimist Clubs in Canada appropriately in Canada</b>  <b>IN N District Distinguished Optimist</b>    <b>Jim Felix of Chesterfield IN N District Distinguished Humanitarian Phillip Montieth of Elkhart Evening</b>	<b>Dr. William F. "Bill" Conner and wife, Nancy</b>    <b>CONVENTION GOSHEN, IN</b>	<b>"Teamwork"</b>  <b>LT. GOVERNORS</b> <b>Zone 1 Art Giacomin; Zone 2 Dawn Schell; Zone 3 Juergen Voss; Zone 4 Ervin Goller; Zone 5 James R. McEwen; Zone 6 Melvin Betts; Zone 7 Patricia Leger; Zone 8 Gary Addison; Zone 9 Juanita Sheward</b>    <b>Outstanding;</b>  <b>Zone 10 Ron Sullivan</b>	<b>Secretary/Treasurer Martha B. Frase. 1996 - 9</b>    <b>Zone 11 George O. Wissel;</b> <b>Zone 12 James Yeazel</b>  

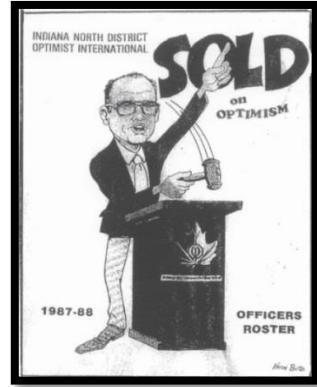
YEAR	O.I. PRESIDENT	IN NORTH	IN N	IN N	IN N
1997 - 98  <i>From Independence Missouri</i>	<b>J. Wayne Smith</b>     <b>IN N District Distinguished Optimist Guido George of Hammond</b>	  <b>LT. GOVERNORS</b> Zone 1. William T. Harrigan; Zone 2. Robert Burris; Zone 3. Fred Biggs; Zone 4. Louis Roland; Zone 5. Leland LeMaster <b>Outstanding</b> ; Zone 6. Marc. A. Plybon; Zone 7. Patricia Leger; Zone 8. Sharon Long;	<b>William "Bill" Gloye (Phyllis Scott)</b> <i>From Fortville</i>   <b>Sec./Treasurer</b> 	<b>CONVENTION BEAR CREEK FARMS RESORT, BRYANT, IN</b>   District Conventions at Bear Creek meant bring the family, Amish buggy rides, cabins or an inn to stay in, inside water park, live shows, & really great Amish made food and shopping. Zone 9. Doris Hoover Zone 10. Mark Commons; Zone 11. Charles A. Kemker; <b>Zone 12. Fria Kurkowski Outstanding</b> 	<b>"Optimist Projects"</b> <b>Optimist and Owner of "The Candlemaker"</b> <i>In 1975 Bill opened and became owner of "The Candlemaker" in downtown Fortville, IN. He served as an advisor and sales person for new Governors and other Optimists needing badges &amp; pins.</i> 
1996 - 97  <i>From Calabasas, California</i>	<b>Clifton I. Katz</b>   <b>IN N District Distinguished Optimist Guido George of Hammond</b>	<b>Governor Randall "Randy" Robinson (Becky) "Share" from Muncie</b>   <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Martha B. Frase 	<b>LT. GOVERNORS</b> Zone 1. Jennifer Hanson; Zone 2. Jerry Webb; Zone 3. Fred Biggs; Zone 4. Gene Snowden; Zone 5. Roger D. Prescott; Zone 6. Melvin Betts; Zone 7. Pat Leger; Zone 8. Jude Bourff; Zone 9. Dwight L. Fraze; Zone 10. Mark Commons; Zone 11. Charles Bridenhager	  1996-'97  <b>Zone 12. Jerry LaVine Sr.</b>   <b>REVEREND HAROLD "PETE" R. CLARK from Chesterfield District Humanitarian</b>	<b>INDIANA NORTH CONVENTION BEAR CREEK FARMS</b>   <b>Becky and Randy Robinson</b> 

YEAR	O I PRESIDENT	O I & IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN NORTH
1995 - 96 <i>From Abermarie North Carolina</i> 	<b>President J. C. Boone</b>   <b>"Excel for Others"</b> Las Vegas, Nevada O I CONVENTION Always Buckle Children in the Back Seat (ABC) successful program in 1996. Corporate backing from Morton International helped.	<b>Distinguished Governor Pam Hutton</b> From Elkhart Luncheon 	  <b>"The Time is Now"</b>   <b>District Distinguished Optimist Everett Hampton of Hagerstown</b>	<b>LT. GOVERNORS</b> Zone 1. Pam Hutton Zone 2. Ann Hughes Zone 3. Robert Hunt, <b>Distinguished</b> Zone 4. Ruth H. Hall Zone 5. Sara Stults Zone 6. J. Leroy Compton Zone 7. Philip Bruzzes Zone 8. Melvin Jackson, <b>Distinguished</b> Zone 9 Ray White, <b>Distinguished</b> Zone 10. Shirley Blehl Zone 11. Andrew Smith Zone 12. David Melander, <b>Outstanding</b>	  <b>"EXCEL"</b> Past Governor Vern and Marilyn Skinner attending CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS RAMADA INN EAST Wayne Confer Secretary/Treasurer 1991 -1996 from Chesterfield  <b>District Distinguished Humanitarian Everett Cole of New Castle Breakfast</b> 
1994 - 95 <i>From Chambley, Quebec</i>  <b>"Pour un Monde Meilleur"</b>  <b>First ever Optimist Non Violence Day on May 6, 1995</b>	<b>President Jean Mercier</b>   <b>"For a Better World"</b> 	<b>San Antonio, Texas CONVENTION OI PROGRAM</b> 1994-1995 Officers/Board of Directors: Past President— John R. Reel, Plainfield, IN District <b>Distinguished Optimist</b> Don Tomlin of Indianapolis Eastside  <b>IN N CONVENTION SOUTH BEND</b> 	  <b>Wayne Confer</b>   <b>Secretary/Treasurer 1991 96</b>	<b>Governor John Taylor (Linda)</b> From Bluffton    <b>GOVERNOR JOHN TAYLOR</b>  <b>District Distinguished Humanitarian John Bentley of Elkhart Luncheon</b>	<b>Lt. Governors</b> Zone 1 - Monroe Al Marler Zone 2. Ed Ferguson; Zone 3. Tom Allen; Zone 4. Harvey Beckmann; Zone 5. Jon Bennett Zone 6. Jim Tudor; Zone 7. Patti Garr; Zone 8. Juanita Sheward of New Castle Breakfast    <b>Outstanding:</b>  <b>Zone 9. Leon Ford;</b> <b>Zone 10. Ron Sullivan;</b> <b>Zone 11. Stan Krasiento</b>

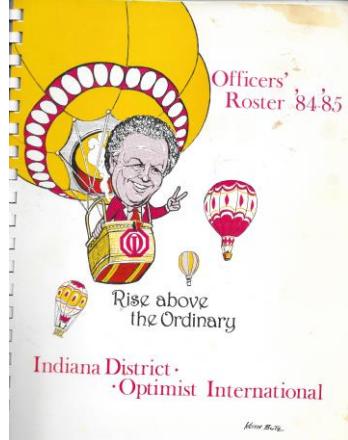
YEAR	OI PRESIDENT	THEME/ CONVENTION	IN NORTH	IN N GOVERNOR	IN NORTH
1993 - 94 <i>From Cape Girardeau, Missouri</i>	<b>President Charles R. Wiles</b>    <p>He signed a Thank you note "Charlie" to Chesterfield club for helping build Danville club. <b>O I CONVENTION</b> Montreal, Quebec</p>	<b>"Soar with Optimism"</b> <i>"IN N" Makes a Difference" &amp; "Soars with Optimism"</i>  <b>District Distinguished Optimist John Harrington of Gary Dunes; Distinguished Humanitarian Pam Hutton of Elkhart Luncheon</b>  	 <b>Distinguished Governor Gary Addison</b>  <b>From Muncie Noon</b>	<b>Lt. GOVERNORS</b> <b>ZONE 1. Alex O. Stone</b> <b>ZONE 2. Donald L. Monk, Distinguished; ZONE 3.Othmar J. Schroeder, Distinguished; ZONE 4. Kenneth Jackson; ZONE 5. Bill Conner; ZONE 6. J. Leroy Compton; ZONE 7. Thomas C. Stone, Distinguished</b> <b>ZONE 8. Robert D. Crowe</b> <b>ZONE 9. Roger D. Prescott,</b>  <b>Outstanding ZONE 10. William A. Gloye</b> <b>ZONE 11. Charles Kemker</b>	 <b>"Make a Difference"</b> Sandy Doyle, Essay Chair Gary Addison & Essay Winners He makes a difference as Governor, OI Foundation director, & donor for scholarships  <b>Wayne Confer</b> <b>Secretary/ Treasurer</b>
1992- 93 <i>From Plainfield, Indiana</i> <i>June 5 1993 1st annual Optimists in Action Day.</i>  <i>Alpha clubs for grades 1 thru 4, become an official part of JOOI.</i> <i>Also first Jamalca Convention</i>	<b>President John R. Reel (IN South)</b>  <p>Louisville, Kentucky CONVENTION 75th Anniversary site of first 1919 convention.</p>	<b>"Celebrate Our Heritage, Our Future"</b>  <p><i>John R. Reel visits Chesterfield with club Pres. Nancy Searfoss IN N District Distinguished optimist Arnold Gold of Chesterfield</i></p>	<b>Lt. Governors</b> <b>Zone 1. Mike Pachapa; Zone 2. Gary Oakeson; Zone 3. Bill Cook; Zone 4. Par Grogg; Zone 5. Bill Conner; Zone 6. Rich Ritter; Zone 7. Paul G. Jester; Zone 8. Randy Robinson; Zone 9. Michael Ashcraft; Zone 10. William A. Gloye; Zone 11. Patsy Dale</b>	  <b>Distinguished Governor Leland LeMaster (Judy)</b> <b>From Portland Evening Wayne Confer Secretary/ Treasurer from Chesterfield Distinguished Humanitarian Roger Prescott of Portland Eve.</b>   	<b>"Dare to Dream"</b>  <b>Leland and Judy LeMaster</b> <i>First Lady Judy LeMaster later became a Lt. Gov. 2002-2003</i> 

YEAR	O I PRESIDENT	THEME/ CONVENTION	IN NORTH	IN N GOVERNOR	IN NORTH
<b>1991 - 92</b> <i>From Harlan, Kentucky</i>	<b>President Donald B. Mills</b> 	<b>"A United Spirit"</b>  Mothers Against Drunk Driving™ Les mères contre l'alcool au volant™ <b>O I Convention: Anaheim, CA</b> First Jamaica District born with 25 clubs in Jamaica, Barbados, and Antigua, with Theodore Golding as Charter Governor.	<b>INDIANA N. CONVENTION, Roberts Hotel, MUNCIE</b> Wayne Confer, District Secretary Treasurer 1991 - 1996 from Chesterfield  <small>SECRETARY-TREASURER WAYNE E. CONFER</small>	<b>Governor Herb Horton (Maggie)</b> <i>From Indianapolis N.</i>   <b>Keystone</b>	<b>"A United Spirit" Lt. Governors</b> Zone 1. Arthur W. Hamilton; Zone 2. Ed Hutton; Zone 3. Bill Cook; Zone 4. Bill O'Dell; Zone 5. John M. Taylor; Zone 6. Steve Cross; Zone 7. Paul G. Jester; Zone 8. Dwight L. Fraze; <b>Zone 9. Everett Hampton, Outstanding;</b> Zone 10. Don Tomlin; Zone 12. Jay L. Elliott <b>District Distinguished Optimist Cecil Appleget from Lawrence:</b> <b>Distinguished Humanitarian Larry Huneryager of Elkhart Evening</b> 
<b>1990 - 91</b> <i>From Jackson, Mississippi</i>	<b>President Tate Thigpen, M.D.</b>  <b>"Light the Way"</b> 	<b>Vern &amp; Marilyn Skinner Registering attendees</b>   Chesterfield Club Humanitarian of the Year 2017 Nominated for the District, as well, passed away before decision. <b>District Distinguished Optimist Robert Richardson &amp; District Distinguished Humanitarian Robert J. Rigg both of Richmond Evening</b>	<b>Governor Vern Skinner (Marilyn)</b> <i>From Chesterfield</i> <b>"Glow With Optimism"</b> 	<b>Vern and Marilyn</b>  <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>  	<b>"Glow With Optimism"</b>  <b>Marilyn and Vern Skinner LT. GOVERNORS</b> Zone 1. Vernon Vlerk <b>Outstanding</b> Zone 2. Michael Wyrick Zone 3. Kenneth Muncy Zone 4. Ervin Goller Zone 5. John Milliser Zone 6. James Tudor Zone 7. Terry Stowell Zone 8. James Wood Zone 9. Max Soliday Zone 10. Glen Shay Zone 11. Charles Kemker <b>IN N CONVENTION SHERATON NORTHEAST INDIANAPOLIS</b> <b>Distinguished Optimist Robert Richardson Richmond Evening</b> <b>Distinguished Humanitarian Robert J. Rigg Richmond Evening</b>

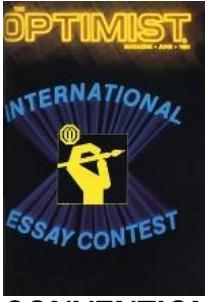
YEAR	O I PRESIDENT	O I AND IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN NORTH	IN NORTH
1989 - 90 St. Louis, Missouri	<b>President Kenneth E. Monschein</b>   Later joins staff as Director of Optimist International <b>O.I. Convention:</b> Seattle, Washington	<b>O I THEME "Action "</b>   <b>IN NORTH THEME "Action... GO FOR IT" Convention Merrillville Holiday Inn</b>	<b>INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT Secretary/Treasurer</b>   <b>John J. Harrington 1986-1991</b>  1989-90 IN N <b>Distinguished Humanitarian ROBERT L. FREEMAYER</b> from Portland Bft.	<b>Governor Jules Elzey</b>   <b>From Knightstown LT. GOVERNORS</b> Zone 1. Vaughn Phelps Zone 2. Pam Hutton Zone 3. Timothy Kennedy Zone 4. Kerry Rhick Zone 5. Frederick Biggs Zone 6. Joseph del Bartlett	  <b>'ACTION'</b>  Zone 7. Jerry Pitcock Zone 8. Loren Marsh Zone 9. Dickie Haffner Zone 10. Herbert C. Horton Zone 11. Clifford W. Brown <b>1989-90 IN N DISTINGUISHED OPTIMIST AWARD RECIPIENT LESTER L. BICKEL</b> from Portland Eve. & Bft.
1988 - 89 From Montreal Quebec	<b>President Fernand Rondeau</b>   In 1988 the Optimist International Foundation for Canada was established to provide a vehicle for tax-deductible contributions. <b>"Wake Up Your Dreams"</b>  	  Vern & Marilyn Skinner, President Ferdinand Rondeau & wife Marie - Andrea <b>AT OI CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS, IN IN N CONVENTION ELKHART MIDWAY</b>	  <b>"Just Say No" Anti-drug Program</b> 	<b>Lieutenant Governors</b> Zone 1 William Babbitt. Zone 2 Robert Hieber <b>Distinguished</b> Zone 3 Jerry Levine Sr. Zone 4 Gerald Selkin <b>Distinguished</b> Zone 5 William Weldon Zone 6 William Godby <b>Zone 7 Wayne Confer Outstanding</b> from Chesterfield Zone 8 Dwight Fraze Zone 9 Dennis Pratt Zone 10 Robert Hirschauer Zone 11 Chase Wagoner 	  <b>OUTSTANDING GOVERNOR Frank Erdosy From Richmond Evening "Of Deeds and Dreams"</b>  

<p><b>1987 -88</b></p>	<p><b>President Kenneth G. Loach</b>  <b>"Integrity-Growth-Service"</b>  <b>O I CONVENTION Reno, Nevada</b>  <b>IN NORTH CONVENTION ANDERSON HOLIDAY INN</b>  <b>1987-88 IN N DISTRICT</b>  <b>DISTINGUISHED OPTIMIST AWARD RECIPIENT RALPH RIDDLE</b> from Hammond</p>	<p><b>Distinguished Governor Ray A. Shaw (Jeri)</b>    <p>From Bluffton Later became an Optimist International Vice President</p> <p><b>1987-88 IN N DISTRICT</b>  <b>DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN JIM MALLOY</b> from Merrillville</p> </p>	<p><b>Secretary/Treasurer of Indiana North</b>  <b>John J. Harrington</b>  </p>	 <p><b>Lt. Governors</b>  <b>Zone 1 Stanley C. Wolucka</b>  <b>Distinguished;</b>  <b>Zone 2 James F. Farkas,</b>  <b>Distinguished</b>  <b>Zone 3 Kenneth R. Muncy,</b>  <b>Zone 4 Roger Sherer</b>  <b>Distinguished,</b>  <b>Zone 5 Martin Norman,</b></p>	<p><b>"Sold on Optimism"</b>  Later became an Optimist International Vice President</p>  <p>Jean Morehead from the new Anderson Evening Optimist Club receiving award from Ray Shaw, Outstanding Lt. Gov. Jim Felix from Chesterfield Club at right</p>
<p><b>1986 - 87</b></p> <p>From Lake, Waccamaw, North Carolina</p> <p>OI grows to 3,800 clubs and 160,000 members.</p>	<p><b>President Lester R. Craft First Governor of Indiana North</b>    <b>District</b></p>	<p><b>"Serve with Honor"</b>  <b>1986-1987 Vice President, John Reel of Plainfield, Indiana</b>    <p><b>O I CONVENTION</b> Montreal, Quebec  <b>IN NORTH CONVENTION</b> ANDERSON (IN SOUTH SEPARATE Columbus)</p> </p>	  <p><b>John J. Harrington 1<sup>st</sup> Sec./Treas. IN N</b></p>	<p><b>First Governor of Indiana North District</b>  <b>Marion C. Wilson*</b>  From Indianapolis  <b>IN N 1986-87</b>  <b>Distinguished Optimist Award recipient Max Ball</b> <b>Distinguished Humanitarian Wayne Haffner</b> of Portland Bft</p> 	<p><b>"Why Not?" LT. GOVERNORS</b></p> <p><b>Zone 1. Angelo R. Giacomin</b>  <b>Zone 2. Jon R. Nielsen</b>  <b>Zone 3. Max Ball</b>  <b>Zone 4. Melvin C. Hansen</b>  <b>Zone 5. James F. Strether</b>  <b>Zone 6. Jerald F. Anderson</b>  <b>Zone 7. Richard M. Harkness</b>  <b>Zone 8. Marcus OI Waterman</b>  <b>Zone 9. William A. Gloye</b>  <b>Zone 10. Robert E. Eck, Outstanding</b></p> <p>The <b>Outstanding</b> Secretary/ Treasurer Award was later created and named after the first, JOHN J HARRINGTON</p>

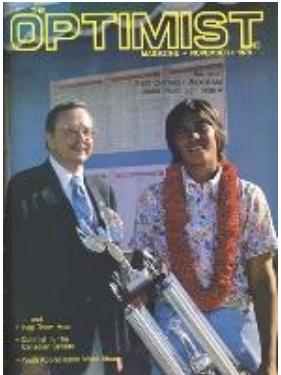
	<i>Indiana District</i>	<i>(Not yet into North &amp; South)</i>			<i>(NO INDIANA THEMES AT THIS TIME)</i>
<b>1985 - 86</b> <i>From Woodlawn Hills, California</i>	<b>James E. Attarian</b>  <b>O.I. President</b> Please note that the blue print is utilized to emphasize the state of Indiana.	<b>"Be a Star"</b>  <b>President Ronald Reagan and OI President Attarian</b>   <b>Attarian and wife</b>	<b>Charlotte, North Carolina</b> <b>OI Foundation Fund reaches \$2 million.</b>	<b>Distinguished Governor Lewis F. Graves (Jennie) Governor Indiana District from Raleigh,</b>   <small>LEWIS F. GRAVES GOVERNOR-ELECT</small>  <b>Pic from Roster Book 1983-84 N.C. and Warsaw Club, IN CONVENTION NASHVILLE, RAMADA INN, IN August 1986 Secretary - Treasurer Paul R. Grant (Jane)</b>   <small>PAUL R. GRANT SECRETARY-TREASURER</small>	<b>Keith C. Butz of Lafayette</b> <i>Breakfast drew caricatures of District Governors from 1986 to 2013 for Roster Covers.</i> <i>Keith was a well-known Lafayette artist who spent 30 years working for Purdue University in</i>   <i>Telecommunications. He served as Optimist club President, Lieutenant Governor and District Chairman; He sponsored over 75 members in the club. Called Old Indiana District for purposes of this history (whole state) Indiana District is not yet divided into North and South</i>

<p><b>1984 – 85</b></p> <p>From Dayton, Ohio or From West Milton, Ohio according to roster book</p>	 <p><b>President Ardyn J. "Art" Long (Willa)</b>          International Executive Secretary Hugh H. Cranford St. Louis, MO (Helen) OI          Club Services Robert Houck OI          Club Supplies V.A. "Ben" Bradshaw OI          (above listed in roster book)</p>	<p><b>"Promise Yourself"</b>          "Just Say NO" program adopted to educate youth against substance abuse.  <i>Membership tops 15,000</i>          Albuquerque, New Mexico convention</p> <p><b>1984-85 ROSTER BOOK COVER INDIANA DISTRICT</b></p>  <p><b>18 Zones &amp; Lt. Governors; 121 CLUBS (14 IN Indy)</b></p>	 <p><b>Governor James "Jim" P. Crowe from Avon, IN (Gail)</b>  <b>"Rise Above the Ordinary"</b>          Zone 7 Lt. Governor Gary Addison from Muncie &amp; Zone 9 Lt. Governor Marion C. Wilson from Indianapolis, later became Governors of IN North.</p>	<p><b>Governor Jim was born in French Lick, IN in 1865.</b> He earned a B.S. from G.M.I. He served in the U. S. Army in Korea. He worked for Allison Gas Turbine for over 40 years, retiring in 1992. Jim was also a 33rd Degree Mason at Speedway Masonic Lodge #729 where he received his 50 year pin</p>  <p><b>Paul R. Grant</b>          Secretary/Treasurer          According to Roster Book, Plainfield, IN</p>	<p><b>CONVENTION TERRE HAUTE HOLIDAY INN</b>          Jim served as Avon Optimist Club President, Zone Lt. Governor, Indiana District Governor and an Optimist International Vice President.  <b>Secretary/Treasurer John H. Harrington, from Gary</b></p> <p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1984 – 85 Clyde Goodwin from Jeffersonville, IN</b>  <b>IN District Humanitarian of the Year recipient James Quillen, Mooresville, IN</b></p>
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<p><b>1983 - 84</b></p> <p>From San Antonio, Texas</p>	<p><b>President Donald J. Hand</b></p>  <p><b>"Rise (Reason, Integrity, Strength, Enterprise)" O I CONVENTION</b> Philadelphia, Pennsylvania <b>Indiana District CONVENTION CLARKSVILLE , IN MARRIOTT</b></p>	<p><b>Governor Luedtke was born in Valparaiso, IN 1915 &amp; died 1995 in Merrillville. He retired from U.S. Steel.</b></p> <p><b>Secretary - Treasurer 1982 - 84 Marion C. Wilson</b></p> 	<p><b>Indiana Governor Howard Anthony Luedtke (Hilda) from Merrillville, IN</b></p>  <p><b>Picture from Horace Mann H. S. Yearbook, Gary, IN 1931</b></p>	<p><b>Merlyn Fish (right). Lieutenant Governor Zone 2, Indiana District presents the new club banner to Steve Creighton, charter president of the newly formed Noon Optimist Club of Warsaw.</b></p> <p><b>Times-Union Warsaw, Indiana Thursday, March 15, 1984 27</b></p>  <p><b>Presented Banner — Merlyn Fish (right), Lieutenant Governor Zone Two, Indiana District presents the new club banner to Steve Creighton, charter president of the newly formed Noon Optimist Club of Warsaw. — (Photo by Mike Creighton.)</b></p> <p><b>Noon Optimist Club Charter Presentation</b> Picture from Times-Union News, 3/15/1984 <b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1983 - 84 Keith Butz from Lafayette, IN</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana District Governor Howard A. Luedtke</b> presented the club its official charter. <u>Luedtke</u> has served as governor of the Indiana District of Optimist International for two years. <u>John Reel</u>, past Indiana District Governor, addressed the new Optimists and their guests on the subject "Friend of Youth" which is the Optimists' slogan. <u>James Crowe, Governor-elect</u>, Indiana District, conducted the installation ceremony. <b>IN District Humanitarian of the Year recipient Herman E. Greenwood, Indianapolis</b></p>
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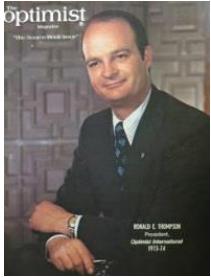
<p><b>1982 - 83</b> From Iowa City, Iowa</p>	<p><b>President Donald E. Strub</b></p>  <p><b>"PRIDE"</b></p>	<p>In 1983 the Essay Contest was created.</p>  <p><b>CONVENTION/ New Orleans, Louisiana</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana Governor Mark J. Miles from Shelbyville, IN (Ellave)</b> Pictures are from 1952 H.S. yearbook.</p> 	 <p><b>Row 1: Jo Anne Hoffer, Shirley Hoffer, Linda Jean Knight, Thelma Jeff, Clio Hicks, Hazel Jenkins, Barbara Koenig, Vicki Koenig, Jackie Low, Carol Kardyn, Kemper, Lois Ki, Barbara Koenig</b></p> <p><b>Row 2: Jim Mowbray, Balasen, John McCall, Mary Phillips, Marge, Martin, Phillip Rupple, Lorraine, Stark, Shirley</b></p> <p><b>Secretary - Treasurer 1982 - 84 Marion C. Wilson</b></p> 	<p><b>CONVENTION LAFAYETTE SHERATON</b></p> <p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1982 -83 Jerry L. Titus from Warsaw, IN</b></p> <p><b>IN District Humanitarian of the Year recipient 1982 -83 Dr. David Haines, Warsaw, IN</b></p>
<p><b>1981 - 82</b> From Miami Beach, Florida</p>	<p><b>President Seymour Silverman</b></p> 	<p><b>"Spirit of Service"</b></p> <p><b>Convention: St. Louis, Missouri</b></p> 	<p><b>Indiana Governor John Reel from Plainfield, IN</b> He becomes O I Vice President and O I President.</p> 	 <p><b>O.I. President John Reel center with Indiana Governor Ken Brammer on right in 1981 District secretary - treasurer 1977-1981 Howard a. Luedtke from Merrillville, IN</b></p> 	<p><b>CONVENTION NASHVILLE RAMADA INN</b></p> <p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1981 - 82 Robert A. Sharp, Lafayette, IN</b></p>

<p><b>1980 - 81</b></p> <p>From Terre-bonne, Quebec, Canada</p>	<p><b>O.I. President Lionel Grenier</b></p>  <p><b>“Come with Me” Orlando, Florida O.I. Convention</b></p>	<p><b>IN Governor Kenneth L Brammer (Jackie) from Anderson</b></p> <p>Ken was born 8/26/1924 in Sabetha, Kansas and died 12/17/2017 at age 93 in Anderson, IN. He earned B.S. Ed. and Master's Degrees from Ball State Teachers College. He served as a classroom teacher for 14 years &amp; administrator and supervisor for 26 more.</p> 	 <p>He served in the Airforce.</p> <p>Ken receives an award at his Anderson club's 100th Birthday celebration.</p> 	<p><b>Jackie and Ken's Wedding</b></p>  <p>Ken was a 50 year member of Optimist International. Later serves as District Historian.</p>  <p><b>District secretary – treasurer 1977-1981 Howard a. Luedtke from Merrillville, IN</b></p> 	 <p>Ken sells corn-on-the-cob with other members.</p> <p><b>IN CONVENTION EVANSVILLE EXECUTIVE INN</b></p>  <p>Ken selling Christmas Trees for Anderson Club</p> <p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1980 – 81 Marion C. Wilson, from Indpls.</b></p> 
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<p><b>1979 – 80</b> From Fort Collins, Colorado</p>	<p><b>President James F. Creed, DVM</b></p> 	<p><b>"Lengthen Your Stride"</b> In 1980 48 residents of Kingston, Jamaica made the 1<sup>st</sup> Optimist Club, part of Florida district.</p>	<p><b>Toronto, Ontario, Canada</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana Governor Donald L Pollard from Venice, Florida Home Club: Indianapolis, IN</b></p> <p><b>District Secretary – treasurer 1977-1981 Howard a. Luedtke from Merrillville, IN</b></p> 	<p><b>CONVENTION MERRILLVILLE HOLIDAY INN</b></p> <p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1979 – 80 Jules E. Elzey from Knightstown, IN</b></p>
<p><b>1978 – 79</b> From La Jolla, California</p>	<p><b>President Dudley D. William</b></p> 	<p><b>"Friend of Youth"</b></p> 	<p><b>Kansas City, Missouri</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana Governor Jerry L. Martin from Speedway, IN Home Club: Indianapolis Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>District secretary – treasurer 1977-1981 Howard a. Luedtke from Merrillville, IN</b></p> 	<p><b>INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT</b></p> <p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1978 – 79 Dr. David Haines from Warsaw, IN</b></p>

<b>1977 – 78</b> From Charlest on West Virginia	<b>President Don L. Arnwine</b>  <p>Vice President: <b>William B. Scott, Jeffersonville, IN</b></p>	<b>“Friend of Youth”</b> In 1978 OI sponsored a junior golf event, now known as the Junior World Golf Championships. Later, we established our own, Optimist International Jr. Golf Championship 	<b>San Diego, California</b> In 1978 the Help Them Hear program began. <b>1977-1978 Officers/Board of Directors:</b> includes <b>Past President—Patrick L. Grady, Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>Indiana Governor</b> <b>Robert A. Sharp from Lafayette, IN</b> Home Club Jeffersonville Evening  <b>District secretary – treasurer 1977-1981</b> <b>Howard a. Luedtke from Merrillville, IN</b> 	<b>INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION CLARKSVILLE MARRIOTT</b> <b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1977 – 78 William B. Scott from Jeffersonville, IN</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>OI PRESIDENTS</b>	<b>OI THEMES</b>	<b>OI CONVENTIONS</b>	<b>IN DISTRICT GOVERNORS</b>	<b>LOGOS</b>
<b>1976 – 77</b> From Shawnee , Kansas	<b>President Richard S. McAnany</b> 	<b>“Committed to Excellence”</b> <b>1976-1977 Officers/Board of Directors:</b> includes <b>Immediate Past President—Patrick L. Grady, Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>Houston, Texas</b> <b>Vice President: Charles L. Hoberty, Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>Governor Peter W. Risley from Columbus, IN</b> Secretary – Treasurer <b>Franklin C. Marsh from Greenwood , IN 1973 - 77</b> <b>INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION RICHMOND</b> <b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1976 – 67 Joseph Brand, Indpls., IN</b>	 <b>Optimist International Logo 1977 – 2017</b>

<p><b>1975 – 76</b> <b>From Indiana polis, Indiana</b></p>	<p><b>President Patrick L. Grady</b></p> 	<p><b>“United We Serve”</b> 1975-1976 Officers/Board of Directors: <b>President—Patrick L. Grady, Indianapolis, IN</b> President-Elect—Richard S. McAnany, Shawnee, Kansas Immediate Past President—Ralph Glasscock, Clinton, Missouri</p>	<p><b>Washington, D.C.</b> (cont.) Board of Directors: Past President—Ronald E. Thompson, Tacoma, Washington Executive Secretary—Hugh H. Cranford, St. Louis, Missouri</p>	<p><b>Governor Daniel M. Kissell</b> from Evansville Downtown Club, IN <b>Secretary – Treasurer Franklin C. Marsh</b> <b>1973 – 77 from Greenwood</b></p> <p><b>INDIANA CONVENTION LAFAYETTE HILTON</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1975 – 1976 Jerry L. Martin from Lafayette, IN</b></p>
<p><b>1974 – 75</b> <b>From Clinton, Missouri</b></p>	<p><b>President Ralph Glasscock</b></p> 	<p><b>“Desire-Dedication-Determination” 1974-1975</b> Officers/Board of Directors: <b>President-Elect—Patrick L. Grady, Indianapolis, IN</b></p>	<p><b>San Francisco, California</b> Honorary Membership presented to President Gerald Ford</p>	<p><b>Governor N. Edward “ED” Baker</b> from Avon, IN <b>Secretary – Treasurer Franklin C. Marsh</b> <b>1973 – 77 from Greenwood</b></p> <p><b>INDIANA DISTRICT MERRILLVILLE HOLIDAY INN</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1974 – 75 Daniel L. Kissel from Evansville, IN</b></p>

YEAR	OI PRESIDENTS	OI THEMES	OI CONVENTIONS	IN DISTRICT GOVERNORS	
<b>1973-74</b> From Tacoma, Washington	<b>President Ronald E. Thompson</b> 	<b>"Challenge the Summit"</b>  <b>OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL</b> <i>Friend of Youth</i> <b>"Friend of Youth"</b> adopted as new motto.	Atlanta, Georgia 	<b>Distinguished Governor Charles L. Hobarty</b> from Indianapolis Downtown, IN +OI VP  <b>INDIANA DISTRICT EVANSVILLE EXECUTIVE INN</b>	Secretary – Treasurer Franklin C. Marsh 1973 – 77 from Greenwood, IN Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1973 – 74 Howard A. Leudke, Merrillville,
<b>1972 – 73</b> From Louisville, Kentucky	<b>President S. Phil McCardwell</b> 	<b>"Dedicated to Service"</b> 	San Antonio, Texas	<b>Distinguished Governor Clarence O. Eyer</b> from Syracuse, IN <b>INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION MERRILLVILLE HOLIDAY INN</b>	Secretary – Treasurer 1968 – 1973 Ray T. Everly from Lafayette, IN Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1972 – 73 N. Edward Baker, Indianapolis, IN
<b>1971 – 72</b> From Union, Ontario, Canada <i>In 1971 Optimist International grew to 3,000 clubs and 106,000 members</i>	<b>President Norman L. Shipley</b>   New AVOID program to combat syphilis and gonorrhea, first service organization to do so.	<b>"Commitment to Action"</b>  President Nixon signed the first Youth Appreciation Week Proclamation for the Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> week. 	Montreal, Quebec  New LIFE program approved, Living is For Everything. (clean air and uncluttered streets, pure water- first focus)	<b>Distinguished Governor William B. "Bill" Scott</b> from Jefferson, IN Home Club: Jeffersonville Evening 1971-1972 + OI VP + Optimist International Foundation Past President	<b>INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION ELKHART HOLIDAY INN</b> Secretary – Treasurer 1968 – 1973 Ray T. Everly from Lafayette, IN  Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1971 -72 Robert G. Fields from Owensville, IN

YEAR	O.I. PRESIDENTS	O.I. THEME	O.I. AND IN CONVENTIONS	OLD INDIANA DISTRICT	O.I. LOGO
<b>1970 – 71</b> From Little Rock, Arkansas (O.I. Themes were not used prior to 1970-71)	<b>President Charles C. Campbell</b> 	<b>“Mission Improvement”</b>   <b>1971</b>	<b>Minneapolis, Minnesota</b>  At the Convention the Optimist International Foundation and a Tri-Star type Sports program approved. <b>INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION CLARKSVILLE MARRIOTT</b>	<b>Governor Willis G. Hagan Home Club: Columbus, Breakfast, IN</b> <b>Secretary – Treasurer 1968 – 1973 Ray T. Everly from Lafayette</b>	 <b>Optimist International Logo 1968 – 1976</b> <b>IN DISTRICT DISTINGUISHED OPTIMIST AWARD RECIPIENT CLARENCE D. EYER FROM LAFAYETTE</b>
<b>1969 – 70</b> From Van Nuys, California	<b>President Monroe Marlowe</b> 	<b>The information program on drug abuse is presented</b>		<b>Governor Louis E. Moschell from Richmond, IN</b> <b>Secretary – Treasurer 1968 – 1973 Ray T. Everly from Lafayette</b>	<b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1969 – 70</b> <b>Frank Peebles from Terre Haute, IN Indiana</b>

<p><b>1968-69</b> From Granite City, Illinois</p> <p><b>1968-1969 OI Vice President:</b> <b>Patrick L. Grady, Indianapolis, Indiana</b></p>	<p><b>President George H. Sternberg Sr.</b></p> 	<p>In 1968 OI celebrated the 50th Anniversary convention in Louisville, KY, the site of the very first convention in 1919. They also participated in the Tournament of Roses parade on New Year's Day winning most humorous for boy floating in a pond with a frog on his toe.</p>		<p><b>Governor John C. Faigh from Elkhart, IN</b></p> <p><b>Secretary – Treasurer 1968 – 1973 Ray T. Everly from Lafayette, IN</b></p>	<p><b>District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1968 – 69</b> <b>Albert C. Montgomery from New Castle, IN</b></p>
<p><b>1967 – 68</b> From Madison, Wisconsin</p>	<p><b>President William R. Newhouse</b></p> 	<p><b>In 1967 Optimist Jr. World Golf Program Created 1967-1968</b></p> <p><b>Officers/Board of Directors:</b> President—William R. Newhouse, Madison, Wisconsin President-Elect—Gene H. Sternberg Sr., Granite City, Illinois</p>	<p><b>(Cont.) Board of Directors:</b> Immediate Past President—Robert H. Leonard, Knoxville, Tennessee</p> <p><b>Past President—John R. Olvey, Plainfield, Indiana</b></p> <p>Executive Secretary—Hugh H. Cranford, St. Louis, Missouri</p>	<p><b>Distinguished Governor Herbert L. Bunch Home Club: New Castle Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1967 – 68 Ray T. Everly, Lafayette, IN</b></p>	
<p><b>1966 – 67</b> From Knoxville, Tennessee</p>	<p><b>President Robert H. Leonard</b></p> 	<p><b>1966-1967 Officers/Board of Directors:</b> <b>Among those serving: Immediate Past President—John R. Olvey, Plainfield, Indiana</b></p>		<p><b>Governor William J. Bird from Indianapolis, IN</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana District Optimist of the Year Recipient 1966 – 67 Gene D. Worl, Hagerstown</b></p>

1965-66 <b>President—John R. Olivey, Plainfield, Indiana</b>	 <b>Optimist International President John R. Olivey</b>		 <b>From Indianapolis, IN Distinguished Governor Patrick L. Grady</b>	<b>Marion C. Wilson from Indianapolis, IN Secretary-Treasurer Indiana District</b> 	
1964 - 65 <b>From North Carolina.</b>	<b>President Carl L. Bowen, D.D.S</b> 	In 1964, the Stay in School program was created to help reduce the number of high school drop-outs.	1964-1965 Board of Directors: includes Raymond F. Wilhelm, O.D., Fort Wayne, IN	<b>Distinguished Governor Albert C. Montgomery</b> <b>From New Castle, IN</b>	<b>Indiana Secretary – Treasurer Ray T. Everly, West Lafayette, IN 1964 - 65</b>
1963 - 64 <b>From Santa Monica, California</b>	<b>President George Cobley, M.D.</b> 	Octagon Clubs for high school students were formed.		<b>Distinguished Governor James O. Cain from Ft. Myers Beach, Florida and from Anderson, IN</b>	<b>Indiana Secretary – Treasurer Norman F. Tirey from Muncie, IN 1962-64</b>

<p><b>1962 – 63</b> From Midland, Texas</p>	<p><b>President John M. Grimland Jr.</b></p> 	<p><b>1962-1963 Board of Directors:</b> includes Gordon S. Thompson, Evansville, Indiana</p>	<p><b>Indiana Governor Cecil C. Flowers From Lapel, IN &amp; Chesterfield Club</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana Secretary – Treasurer Norman F. Tirey from Muncie, IN 1962-64</b></p>	
<p><b>1961 – 62</b> From Iowa City, Iowa</p>	<p><b>President Raymond R. Rembolt, M.D.</b></p> 		<p><b>Distinguished Indiana Governor Dr. Raymond F. Wilhelm Serves on O.I. Board of Directors 1964-65 From Ft. Wayne, IN</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962</b></p>	
<p><b>1960 – 61</b> From Atlanta Georgia</p>	<p><b>President John W. Whatley</b></p> 	<p><b>In 1960 a campaign against pornography reaching school age children through the family mailbox begins.</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana District Governor James W. Lewis from Terre Haute</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962</b></p>	

YEAR	O I PRESIDENT	O I OFFICERS	O I PROGRAM	IN GOVERNOR	O I LOGO
1959 - 60  From Baltimore, Maryland	President Nicholas C. Mueller 	<b>1959-1960</b> <b>Board of Directors:</b> <b>Among those serving:</b> <b>John R. Olivey, Plainfield, Indiana,</b> <b>Vice Presidents:</b> Among those listed;		<b>Governor Gordon "Bish" S. Thompson from Evansville, IN</b>  <b>IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 - 1962</b>	 Optimist International Logo 1959
1958 - 59  From Memphis, Tennessee	President J. Harold Wilkins 	 <b>Axel Damgaard modifies the Optimist Pram and renames it the Optimist Dingy.</b>	In 1958 the Optimist Pram was a boat design easy enough for a kid to build.. Axel Damgaard, a captain of a Danish tall ship, visited the U.S. and took the design, with permission, back to Denmark. He, modified it, and renamed it the International Optimist Dinghy. The IOD had a battened sail and much simplified running rigging. The new design spread quickly, first through Europe then all around the world.	<b>Governor John R. Olivey from Plainfield, IN</b>  <b>IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 - 1962</b>	 Optimist International Logo 1959

1957 – 58  From Housto n, Texas	President Harold W.  Brand	First observance of Youth Appreciation Week.	Distinguished Governor Elwood D. Gilueck from Gary, IN	IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962	
1956 – 57  From Frederic k, Maryland	President C. Lease  Bussard	1956-1957 Board of Directors: Among those listed: <a href="#">William E. Laswell of Evansville, IN</a> Vice Presidents: Also listed::: <a href="#">William E. Laswell,</a>	Distinguished Indiana District Governor Wilbur E. Smith from Indianapolis, IN	IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962	
1955 – 56  From Branford , Ontario	President Donald J. Twiss, M. D.  	In 1955, the 1,000th Optimist Club was chartered.	Distinguished Indiana District Governor William E. Laswell from Evansville, IN IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962	Indiana North District Banner lists past Distinguished Governors to identify them as memories fade and time passes.	
1954 – 55  From Louisvill e, Kentuck y	President Maurice Perkins  	Campaign against narcotics peddlers.	Governor Carl G. Cambell From Anderson, IN	IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962	

<b>1953 – 54</b>  From Dayton, Ohio	<b>President Walter A. Relling, M.D.</b>  	<b>In 1953 First International Bike Week.</b>  <b>1953-1954 Board of Directors: Included on the list:</b> <b>Gene D. Worl, Hagerstown, Indiana</b>	<b>Governor Buford H. Byers</b>  From Lafayette, IN	<b>IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962</b>	
<b>1952 – 53</b>  From Fort Worth, Texas	  <b>President J. Warren Day</b>	<b>1952-1953 Board of Directors:</b> Among those listed: <b>George O. Browne, Past President, Indianapolis, Indiana</b>	<b>Governor Gene D. Worl *of Hagerstown, IN Serves on O. I. Board of Directors</b> <b>1953-54 IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962</b>	  I found this on-line and apparently Gene D. Worl represented or advertised with the Superior Match Co. out of Chicago. Hagerstown is a very small town.	
<b>1951 – 52</b>  From Los Angeles, California	  <b>President Roly P. Nall</b>	<b>1951 Achievement and Awards Program Begun</b> <b>Board of Directors:</b> President Roly P. Nall <b>George O. Browne, Immediate Past President, Indianapolis, Indiana</b>	<b>Governor William J. Shaker from Terre Haute, IN</b>		<b>IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls., IN 1949 – 1962</b>

<p><b>1950 – 51</b></p> <p>From Indianapolis, IN</p>	<p><b>President George O. Browne*</b></p> 	<p><b>1950-1951</b></p> <p><b>Officers: Leading the list of officers:</b></p> <p><b>President—George O. Browne, Indianapolis, Indiana</b></p>	<p><b>George N. Beamer From South Bend</b></p> <p><a href="#">History of the Federal Judiciary Judges Beamer, George N.</a></p> <p>Born October 9, 1904, in Bowling Green, IN Died October 21, 1974</p> <p><b>Federal Judicial Service:</b> Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana</p>	<p>Nominated by John F. Kennedy on March 8, 1962, to a new seat authorized by 75 Stat. 80.</p> <p>Confirmed by the Senate on April 11, 1962, and received commission on April 12, 1962.</p> <p>Served as chief judge, 1972-1974.</p> <p>Service terminated on October 21, 1974, due to death.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Notre Dame Law School, LL.B., 1929 <b>Professional Career:</b> Private practice, South Bend, Indiana, 1929-1962</p>	<p>Judge, South Bend, IN</p> <p>City Court, 1933-1935</p> <p>Prosecutor, St. Joseph County, IN, 1937-1939</p> <p>City attorney, South Bend, Indiana, 1939-1941</p> <p>Attorney general, State of Indiana, 1942-1944</p> <p>Chairman, Indiana Public Service Commission, 1943-1944</p> <p><b>IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls, IN 1949 – 1962</b></p>
<p><b>1949 – 50</b></p> <p>From Washington, D.C.</p>	<p><b>President Franklin A. Steinko</b></p> 	<p><b>1949-1950</b></p> <p><b>Officers:</b> President—Franklin A. Steinko, Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>Vice Presidents: Leasing the list:</b></p> <p><b>George O. Browne, Indianapolis, IN</b></p>		<p><b>IN District Governor Paul E.. Miller from Evansville, IN</b></p>	<p><b>IN District Secretary Earl F. Beam from Indpls., IN 1949 – 1962</b></p>

<p><b>1948 – 49</b> From Denver, Colorado Executive Committee: Included: <b>George O. Browne*</b>, Governor, Indianapolis</p>	 <p><b>President C. Milton Morris</b></p>	<p>1948, Clearwater, FL picture of the “Optimist” pram designed to be built by and for youth, for a boat style Pinewood Derby</p> <p>The Optimist Club ran a soap box derby, but wanted more than a single-day event.</p>	<p>The Optimist pram was designed in 1947 by American Clark Mills at the request of the Clearwater, FL Optimist service club following a proposal by Major Clifford McKay to offer low-cost sailing for young people.</p>	 <p>The Optimist Pram Crew: 1 Design: One-Design Required</p>	<p><b>IN District Governor George O. Browne from Indianapolis, IN</b></p> <p><b>IN District Secretary – Treasurer Clyde Cory, Muncie, IN</b></p>
<p><b>1947 – 48</b> From Miami, Florida</p>	<p><b>President Lucien L. Renuart</b></p>				<p><b>IN District Governor Olive C. Reeves from Evansville, IN</b></p>
<p><b>1946 – 47</b> From Dallas, Texas</p>	<p><b>President William H. Pierce</b></p>				

<b>1945 – 46</b> From Portland, Oregon	<b>President Carl C. Donaugh</b> 	<b>1945 - 6</b> <i>Honorary Membership conferred on President Harry Truman and W.L. MacKenzie King, prime minister of Canada</i>	During the war years there were no International Conventions. 1941- 45.  <i>Membership increased from 13,000 in 1941 to 16,000 in 1945</i>		<b>Indiana District Governor A. Marshall Springer, Indianapolis, IN</b>
<b>1944 – 45</b> From Penningt on, New Jersey	<b>President Dr. Joseph W. Seay</b> 				
<b>1943 – 44</b> From Los Angeles, Californi a	 <b>President Theodore F. Peirce</b>				<b>Indiana District Governor Ira McGuire from Muncie, IN</b>

<b>1942 – 43</b>  From Kansas City, Missouri	 <b>President H. Carter Tucker</b>				
<b>1941 – 42</b>  From Lexington, Kentucky	<b>President Eldon S. Dummit</b>		<b>First Governor of “Old” Indiana District – called the INDIANA DISTRICT</b>	<b>Indiana District Governor Russell R. or M. Hirschman From Indianapolis</b>	<b>Secretary - treasurer George O. Browne, Indpls., In 1941-42 From Indianapolis</b>
<b>HISTORY THAT FOLLOWS</b>	<b>NO LONGER INCLUDES INDIANA DISTRICT</b>	<b>OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL HISTORY (cont.)</b>		<b>International History in black</b>	<b>Officers from Indiana in Blue</b>
<b>1940 – 41</b>  From Wichita, Kansas	<b>President John N.</b>   <b>Free</b>	<b><i>The organization grows to 234 clubs and 12,000 members.</i></b>	<b>Official Optimist Scrap Metal Drives, Optimist War bond drives, and Optimist Club of Welland, Ontario, created the Chocolate Fund for British children: all during the war years,</b>		

<b>1938 – 39</b>  From Los Angeles, California	<b>President Dr. F. Fern Petty</b>  		<b>District Secretary - Treasurer. J. Alfred Thompson, Indpls. , IN 1938 - 39</b>	
<b>1937 – 38</b>  From Toronto, Ontario	<b>President William J. Tamblyn</b>  	<b>1937-1938 Executive Committee:</b> William J. Tamblyn Earl G. Stanza, Immediate Past President, St. Louis, Missouri <b>Walter J. Pray, Past President, Indianapolis, Indiana</b> Solon R. Featherston Ravee Norris Thomas F. O'Keefe Theodore F. Peirce		
<b>1936 – 37</b>  From St. Louis, Missouri	<b>President Earl G. Stanza</b>  	<b>1936 Life Membership Plan introduced, financial need due to the depression.</b>	<b>1936-1937 Executive Committee:</b> <b>Walter J. Pray</b> Henry Schaffert, Immediate Past President, Washington, D.C. V. Ernest Field, Past President, Indianapolis, Indiana Orrin L. Edwards Earl G. Stanza Walter Wagner Arthur C. Stock, Governor, Dayton, Ohio	

<p><b>1935 – 36</b>  <b>From Indianapolis, Indiana</b></p>	<p><b>President Walter J. Pray*</b></p> 	<p><b>1935-1936 Officers: President—Walter J. Pray*, Indianapolis, Indiana</b>  <b>Vice Presidents:</b> Orrin L. Edwards, Minneapolis, Minnesota Earl G. Stanza, St. Louis, Missouri John G. Swope, San Antonio, Texas Walter C. Wagner, Louisville, Kentucky Secretary-Treasurer—Russell F. Meyer, St. Louis, Missouri</p>	<p><b>Executive Committee: Walter J. Pray</b> Henry Schaffert, Immediate Past President, Washington, D.C. <b>V. Ernest Field, Past President, Indianapolis, Indiana</b> Orrin L. Edwards Earl G. Stanza Walter Wagner Arthur C. Stock, Governor, Dayton, Ohio</p>		
<p><b>1934 – 35</b>  <b>From Washington, D.C.</b></p>	<p><b>President Henry Schaffert</b></p> 	<p><b>1934-1935 Officers: President: Henry Schaffert V. Ernest Field, Immediate Past President, Indianapolis, Indiana</b> David W. Onan, Past President, Minneapolis, Minnesota John A. Henderson, Governor, Toronto, Ontario</p>	<p><b>Executive Committee Cont.:</b> Dr. Ralph H. Monger, Governor, Knoxville, Tennessee Arthur C. Stock, Governor, Dayton, Ohio John G. Swope, Governor, San Antonio, Texas</p>		
<p><b>1933 – 34</b>  <b>From Indianapolis, Indiana</b></p>	<p><b>President V. Ernest Field</b></p> 	<p><b>1933-1934 Officers: President—V. Ernest Field, Indianapolis, IN</b></p>	<p><b>Vice Presidents:</b> James Booth, St. Petersburg, Florida George R. Dane, Toronto, Ontario Theodore F. Peirce, Los Angeles, California Walter C. Wagner, Louisville, Kentucky Secretary-Treasurer— Russell F. Meyer, St. Louis, Missouri</p>	<p><b>1933 – Optimist Week celebration began, (Forerunner of Youth Appreciation Week</b></p>	

<b>1932 - 33</b>  <b>From Minneapolis, Minnesota</b>		<b>President David W. Onan</b>  1932-1933 Executive Committee: Among those listed: <b>V. Ernest Field, Governor, Indianapolis, Indiana</b>		<b>District Secretary – Treasurer Don Campbell , Indpls., IN 1932 - 33</b>	
<b>1931 - 32</b>  <b>From San Francisco, California</b>		<b>President Holmes A. Sperb</b>			
<b>1930 - 31</b>  <b>From Madison, Wisconsin</b>		<b>President Robert J. Sutherland</b>			
<b>1929 - 30</b>  <b>From Dayton, Ohio</b>		<b>President Nicholas F. Nolan</b>  Organization grows to 117 Optimist Clubs and 8,000 members.	  1929-1930 Executive Committee: Among those listed: <b>Walter J. Pray, Governor (Honorary Member), Indianapolis, Indiana</b>	<b>Indiana is in District 5</b>	

1928 - 29  From Springfield, Illinois	<b>President Harlington Wood</b> 	<b>1928 – The first Oratorical contest for boys</b> <b>Executive Committee: 1928-1929</b> Walter J. Pray, Governor (Honorary Member), Indianapolis, Indiana	<b>1928-1929 Officers:</b> President—Harlington Wood, Springfield, Illinois <b>1st Vice President—</b> <b>Walter J. Pray*, Indianapolis, Indiana</b>		
1927 - 28  From Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	<b>President C. Edd Hall</b>				
1926 - 27  From Los Angeles, California	<b>President Oscar A. Smith</b>			<b>District 5 Governor 1926 - 1927 (No Indiana District Yet)</b> <b>District 5—Dr. Charles B. Kern*, Lafayette, Indiana</b>	
1925 - 26  From Milwaukee Wisconsin	<b>President Leo F. Nohl</b> 	<b>1925-1926 Executive Committee:</b> Leo F. Nohl C. Edd Hall Hal Thurston Nicholas F. Nolan	<b>(CONT.)</b> <b>Dr. Charles B. Kern*, Governor, Lafayette, Indiana</b> Harlington Wood, Governor, Springfield, Illinois	<b>District 5 Governor 1925 - 1926</b> <b>District 5—Dr. Charles B. Kern, Lafayette, Indiana (16</b> 	<p><b>THE DEBRIS</b> FOR 1903</p> <p>Published by the Debris Staff of the Class of 1903 of Purdue University.</p> <p>Indiana Delta Chapter Established 1901</p> <p>Frates in Urbe</p> <p>Thomas Green Allard, A. M. Dr. James C. Kern Wm. A. Brink, M. S. Dr. J. D. Hills Dr. Charles B. Kern</p>

<b>1924 - 25</b> <b>From New York, New York</b>	<b>President Sherman Rogers</b> 	<b>1924 Motto revised to "Friend of the Boy"</b>	<b>1924 First Junior Optimist Clubs Chartered, (Middle School Students)</b> <b>1924-1925 Officers:</b> President—Sherman Rogers, New York, New York 1st Vice President—Leo F. Nohl, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	<b>2nd Vice President—Dr. Charles B. Kern, Lafayette, Indiana</b> 3rd Vice President—H.O. Henderson, Long Beach, California 4th Vice President—Roland A. McCrady, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Secretary-Treasurer—Thomas B. Elliott, St. Louis, Missouri	
<b>1923 -24</b> <b>From St. Louis, Missouri</b>	 <b>President James W. Chilton</b>	<b>1923 "Friend of Delinquent Boy"</b> Was adopted as motto <b>1<sup>st</sup> permanent headquarters established St. Louis</b>		<b>John C. Faigh</b>	 <b>Logo 1923</b>
<b>1922 - 23</b> <b>From San Francisco, California</b>	 <b>President Jack Martin</b>	Members adopt the Optimist Creed and the purposes that guide the organization today (service to youth, community and Optimism,)			<b>O I LOGO &amp; O I OFFICERS</b>
<b>1921 - 22</b> <b>From St. Louis, Missouri</b> <b>Officers:</b> President —Cyrus Crane Willmore, St. Louis, Missouri	<b>President Cyrus Crane Willmore</b> 	1st Vice President—William B. Guyton, Los Angeles, California 2nd Vice President—J. Bailey Wray, Knoxville, Tennessee 3rd Vice President—O. L. Prohaska, Chicago, Illinois 4th Vice President—E. E. Fischer, Columbus, Ohio Treasurer—Harry B. Lewis, Springfield, Illinois <b>Secretary—Dr. Harry G. Hill, Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b> Cyrus Crane Willmore J. Bailey Wray Harry B. Lewis Dr. Harry G. Hill Ernst F. Bethke, Governor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Dr. E. E. Hagler, Governor, Springfield, Illinois <b>J. M. Schmid, Governor Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>District Governors:</b> District 1—William Henry Harrison, Hartford, Connecticut District 2—(vacant) District 3—H.E. Garrett, Louisville, Kentucky District 4—Silas Williams, Chattanooga, Tennessee <b>District 5—J. M. Schmid, Indianapolis, Indiana</b> District 6—Ernst Bethke, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	 <b>1922</b> District 7—Dr. E.E. Hagler, Springfield, IL District 8—S. M. Henley, Kansas City, Missouri District 9—William Marshall, Los Angeles, California

<p><b>1919 – 21</b>  <b>Founded June 19, 1919</b>  <b>The Original Eleven Indianap olis, IN</b>          Louisville, KY          St. Louis, MO          St. Joseph, MO          Kansas City, MO          Milwaukee, WI          Denver, CO          Kansas City KA          Syracuse, NY          Buffalo, NY          Chicago, IL          1,298 members</p>	<p><b>First Optimist International President William H. Harrison is elected</b></p>  <p>From Louisville, Kentucky. He is a descendent of the ninth president of the United States bearing the same name.</p>	<p><b>Optimist International Officers:</b>          President—William H. Harrison, Louisville, Kentucky          1st Vice President—Earl B. Bowman, St. Louis, Missouri          2nd Vice President—E. L. Monser, Buffalo, New York  <b>Secretary—Dr. Harry G. Hill, Indianapolis, Indiana</b>          Treasurer—William C. Snyder, Kansas City, Missouri</p> <p><b>First O. I. Secretary, Dr. Harry G. Hill, Indianapolis, Indiana Is elected.</b></p>	<p><b>Board of Governors:</b>          William H. Harrison          Earl B. Bowman          E. L. Monser          William C. Snyder          Section 1—C. E. DeLong, Syracuse, New York          Section 2—J. L. Schoen, Chicago, Illinois  <b>Section 3—J. M. Schmid, Indianapolis, Indiana</b>          Section 4—Rupert F. Fry, Milwaukee, Wisconsin          Section 5—C. Jasper Bell, Kansas City, Missouri          Section 6—W. K. Robertson, Springfield, Illinois          Section 7—C. Jasper Bell, Kansas City, Missouri          (appointed to represent)</p>	<p><b>First Optimist International Convention took place in Louisville, KY. In 1919. The 100th and 75th conventions were held here as well.</b></p> <p><b>In addition to the original eleven, other clubs known to be, or believed to have been in existence at the time of the convention were as follows:</b></p> <p>Los Angeles, California          San Diego, California          San Francisco, California          Washington, D.C.          Peoria, Illinois          Springfield, Illinois          Rochester, New York          Cincinnati, Ohio          Minneapolis, Minnesota          St. Paul, Minnesota          Baltimore, Maryland          Grand Rapids, Michigan          (Several of these Clubs and one or two of those represented at the convention ceased to exist within a few months.)</p>	 <p><b>District Governors</b>          Carleton E. Ladd, Buffalo, New York          J. L. Schoen, Chicago, Illinois  <b>J. M. Schmid, (a business manager for an Indy newspaper) in Indianapolis, Indiana</b>          O.L. Prohaska, Chicago, Illinois          S. M. Henley, Kansas City, Missouri          James W. Chilton, St. Louis, Missouri          William Marshall, Los Angeles, California</p>
<p><b>1917</b></p>	<p><b>Conference of Optimist Clubs held in Indianapolis.</b></p>				

1916	<p><b>Other Optimist Clubs are formed.</b> At the convention (in 1919{, the first official charter of the international organization was awarded to the club in Downtown Indianapolis, Indiana which had been founded in 1916</p>	<p>LOGO Prior to the organizational convention of Optimist International in 1919, this was one of the emblems used by the loosely connected Optimist clubs.</p>	<p><b>Downtown Indianapolis Indiana Optimist Club</b></p>
1916	<p><b>Optimist Club of Indianapolis, IN is founded followed soon by others.</b> Founders of the Indianapolis club moved ahead in the summer of 1916 to start Optimist Clubs in many other major cities. These clubs quickly grew to over 100 members each.</p>		<p>Indianapolis, IN; St. Louis, Missouri; Washington, D.C., Louisville, KY; Springfield, IL; Denver, Colorado; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin</p>
1911	<p>A new type of civic and service organization, calling itself the “Optimist Club” is formed in Buffalo, New York</p>		<p><b>Buffalo, New York</b></p>

Optimist International Leadership Development



# A Brief History Of Optimist International



Optimist International

1

## History of Optimist International with Indiana's Contributions

### 1900s – The Beginnings

As industrialization and urbanization brought many new problems to society; citizens began forming voluntary organizations to address the needs of their communities. In some areas, groups took the name “optimist club” to express their desire for a positive outlook in the face of all these problems. The first official Optimist Club was formed in Buffalo, New York, in 1911.

**Impetus for a nationwide Optimist movement began when the Optimist Club of Indianapolis, Indiana, was formed in May 1916. Envisioning a nationwide organization, founders of the Indianapolis club moved ahead in the summer of 1916 to start Optimist Clubs in many other major cities.**

These clubs quickly grew to more than 100 members each. As a result, **a national conference of the American clubs took place in 1917 in Indianapolis.**

### 1919 – The Founding of Optimist International

Times were good. World War I had been fought and won and spirits were high in America. It was an ideal time for the birth of Optimism. The association of clubs that is known today as Optimist International was formed on June 19, 1919, when representatives of 11 clubs (**including the Indianapolis Club**) held a convention in Louisville, Kentucky, and adopted the name International Optimist Club. During the convention, William Henry Harrison, a descendent of the ninth president of the United States bearing the same name, was elected the first International President of Optimist international. Over the next three years, the organization grew to 49 clubs and 4,000 members.

**1920s – A Full-fledged Organization is formed** In October 1920; the first edition of ***The Optimist*** magazine was published. Each of the 27 clubs was asked to report in at least once a month with news of their club.

In 1922, the **Optimist Creed** was adopted as the official creed of the organization. Written by Christian Larson, the creed was originally published under the title “Promise Yourself” in 1912. Optimists in California found the Optimist spirit well-expressed in the 10-line statement and pushed to have it adopted organization-wide. Soon after, the creed's popularity grew.

In August 1922, the first official emblem of Optimist International was developed and adopted. The emblem consisted of a youngster with a beaming countenance and the words “International Optimist Club.” Along with the smiling face appeared another symbol. It had a sun in its center and the words “Friendship, Sociability, Loyalty, Reciprocity” around it as a border.

From the beginning, Optimist Clubs directed major efforts toward youth service. **As a result, in 1923, the motto “Friend of the**

**Delinquent Boy" was chosen, setting the course of the organization. The motto was introduced by Dr. Hartloft, a medical examiner in Evansville, Indiana, who became a community leader when he served as past president of the Big Brother movement.**

In 1924, it was voted by the convention delegates that the Optimist International motto be revised to "Friend of the Boy." Also in 1924, the first organization-wide youth service program was established with the chartering of Junior Optimist Clubs. Its purpose was to instill the value of volunteering in young boys. During the 1924 convention in Milwaukee, the Junior Optimist Club idea really began to spread. The delegates voted the right of Optimist International to charter Junior Optimist Clubs everywhere, with an Optimist Club as its sponsor. The idea spread like wildfire and right before World War II, there were 42 Junior Optimist Clubs formed with several hundred youth members.

Also in 1924, history was made when the Optimist Club of Toronto, Ontario, was formed, the first club outside the United States. Four months later, the second Canadian Optimist Club was chartered in Hamilton, about 40 miles west of Toronto.

In 1928, an organization-wide **Oratorical Contest** was started for the Junior Optimist Clubs. Today, this remains the oldest and most well-known program of Optimist International. In 1929, the organization grew to 117 Optimist Clubs and 8,000 members. On October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed and so began the Great Depression. Optimists immediately recognized the much-needed philosophies of Optimism.

## **1930s – Meeting the Challenge**

During the early 1930s, as a result of the Great Depression, membership dropped significantly. Despite the dropping numbers, Optimists continued to increase their youth service, tripling the number of youths reached. In fact, there were twice as many Junior Optimist Clubs in 1931 as there had been in 1929. As a result of diminishing membership and a shortage of dues, in 1936, the Life Membership Plan was introduced as a means of gaining some ready cash without borrowing. At the turn of the decade, membership in Optimist International had climbed to 11,129 members, more than twice what it had been just six years earlier.

## **1940s – The War Years**

During the 1940s, World War II took force and both United States and Canadian citizens recognized the need for civilian support. To do their part, Optimist Clubs quickly joined forces to start the official Optimist Scrap Metal Drives. In Canada, there was growing concern for the needs of children living overseas near the fighting. Out of this concern arose a new project, the Chocolate Fund. Also during the war, millions of dollars were raised in Optimist-sponsored war bond drives. During the years of World War II, no International Conventions were held because of travel restrictions and the need for Optimists to remain on the job till the war was won. Four Wartime Conferences were substituted for conventions to carry on administrative work. Surprisingly, membership did not drop during the war years. As more and more men discovered the value of community service membership increased from 13,000 in 1941 to 16,000 in

1945.

## 1950s – Launching New Programs

During the 1950s, Optimist Clubs were becoming increasingly well-known for their efforts and youth service. It was also a decade in which many new programs were born.

In April 1953, the first international **Bike Safety Week** took place, with its purpose being to inform youngsters of the safe operation of bikes and inspire safety habits. The 1950s were also a time in which Optimists recognized that there were kids who needed their help. In San Antonio, a young clergyman called the attention of his Optimist Club to the homeless and neglected boys sleeping under bridges and on the streets. This led to the **start of many boys' homes throughout the country**. In 1955, the 1,000th Optimist Club was chartered. In 1957, Optimist International celebrated the first observance of **Youth Appreciation Week** on an international basis to recognize and commend children and teenagers who are too often given a bad rap.

## 1960s – A Decade of Great Expansion

In 1960, a full-fledged campaign was launched to **work against pornography** reaching school-age children through the family mailbox. In 1963, the Optimist Youth Clubs program was expanded to include Octagon Clubs for high school students. In 1964, the **Stay in School program** was created to help reduce the number of high school drop-outs. In 1965, a new program was undertaken in an effort to combat apathy toward crime and the dispensation of justice. With the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Optimist International began **Respect For Law Week**. One of the more visual aspects of this program is the **Optimist International Respect For Law Citation**, which recognizes citizens for outstanding service at a crime scene by aiding police.

In 1968, Optimist International celebrated the organization's Golden Anniversary convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the site of the very first convention in 1919. In 1969, membership topped the 100,000 mark.

## 1970s – Rapid Growth

In 1971, Optimist International grew to almost 3,000 clubs and 105,000 members. At the 1971 convention, it was announced that the International Board had approved the **Optimist International Foundation** to operate exclusively for the charitable, literary or educational purposes of Optimist International. During the 1971 convention, the International Board approved the Tri-Star Basketball Program for boys, known today as the **Tri-Star Sports Program**. The first year of the Tri-Star competition saw more than 300 clubs and 75,000 young participants. On November 5, 1971, President Nixon signed the first **Youth Appreciation Week Proclamation** declaring the week of November 8 as the official Youth Appreciation Week. He commended the youth and challenged them to be leaders for the next generation and to "build a compassionate world."

In 1972, Optimist International's motto was changed to "Friend of Youth" to reflect **service to both girls and boys**. The 3,000th Optimist Club was founded.

Society began to realize environmental issues were increasingly becoming a concern and the result of a **new Optimist program titled L-I-F-E – Living Is For Everything**.

Also in 1972 was the launch of **AVOID, a new program to combat syphilis and gonorrhea**. With the creation of this program, Optimist International became the first service club organization to address this type of need.

In 1978, the International Board of Directors voted to sponsor one the most prestigious junior golf events in the world. Today, Optimist International sponsors its own tournament the **Optimist International Junior Golf Championships**. More than 5,000 junior golfers ages 10 to 18 compete in qualifying tournaments at the club and district level in hopes of making it to the international tournament. In 1978, the **Help Them Hear program** was rolled out, giving many clubs a chance to do something for hearing-impaired youth and adults.

### **1980s – A Time of Change**

In August 1980, 48 residents of Kingston, Jamaica, were officially installed as Optimists. The Optimist Club of Kingston immediately became part of the Florida district, Jamaica's closest Optimist neighbor. This was the organization's first step in a successful Caribbean expansion project.

In 1983, a new and special Optimist program for high school students was created – the essay contest. During the 1980s, the most prevalent social issue around was the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Optimist International, in concern for youth during this time, adopted the **Just Say No substance abuse prevention program in 1985**. As part of the Just Say No program, Optimists created a chicken mascot named "Mr. Resister" (chicken being an acronym of Cool, Honest, Intelligent, Clear-headed, Keen, Energetic and Not interested in drugs). Although Optimists were one of the many supporters of **Just Say No**, they were perhaps the most active with more than 1.5 million children already reached in the first two years of the program.

In 1987, concerns had grown about possible legal challenges to men-only provisions in the organization and the Optimist International Board of Directors responded by **voting to admit women to the membership**. Also in 1987, statistics revealed that Optimist efforts reached five million young people each year.

In 1988, the Optimist International Board of Directors established the **Optimist International Foundation of Canada**, to provide a vehicle for tax-deductible contributions by Canadian members.

In 1988, the organization recognized the rapid growth of Optimist Youth Clubs, which had grown to 30,000 members in 1,000 Junior Optimist and Octagon Clubs, and formed its own international organization – **Junior Optimist Octagon International**.

### **1990s – Looking Toward the Future**

In 1992, a new and innovative program, titled **Optimists in Action Day**, was introduced as a pilot program to unite Optimists and other volunteers in the community in a single day of community or youth service. Also in 1992, Optimist International took a step further in its substance abuse efforts by introducing the **"get real!" anti-steroid program**. This program reached schools all over the world and

taught youth to become healthy and fit through nutrition and other natural means, not through steroids.

Twelve years after the first club was built, **Jamaica was awarded its own district**. With 25 clubs in **Jamaica, Barbados and Antigua**, the Jamaica District was born in 1992, with Theodore Golding serving as Charter Governor.

In August 1993, the first ever Jamaica Convention took place in Ocho Rios, St. Ann, Jamaica. Just a few years – and several new clubs – later **the Jamaica District officially became the Caribbean District** on Oct. 1, 1996. The district had 38 clubs. Optimism sprinkled into several new island nations, including **Saint Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla and Saint Lucia**.

In 1998, the islands of **Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago** were added to the Caribbean District, while **Cayman, Barbuda, Tortola and the Turks and Caicos** became part of the district the following year.

In 1993, **Alpha Clubs created for grades one through four** became an official part of Junior Optimist Octagon International. On June 5, 1993, Optimist Clubs all over the world gathered for the first annual **Optimists in Action Day** and made a difference in their communities. Later that summer, Optimist International kicked off its **75th anniversary year at the 75th International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the site of the first and 50th conventions**.

In 1996, Optimist International received corporate backing from Morton International for a new safety awareness program – **Always Buckle Children in the Backseat (ABC)**. **Optimists embraced the ABC program, making it one of the most successful programs in history**. In 1997 ESPN covered the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, making Optimist International the first service club organization to ever have a worldwide event televised. In 1998, Optimist International's float won the "National Trophy" in the Tournament of Roses Parade for best depicting the overall theme of "Hav'n' Fun." In July 1999, Optimists celebrated the 75th anniversary of Optimists Clubs in Canada with the International Convention held in Toronto.

### **Optimism for the New Millennium**

The turn of the century was a turning point in the organization's storied history. Following the International Convention in Reno, Nevada, **the inaugural Optimist International Junior Bowling Championships (OIJBC)** took place there.

In July 2001, Optimists found themselves seated in the White House, pledging to support U.S. President George W. Bush's goal to mentor one million children. Optimist International President Bob Garner called the meeting "yet another sterling example of 'Optimists Bringing Out the Best in Kids.'"

Also in 2001, Optimist International introduced the **Childhood Cancer Campaign** to provide awareness and support of children battling cancer and the challenges their families face. In 2004, the organization made a \$1 million commitment to Johns Hopkins to underwrite a research focus.

Optimist International signed up the first **Friend of Optimists in 2005**. This class of membership allows individuals to show their support of the organization's mission if they are unable to commit as a traditional club member. Also in 2005, the Optimist Junior Golf Program expanded to include the Optimist International Tournament of Champions **for top-performing junior golfers ages 14 to 18**.

In 2006, Junior Optimist Octagon International introduced the **JOOI of treading** program. Less than two decades after Optimist International welcomed women as members in the organization, **Ronnie Dunn became the first female International President** in October 2006. Her year in office was followed by Theo W. Golding of Kingston, Jamaica, who became the first International President from outside Canada and the United States. With children being introduced to the internet at earlier and earlier ages, the organization began an **Internet Safety** program in 2008 to keep children educated and safe from online predators.

In an effort to expand and further promote Optimist International's most well-known program, the first **Optimist Oratorical World Championships** took place at Saint Louis University in 2016. That program continues in 2020-21 with reduced funding from the original of \$75,000 first place award, remain substantial amount geared to what contributions are obtained to support it.