



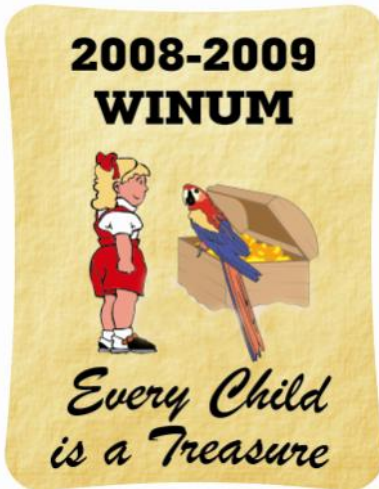
# Optimist International

## WINUM DISTRICT



Fourth Quarter Newsletter

July 2009



### Governor Thad's Message

The time for cheese curds, brats, hot dogs, soda and beer is here. Most people call it summer, but Optimists know that the real name of the season is "Fund Raiser" and are optimistic that it will act like summer so that we are all able to raise the money we need to fund our activities. Few things are worse than rain when you need sunshine or unbelievably hot when you need a nice mild day.

Thunder storms quickly pass through, but tornados or floods never turn out to be a good thing.

It's also time for those that will be attending the Optimist International Convention in Florida to be getting things in order. I looked at my check list and see that I have registered, purchased my airplane ticket and have my room reserved. All I need to do now is pack and show up. I'm looking forward to a great time of learning and fellowship.

The WINUM District is continuing to do well. We are currently plus 5 members from the beginning of the Optimist year and with proper management of our additions and deletions should be able to end the year on a positive membership note. Another new club or two or more would really enhance those numbers! Remember, more Optimists serve more kids. If you want your club to do the ultimate service project, build an Optimist Club where there is none now and service a whole community! Potential Optimists are out there waiting for us to ask them if they can help.

I'm happy to say that the District NFL Fund Raiser has gotten off to a GREAT start! I do believe that we have over 4000 tickets in circulation at this time. I look at that as an opportunity for our clubs to raise \$40,000 to serve kids. Is your club taking advantage of this opportunity? If not and you want to, let me know and we'll see if we can send some tickets your way. We have pretty much all summer to sell and they sell as well when it's raining as when the sun is shining.

(continued on page 2)



2008-2009
<b>4th Quarter</b> August, 21 & 22, 2009 Wisconsin Rapids (Hotel Mead)
2009-2010
<b>1st Conference</b> Nov 6 & 7, 2009 (Green Bay)
<b>2nd Conference</b> Apr 29 & 30, 2010 (Rothschild)
<b>Convention</b> Aug 20 & 21, 2010 (Eau Claire)

## Governor Thad's Message (Continued from page 1)

If you were not at the last conference in Mishicot, I strongly urge you to attend 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Convention in Wisconsin Rapids. I know that all of the details are in this newsletter. I can think of no better way to serve the youth of your community than by supporting your District and taking advantage of the training and networking opportunities that are available. We all learn from each other. None of us have to stand alone. For an Optimist Club to stand alone, that path has to be chosen. We make more of an impact on the lives of children when we all work together.

Please be aware that we have an International Guest visiting us in Wisconsin Rapids. Sandy Larivee will be visiting the sunny south (she is from Canada) and will be available to help with training. Her Optimist Bio is also in this newsletter. The final request that I have for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter is to please let me know if any members of your clubs have passed away this Optimist year. We will be holding our memorial service during lunch and I do not want to miss anyone.

In closing, I just want to say that an Optimist's work is never done. Although this year is flying by, we have plenty to do in and with our clubs. So, sell that brat and batter those cheese curds. Attend that picnic and pay for those scholarships. Sign-up that new member and build that new club. There is no time like the present to take care of the future.

*Thad Streeter*

*2008-09 Governor*

Please contact me as needed:

[tls0726@hotmail.com](mailto:tls0726@hotmail.com)

(715) 574-2777

Thad Streeter

5002 Tanya St.

Schofield, WI 54476.



# REMEMBER...

**There is still a lot of time in this Optimist  
Year for you to sponsor a New Member  
OR Build that New Club !**

## **GOVERNOR-ELECT MESSAGE**



Things have really been in high gear for the WINUM District since our last District Newsletter. Lucille and I have criss-crossed the WINUM District a number of times, attending Zone Meetings, Club Meetings, and even a New Club Installation Banquet. What a great opportunity this has been to get better acquainted with the members of our great WINUM District. A big thank you to all of you who have made Lucille and I feel so welcomed.

We have been working the past several months on putting our new District Team together for the upcoming Optimist Year, 2009-2010. We are so impressed by the response that we receive when asking members to accept the challenge of moving up the ladder and serving on the upcoming District Team. Thank you again to all those who have accepted this great opportunity, and we look forward to working with all of you.

We have made some changes to our Conference scheduling for the 2009-2010 year, so mark your calendars. Instead of having the traditional 3 Conferences and 1 Convention, we have scheduled 2 Conferences and 1 Convention. The schedule is as follows:

First Conference is November 6-7, 2009 at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay, WI.

Executive Board Meeting is January, 2010.

Second Conference is April 29-30, 2010 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Rothschild, WI.

The District Convention is August 20-21, 2010 at the Ramada Convention Center in Eau Claire, WI.

With the great District Team that we have working on the planning and scheduling of all the District activities, we feel the new Conference schedule will work.

For now, we need to FOCUS on a strong finish for the 2008-2009 year. With most of the youth activities at the Club level complete for this Optimist year, we need to FOCUS on adding new members and new clubs. At a Club level, we should strive to be nothing less than Honor Club and to achieve this, one requirement is we must finish this year with your Club at a Net + in membership. When we accomplish this, we not only help strengthen our Club by adding new members or new clubs, but create the opportunity to help countless numbers of kids with our youth programs. At our last look at the Optimist International T-Shot Report, it showed the WINUM District #23 at a Net + in membership. Let's make it happen, minimum Honor Club for all 64 Clubs in the WINUM District.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention has a lot of things happening – distinguished guest speaker, President, Secretary/Treasurer, Lt. Governor training and workshops. Saturday afternoon and evening, you will have the opportunity to meet and greet your up and coming District Team at the Installation Banquet. Please plan to attend; after all we are here to work with/for you.

As I speak to you in the upcoming year, you will know that most of what I have to say will come from the heart. It's not by the gray of my hair that you can tell the age of my heart. See you all at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention and think about FOCUSING ON THE STARS.

**Smile:** *It's the universal language. A smile costs nothing but gives much. A smile brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, and sunshine to the sad.*

John VanBeek, Governor Elect  
715-839-8739  
[signman2@charter.net](mailto:signman2@charter.net)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention in Wisconsin Rapids

It's hard to believe we are ready for the 'changing of the guard' at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention! Where has the year gone?!

A BIG thank you to the Wisconsin Rapids Club! They are doing a great job preparing for the Annual Steak Fry to be held at the Municipal Zoo. Take time to tour the zoo which features animals native to Wisconsin, the petting area and gardens! Thank you also to Governor Thad Streeter's home club, the Everest Area Optimists, who will be hosting the hospitality room at the hotel on Friday and Saturday nights!

Saturday will feature training for incoming presidents and secretary/treasurers, a presentation by retired Brigadier General Gerald Miller and our guest from Optimist International, Sandy Larivee, (08-09 Vice President) who is Executive Director of Essex Youth Center in Essex, Ontario Canada.

The installation banquet on Saturday evening will feature entertainment by Karate America-Wisconsin Rapids' award-winning *Special Forces* group. Governor-Elect John Van Beek has requested a kids' group entertain at his installation and at all future conferences! *Special Forces* practices freestyle karate -- combining traditional martial arts styles with modern day practices -- with emphasis on respect, responsibility and focus to promote life skills development.

Don't miss out on what will be a great convention! Make your reservations at the Hotel Mead today!



Laurel Schirmer  
Conference/Convention Chair

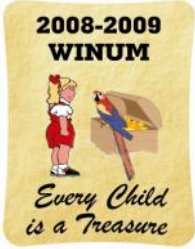
"Golf is a game in which you yell "fore," shoot six, and write down five."

"I've never seen a monument erected to a pessimist."

"In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these."



*Paul Harvey*



**WINUM Convention  
August 21 & 22, 2009  
Mead Hotel  
Wisconsin Rapids WI**



**Friday August 21, 2009**

3:00 PM – 6:00PM Registration  
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Executive Board Meeting  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Steak Fry / Zoo

**Saturday August 22, 2009**

7:00 AM Registration table opens  
7:00 AM Past Governors Breakfast  
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM First Timers Meeting  
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM Welcome, Parade of banners  
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM Brigadier General Gerald Miller  
Noon -1:30 PM Lunch / Raffle  
Memorial Service  
Presentation by International Guest Sandy Larivee  
1:45 PM – 2:45PM Strategic Thinking for the Upcoming Optimist year  
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM President / Secretary / Treasure Trainings  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM General Session  
Committee Reports



5:30 PM Cash Bar  
6:00—8:00PM Governors Banquet  
Installation of 2009-2010 Team





**Keynote Speaker**  
**Fourth Quarter Convention**  
 August 21 & 22, 2009

**Brigadier General**  
**Gerald L. Miller**

**United States Marine Corps (Retired)**



Brigadier General Gerald L. Miller last served as the Staff Judge Advocate (JAG) to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Director, Judge Advocate Division, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

General Miller, from Brillion, Wisconsin, was born September 9, 1942, in Appleton, Wisconsin. He graduated from Brillion High School (1960) and received a B.A. degree in political science from Marquette University in June 1964. After graduation, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He also holds a J.D. (Law) Degree from Marquette University Law School (1975).

Upon completion of The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia, in December 1964, he served as an infantry platoon commander with the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions. He deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in 1965, where he served with the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, until wounded in action. He next served as a public affairs officer with the Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Chicago, until reporting to Pensacola, Florida, for flight training in January 1967. Upon completion of flight training, he was designated a naval aviator on July 1, 1968. He was promoted to captain in March 1967.

From July 1968 to October 1969, General Miller served as an RF-4B (Phantom II) and EF-10 (Skynight) pilot and squadron adjutant with Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 3, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California. From October 1969 to October 1970, he was an assistant operations officer and the aviation safety officer (RF-4B) with Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1 for his second tour in Vietnam.

Returning from overseas, he completed the Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, in August 1971, then served for a year as a flight instructor with Navy Training Squadron 10, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

From August 1972 to June 1975, General Miller attended Marquette University Law School under the Marine Corps' Excess Leave Program (Law). While attending law school, he was promoted to major in October 1973. Following graduation, he served as chief trial counsel, chief defense counsel, military justice officer, and court-martial review officer at the Law Center, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California.

General Miller attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College from August 1978 to June 1979. Ordered overseas, he served as a military judge at Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, until December 1979, when he assumed duties as the staff judge advocate, 3d Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, until June 1980. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in June 1980.

From June 1980 to July 1983, he served as the staff judge advocate for the 1st Marine Brigade and Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Upon completion of this tour, he was selected to attend the Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In May 1984, he was promoted to colonel. For the next four years, he was assigned to the Office of the Navy Judge Advocate General in Washington, D.C., where he served as the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Civil Affairs) and Assistant Director, Administrative Law Division.

In August 1988, General Miller was assigned to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, as the staff judge advocate. He was next detailed for duty as Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Director, Judge Advocate Division, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., on September 1, 1990. General Miller was advanced to his present grade on October 27, 1990. He was placed on the retired list on November 1, 1993.

His decorations and medals include: the Distinguished Service Medal; Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Distinguished Flying Cross; Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; Purple Heart; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal with numeral 16; Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars; Navy Achievement Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with one bronze star; National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star; Vietnam Service Medal with silver star; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross); Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Action); and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

General Miller is married to the former Lynn Rapozo, of Lihue, Hawaii. They have three children, J. Peter, a Marine Corps Reserve captain and teacher in Appleton, Wisconsin; Penelope, a former Peace Corps volunteer and teacher in Hortonville, Wisconsin; and Paige, a former Peace Corps volunteer and international aid worker in Sudan, Africa.

*BY: Judy Goodchild*

*Leadership, Development Team*

## LT. GOVERNORS ZONE REPORTS

**ZONE 2: Cheryl Niemuth Lt. Gov:** Tis the season for fundraisers.....**Mosinee** held a Brat Fry at Charlie's Hardware on Memorial Day Weekend in conjunction with Respect for Law Week. Over \$450 was made in three short hours on Saturday! (Charlie's donates \$100 towards food, and asks that a Free Will Offering be used.) Handouts were given to parents on Internet Safety, Take 25 Campaign, DARE, illegal drugs, and vehicle safety. Kids received stickers, balloons, and work books. Safety gun locks were also available. Free gun locks are still available at Charlie's Hardware, while supply lasts. The next fundraiser will be the evening of July 4th at the Mosinee Fire Works. The **Everest Club** had their BIGGEST DAY EVER in the history of Cheese Curd sales at their Spring Fest in May making nearly \$4,000. This was 1 week after a successful bike rodeo that attracted about 200 kids. They also presented over \$6,000 in high school scholarships including a scholarship to our District Essay Contest winner. **Marshfield Optimist Club** just completed another successful Dairyfest Beer Garden Fund-raiser. With the construction that is going on in Marshfield, all of Dairyfest was moved down to the fairgrounds which force the club to change their venue. Renting the Marshfield Hockey Association building worked out very well as it rained on Saturday and it gave people a place to get out of the rain and warm up. On Friday night music was again provided by DJ, Bubbles Road Show and Saturday's band, Slab drew over 1,000 people! Although the rain attributed to a slight decline in beer sales, the final numbers should post a very successful event. The **Neillsville Club** made over \$1,000 on their first Flower Sale with Jamie Potter! It was an easy day of work and will definitely be adding this to their calendar next year. They had an emotional Respect for Law event with tearful stories of a local Principal being saved by his student, and a police woman pulling a passenger from a burning vehicle. Next will be their County Fair in August. Their meeting place has closed so they will be looking for a new place to gather. The **Plover Breakfast Club** has continued their Monthly tradition of honoring a local 6th Grade Student at their monthly meetings. The student prepares a speech, and is accompanied by his or her parents and the School Principal. Members are always amazed at the poise and Optimistic Spirit of the students and their speeches. The **Wisconsin Rapids Club** had 34 Foursomes attend their Annual Golf Outing with the Boys and Girls Club in 90 Degree Heat! You gotta love Wisconsin, were we will do anything for Packer or Badger Tickets if it involves Golf or doing "something for the kids! The **Wausau Noon Optimists** are especially proud of Alfred Nakhla's acceptance to serve as Lt Governor for the 2009-2010 term. His love of Optimism and commitment to his club will be an inspiration to our zone. The club handed out their annual High School Scholarships and were very proud of their Essay Contestant at the Zone Conference. Their membership is increasing with those two little words, Just Ask. Ask them to attend a meeting and then start talking about all the fun you have. It's working – Congratulations! **Stevens Point Noon** held their "first ever" Brat Fry at County Market and had a BLAST. Good money for the kids, and a good time by the members. This will differ-ently be on their calendar next year. *I remember talking at our Zone meeting about recession proofing our fundraisers. Either everyone did, or I was wrong. (Doug, my husband usually wants a picture of me whenever I am wrong....let me know - I'll send you one.)*

**ZONE 5: Jim Mayefske, Lt. Gov:** The zone 5 clubs are to be congratulated for doing one big combined community service project. This is the first time that this has been done in the zone and the project they supported was "Take a kid to a ball-game". On July 14<sup>th</sup> the first 500 kids 14 and under were given free admission and a free hotdog and soda at the Green Bay Bullfrogs baseball game. Great job zone 5 clubs. Looking back the last couple of months the **Green Bay Preble Club** had a successful Easter Egg Hunt and gave away a thousand pounds of candy to the estimated 500 kids attending. The Club also donated 9 bikes to the "Winners Wear Helmets" program in Green Bay. The Preble Club will be celebrating their club's 45<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary with a river cruise on the Foxy Lady in July. The **Green Bay Wednesday Club** had a successful NOW meeting with Packers President Mark Murphy as the featured speaker. New members to follow. The **Green Bay Allouez Club** had another successful car show despite some goofy weather (hail). The **Green Bay Phoenix Club** and the **Green Bay Thursday Breakfast Club** have been busy selling the WINUM District's Raffle Ticket making a nice \$1000 profit on a 100 tickets sold. Good luck to all the clubs that took on this endeavor.

*(Editors Note: Cheryl & Jim were the only Lt. Governors to submit a report for this edition)*

## **Our Optimist International Guest**

**SANDRA LARIVÉE**

**2008-2009, International Vice President**

### **Personal Data**

Spouse: Ron  
 Children: Michael, Rhonda, Andrea  
 Mailing Address: 137 Langtry Street  
 Essex, Ontario N8M 1H1, Canada

### **Occupation**

Executive Director, Essex Youth Centre (teen drop-in centre providing resources & services for teen youth)

### **Professional/Civic/Trade Information**

National Board of Directors, TYPS (Town Youth Participation Strategies)  
 Board Member, Jumpstart Nutritional Programs, Essex County  
 Essex County Youth Justice Committee

### **Education**

Social Services, Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario

### **Optimist International Service**

*Club Level:* Optimist Club of Essex; Optimist Club of Kingsville; Essex Youth Centre Optimist Club; Jumpstart Nutritional Programs Optimist Club

Secretary; 1994-95, 2004-06  
 Director; 1995-96, 1998-99, 2002-04  
 Vice President; 1999-02  
 Distinguished President; 1996-97  
 Treasurer; 1993-94

*District Level:* Southwest Ontario

Chair, Convention Committee; 2006-07  
 Chair, Finance & A&A Committees; 2005-06  
 Chair, New Club Building Committee; 2003-05  
 Distinguished Governor; 2002-03  
 Chair, Leadership Development Committee; 2001-02  
 Chair, Membership Committee; 2000-01  
 Chair, Oratorical Committee; 1998-00  
 Distinguished Lieutenant Governor; 1997-98

*International Level:*

Member, New Club Building Committee; 2006-07  
 Co-chair, New Club Building & Strategic Growth Committees; 2005-06  
 Certified Club Builder; 2003-present



## CPA PROJECTS

Jo Ann Gustavson, WINUM CPA Chair [guswalk@tds.net](mailto:guswalk@tds.net) 715-937-4988

I am sure that a lot of clubs are planning and working towards being Honor Club for the 2008/2009 year. Well, don't forget about your CPA (Community Project Award). This year this is one of the requirements of being Honor Club.

So go ahead, start preparing your CPA project, and mail it to me anytime prior to September 30, 2009.

I hope to get lots of CPA's to judge this year. Why not share what your club is doing with others!



## Can We Top This?

The wonderful efforts of club officers and Lt. Governors have led to new highs! In the first quarter a total of 24 Achievement & Awards (A&A) forms were completed! During the second quarter a record high of 25 A&A forms were received. In addition, Jim Maysfske, Lt. Governor of Zone 5, had 100% of his 7 clubs complete the forms. Not far behind was Jackie Parish, Lt. Governor of Zone 8, with only one club failing to turn in their A&A form. I know she is striving to have 100% of the clubs in Zone 8 complete the form.

So why is completing the A&A form important? The items on the form indicate the health of your club. The reporting clubs show growth in membership, lots of service projects and involvement at the zone and district levels. Great club leadership makes for great service to the children in your communities.

This is your challenge for the third quarter: Can more than 25 clubs complete the A&A form? Can more that one zone have all clubs in the zone complete the form? Can we serve more youth? Yes, we can. As your A&A chairperson I am committed *"To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best."*

Alice Baldini  
District Awards & Achievements Chair  
[abaldini@nelson-tel.net](mailto:abaldini@nelson-tel.net)  
(715) 672-5149

Download the A&A Form at [www.winum.com](http://www.winum.com) (District Forms page)

**Yes We Can !**



## A HALLIE SUCCESS STORY

By John VanBeek

Like a great many other Optimist Clubs, the Hallie Wisconsin Optimist club awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. Also like many other clubs, they usually receive a written thank you letter from the scholarship recipients each year.

Things were no different for the Hallie club back in 2003 when one of the scholarships that they awarded went to a young lady named Emily Steward, then a senior at Chippewa Falls Senior High School. The scholarship was awarded and they received a thank you letter from Steward who attended UW-Eau Claire. Quite sometime later however, the club again received a thank you from Steward, this time in the form of a personal visit to a club meeting.

In May Of 2009, six years after receiving her scholarship from the Hallie club, Steward attended a regular meeting of the club and personally thanked them again for the scholarship. Steward was at the regular club meeting to assist with the clubs Youth of the Month program which honors fifth grade students. The club has area fifth grade teachers recommend students to be honored and on this particular day the teacher that recommended the student, Anna Rueden, and was present at the club meeting with Anna being honored was Emily Steward. She is now a fifth grade teacher at Stillson Elementary in Chippewa Falls and was honored to attend the Hallie Club meeting and have the opportunity to thank the club personally for the scholarship she received in 2003.

It was quite rewarding for the Hallie Club to realize their scholarship was partially responsible for Steward's education and that she is actually back in the Chippewa Falls community working with youth. The club can't help but wonder if the fact that an Optimist Club, known for "Bringing Out The Best In Kids" helped Steward through college and may have had some influence on her decision to become an elementary school teacher so that she can also help Bring Out The Best In Kids.



**OIF ~ IT IS YOURS, IT IS FOR THE KIDS, IT IS OURS**  
**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION**



**It is "your" foundation.** There are many organizations asking for money. All are worthy causes. But what set's the Optimist International Foundation apart from the others is **YOU** the Optimist member. All the others have the general public to raise money for them; OIF has only **you**, the membership. That is why it is "**YOUR**" foundation. For this reason it is so important that you make the Optimist International Foundation a priority when **you** make **your** decision as to what group (or groups) will receive your hard earned money. This needs to be a commitment of your club as well as an individual commitment.

**It is for the kids.** During the May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> third quarter conference at Fox Hills Resort in Mishicot, we saw and heard the benefits of the foundation's **unrestricted** fund; referring to the winners of the Oratorical, CCDHH and the Essay contest. These young men and women received scholarships funded by the Optimist International Foundation's unrestricted fund. Without your support and contributions to the unrestricted fund these scholarships would not be possible. And during this time of lay offs and cut backs, your commitment is even more important.

**It is ours.** We all say that we do not want recognition for what we do but we all smile and are appreciative when we are recognized for something we or our club has done. Remember only donations to the "unrestricted fund" count towards personal and/or club goals and recognition. It is never too late to hold a foundation event in your club.

May 8, 2009

## Column: Song's lyrics can make a difference

By Charlie Pufahl

I occasionally visit other Optimist Clubs' Web sites to see what they are doing and, possibly, to get ideas that we can implement in the Everest Area Optimist Club. Recently, I visited the site of the Old River Optimist Club of Perdido Key, Fla. ([www.olderdriveroptimist.com](http://www.olderdriveroptimist.com)).

The club is a supporter of Capstone Academy, a small charter school that teaches children who struggle with autism and other conditions. The club is very musically oriented and, because the children at Capstone respond so positively to music, the club wrote the song "It Matters to Me" and dedicated it to the principal of the school.

The song tells the story of a man who is walking with his young daughter on the beach when she stops to pick up starfish and throw them back into the water. The dad asks her if it matters to keep a few of them from dying and, as the girl throws them back into the water, she says, "It matters to this one ... for another chance to grow. They just need a little help, don't you see?"

"It matters to this one, I want to help them all ... and I know I can make a difference so ... it matters to me."

The song goes on to tell that the little girl grew up to be a teacher who taught a special class of disadvantaged youths who are struggling just to pass. Again, the dad asks her if all the hard work that she did mattered.

She responds, the same as she did when asked about the starfish.

"It matters to Joseph, for another a chance to grow. They just need a little help, don't you see? It matters to Katie, I want to help them all ... and I know I can make a difference so ... it matters to me."

The song ends telling about how the dad heard a story on the news about a fire that took the life of a mother and father, leaving three children alone, and how he recalled hearing his daughter talking about the starfish and her students. He called the number given to help the family because, as his daughter said, "It matters to this one, I want to help them all ... and I know I can make a difference so ... it matters to me."

According to Larry Book, the club president and co-writer of the song, the song was runner-up in the Nashville Songwriters Association International/Country Music Television annual song-writer's contest that just ended. Book and his co-writer, Wynn Teasley, a professor at the University of West Florida, hope a major artist and label will pick up the song so they can get it on the radio and get the information out even more about helping kids. The song is sung by Matt Dame, an aspiring songwriter and artist in Nashville.

For now, the song can be heard only on the club's Web site. Book says the song is "for Optimist members everywhere," which is very appropriate because, when it comes to youths, we all can say: "It Matters To Me." Hope you all log on and listen.

Charlie Pufahl is the secretary of the Everest Area Optimist Club. Contact him at [cepufahl@charter.net](mailto:cepufahl@charter.net) or by clicking on the "feedback" link at [www.everestareaoptimist.com](http://www.everestareaoptimist.com).

*As you can tell, the above is a column that appeared in the Wausau Daily Herald's "Everest Herald". Listen to the song at the web site talked about and if you want a copy on a CD...Track Charlie down in Wisconsin Rapids. He'll have a number of CD's available and for a donation to OIF (\$5 suggested) you can have one.*



WINUM 4th QUARTER CONVENTION

August 21-22, 2009

Hotel Mead, 451 E. Grand Ave,

Wi Rapids, WI 800-843-6323

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your first \_\_\_\_\_  
conference? \_\_\_\_\_

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Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Zone # \_\_\_\_\_ Your 2008-09 office (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION INFO**

	<u>Advance</u>	<u>On Site</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
<b>Members</b>	<b>(by Aug 15th)</b>			
Registration	\$12.00	\$17.00	_____	_____
Friday Steak Fry	\$12.00	\$17.00	_____	_____
<i>At the Wi Rapids Zoo</i>				
Saturday Lunch				
<i>Sandwich buffet</i>				
Installation banquet	\$15.00	\$20.00	_____	_____
<i>Chicken &amp; tips buffet</i>				
(all menus are subject to change)				

**Spouse/Guest/Child (non-members) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

Friday Steak Fry	\$12.00	\$17.00	_____	_____
Saturday Lunch	\$15.00	\$19.00	_____	_____
Installation Banquet	\$23.00	\$28.00	_____	_____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED (make checks payable to WINUM District!) \_\_\_\_\_**

Charge to my credit card!!

**Please bring your card to the meeting for scanning.**

*Registrants who fail to attend will be charged for meals!*

\_\_\_\_\_

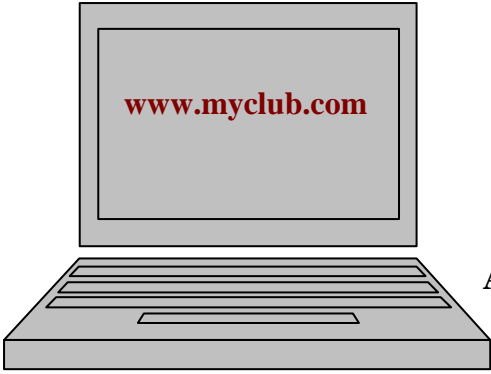
Card Name \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to request a special meal due to diet restrictions please indicate: [ YES ] [ NO ]  
Type of meal required: \_\_\_\_\_. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs.

Please send registrations to: Laurel Schirmer, 1807 North 6 Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081. If you have any questions, please call Laurel at 920-459-8759 (evenings) or e-mail: [schirmer.laurel@att.net](mailto:schirmer.laurel@att.net)

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Call Hotel Mead at 800-843-6323 or 715-423-1500.  
Ask for the WI Optimists room block. Room rate is \$79 single, \$84 double.  
Rooms "unblock" on July 31, 2009!



## Does Your Club Have A Web Site?

### Do People Know About It? Why Not?

As the newspaper article on page 11 said, I do visit other club's web sites, however it's sometimes hard to know where to find them. The Optimist International website (www.optimist.org) "Club/District Directory" page is the ideal place to find club web sites, but the site shows that only 4 of the clubs in our district have web sites. I have to believe that there are more, but Optimist International just doesn't know about them and therefore they are not listed.

If your club does have a web site & Optimist International doesn't have it listed on the "Club/District Directory" page, it's easy to get it listed.

Simply E-mail your club number, along with the link (web site address) to your site to: [webmaster@optimist.org](mailto:webmaster@optimist.org) and they will take care of getting your site listed.

Want an effortless, ongoing fundraiser for you club? You can make money every time people do a search of the internet. Learn more at:  
<http://www.goodsearch.com/Default.aspx>

2008-2009 Governor  
Thad Streeter  
715-355-5437 [h]  
[tls0726@hotmail.com](mailto:tls0726@hotmail.com)

*We're on the web*  
[www.winum.com](http://www.winum.com)

Governor Elect  
John Van Beek  
715-839-8739  
[signman2@Charter.net](mailto:signman2@Charter.net)



### THE OPTIMIST CREED

*Promise Yourself-*

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



WINUM NEWSLETTER  
Submit your articles for the WINUM District Newsletter to:  
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Rothschild, WI 54474-1143  
Phone: (715) 359-2463 [h]  
Phone: (715) 849-2679 [w]  
Phone: (715) 212-8433 [cell]  
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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
2009-10 1st Newsletter  
Article Submission Deadline  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2009**