

# Iowa Optimists - Making Connections and Standing United!

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iowaoptimist.org

Information for the Iowa Optimist members and friends everywhere!

## Our Mission:

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

IOWA DISTRICT HANDS OFF THE BATON  
2009-10 First Quarter Details  
GOVERNOR JANET'S MESSAGE  
District Events Calendar 2009-2010  
2009-10 GOALS AND COMMITTEE

Iowa District of Optimist International  
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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 of 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 see 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, and too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

PRSTD STD  
US POST PD  
Craftsman Press  
Burlington, IA 52601

***Iowa is the Number One District in Optimist International as of August 31!***



***Optimists have been "Bringing out the Best in Kids" since 1919!***

## Connecting with Membership!

by Membership Chair, Gerri Barnett



Hey Iowa Optimists! We're down to the wire with less than 30 days left to this Optimist year. We are at a net +90 members. I know WE CAN MEET OUR NET +150 member goal!

There are a number of ways to do this:

- Have a N.O.W. meeting - when Optimists come together and let everyone know that NEW

OPTIMISTS are WELCOME, there's bound to be those who join to help the kids.

- JUST ASK - if every club member would Just Ask someone if they want to help kids in the community, there will be many "yes" answers. But, you may have to ask more than once.
- Bring a Friend of Optimist (FOO) to your club. Is there a business or a person who gives support to your club? For a flat \$100/year, that association can be recognized as a membership. If the club affiliation is designated on the application, \$40 of the 'dues' is given back to that club.
- With the unemployment rate rising, there are people in your community who have recently lost their jobs. Why not give one of those people in your community a "High Five" by inviting them to become a Member of your Club? For a limited time, Optimist International will waive the international dues for one new Member in your Club. You are encouraged to do the same with your local dues as the District dues will be waived.

If you have more questions about any of these programs, please ask!

And, Governor Janet has a few ideas of her own! Read on:

Every November the health clubs promote their "Don't Gain, Maintain" programs to people so they don't gain weight over "the holidays." The twist in the Iowa District "Making Connections" Optimist year is to MAINTAIN AND GAIN.

There are 3 opportunities in this incentive plan:

1. For every Club that maintains their membership as of July 1, 2009, the Club President's name will go into a drawing to win dinner with Governor Janet and Tom Lloyd.
2. Every Club that maintains their July 1 membership and adds 1 member in the Fourth Quarter (or will be net +1 in the 4th Quarter), will receive a special banner patch.
3. Every Club that maintains its July 1 membership and ends the year Net +5, will receive a second special banner patch.

Each Club can achieve all three parts in the incentive plan.

So c'mon, all you Iowa Optimists, LET'S CONNECT FOR THE KIDS!!! Bring in a friend, family member, or an acquaintance and help us meet our goal!!! If you have any further questions, please contact Gerri at jooiful@hotmail.com or (319) 470-0417.

## DISTRICT GOALS 2009-10

Governor-Designate Barb Robertson's theme is: **"United We Stand."**

Her goals for the District are:  
(Share, Serve, Support, and Soar)

- Communication by Quarterly Newsletter (2 electronic and 2 printed and mailed)
- Promote Club growth and club membership
- Improve Member Retention
- Develop Club & District Leaders for the future

Measurables:

- Membership: Net Plus 150 (5%)
  - 5 members per club
  - Promote Member-a-Month
  - Promote 1st & 3rd Quarter N.O.W.
  - 12 New Friend of Optimists
- Clubs: 12 New Clubs (16%)
- Honor Clubs: 38 (50% of clubs)
- Distinguished Clubs: 12 (15% of clubs)
- A&A participation: 58 (75% of clubs)
- Members/Conference: 130 (30% increase)
- Clubs/Conference: 61 (80% of clubs)
- PGI: Increase participation by 25%
- Communications Contests: Increase participation of clubs by 25%
- Distinguished Lt. Governors: 12
- OIF Foundation: \$10 per member
- Dime-A-Day: 100 members
- Officer elect Forms: 62 (80% of clubs)
- CCC: \$3,500 and 20% of clubs participate
- Service Projects 3 per club

### JOOI Governor Caitlyn Miller's Goals

My goals for the 2009-10 JOOI year are:

- Increase attendance at the International JOOI Convention by 100 percent (to 18 members) for the Iowa District
  - Provide a "how to" book for the JOOI Clubs with a "to do" schedule for increased participation
- Tommy Vaughn, OI Vice President, recently encouraged every Iowa Optimist Club to sponsor a JOOI Club.
- Add a minimum 5 new JOOI Clubs to the District
  - All existing JOOI clubs would increase by a minimum of 5 new members this year

These goals will take a lot of hard work but remember,

**"United We Stand!"**



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT

### SECRETARY/TREASURER, SHARON MINER

I have enjoyed my year as Secretary-Treasurer and it has been a great pleasure working with Governor Janet and the entire leadership team and especially all of the club secretaries. I hope we have made progress in learning how to use the OI website. There is so much information at your fingertips.

We should have several Master Secretaries and Honor Clubs. I wish we could recognize every club as you all are doing great projects for the kids and you are "Making a Difference" in their lives in ways you may never know. Keep up the good work.



## DISTRICT AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

### A & A CHAIR, GARY MINER

Winners for the Third Quarter A & A competition were **Urbandale** and **Des Moines (Downtown)**. These clubs will keep the "traveling trophy" until the First Quarter Conference when the year-end awards are presented.

We are down to the final quarter. The A & A reports are due October 15 but it would be helpful to me if I could have them by the 10th. We will give the traveling trophy to the winner of the quarter and there will be a special prize for the high point winner of the year in both club categories. Good luck and see you in Des Moines October 17.



## CONNECTING WITH GOVERNOR JANET

Optimists are the best people in the world! As we continue to "Make Connections" in our communities, we are keeping our foot on the gas pedal and keeping the momentum going as we have all year! There's no stopping a positive group of people who are intent on "**Bringing Out the Best in Kids!**"

Throughout the year this article has focused on 5 key areas: Grow, Manage, Communicate, Lead, and Participate. As we progressed through the Optimist year, each area was highlighted and offered ideas and suggestions to help Clubs and members fulfill each area. To bring this message full circle, let's equate these topics to the Honor Club requirements.

**Grow** – Membership. The original requirement of being net +5 in membership is still in effect. The clubs that meet this goal will receive special recognition at the President's banquet. However, as of August 26 the Honor Club requirements for membership have been revised to Net +1 for the year.

**Manage** – Financial obligations. Both District and International dues must be paid by September 30.

**Communicate** – Reports and Community Project Award Entries. The Officer Elect reports can still be completed and the Presidents Pride Report is due September 30. Both reports can be completed on-line. Also be sure to submit at least one CPA entry to Kathy Baker by October 1. This

project book is a great way to keep track of all the details for your clubs' projects. It is also a great way to share project ideas with other clubs!

**Lead** – Attend District Conferences and Zone meetings. What a great place to meet fellow Optimists, share ideas, and have fun. (And boy did we have fun, can everyone tip back in their chair and say whoo-hoo?) Plan to have at least one person from your club attend the conferences. It will be well worth the time you invest, and the return will be the new ideas and enhanced enthusiasm you bring back to your club.

**Participate** – Service Projects. The kids are why we are Optimists. The variety and number of service projects offered to the kids in Iowa is staggering. But there's always the need to do more; to reach one more child that needs us.

I have said it before and I will say it again, thank you for reaching out and Connecting with your community. On behalf of the kids and your community, I want to thank each club member for your service to your community. I know they appreciate you, and I appreciate you. The club members are what make this organization so great!

**Keep Making Connections...**

### Communities with active NCB efforts underway:

- **Chariton**
- **Huxley**
- **Malvern**
- **Monticello**
- **Sioux City**



Pam Miller, Caitlyn Miller, Barb Robertson

## NEW CLUB BUILDING

by District New Club Building Chair, Jim Boyd

The home stretch for this Optimist year finds several projects in the works. There is activity in **Chariton** thanks to the Optimist Club in **Corydon**; **Council Bluffs** is working on re-establishing a club in **Sioux City**; your friends in **Grinnell** are ramping up the effort in **Huxley**; **Tabor** is going forward in **Malvern**; and efforts continue in **Monticello** too. We hope to bring a couple of these online as the "Making Connections" year comes to a close. But there is nothing that says the world will come to an end if some of them carry over into Governor Barb's year since the emphasis should be on creating clubs to serve kids...no matter when they are organized.

There are also new club possibilities for the coming year in places like **Jefferson**, **Guthrie Center**, and **Muscatine** to name a few which are leads that have developed from the state fair booth. I am certain **New Community Growth Chair, Doug Olson**, will grab the reigns and lead the charge come October 1. I want to thank Governor Janet for allowing me to serve again as the new club development chair for the Great Iowa District. It was good to see some new faces getting into the act and landing a Builder of Excellence medal this year. I hope more of you will take the opportunity and step up to a new club building project in the coming 12-months so that the momentum begun this year toward growth and providing an opportunity to put a smile on the faces of children continues. See you down the road!

## CONNECTING WITH JOOI

by District co-Chairs, Sharon Nakato and Pam Miller

While you were enjoying the festivities of the 4th of July weekend, JOOI members from all over the U.S. (including Iowans from **Dubuque**, **Underwood**, and **Ft. Madison**), Canada, and the tiny Caribbean island of Anguilla, were hard at work putting together over 250 backpacks filled with school supplies for underprivileged pre-schoolers in Florida, attending workshops, showing off their talents, having fun, listening to inspirational speakers, and voting in new officers and amendments at their annual convention in Orlando, Florida. A big highlight of the convention was a visit from OI adult officers and dignitaries at the JOOI President's banquet to honor outgoing International President Julie D'Auteuil and her board. The "Big Optimists" so enjoyed interacting with JOOI that this may become an annual event. It was a golden opportunity to show off our amazing JOOI youth and program. Part of the business was approving a raise in International dues; part of which will help make conventions even greater. New International officers and board members were elected including our own **Iowa JOOI Governor-elect Caitlyn Miller** to the board. Caitlyn gave an awesome speech that made all of us Iowans very proud. As if that weren't enough, Caitlyn also won the great honor of International JOOI Member of Excellence earning a plaque and \$2,000 college scholarship for her many contributions to her club, District, community, and school. Please join us in congratulating Caitlyn! Elected new president was Marie-Pier Tremblay of Canada, a very determined young lady who will serve JOOI well. A huge "Thank You" to our own **Judy Boyd** who so ably led the adult JOOI Committee in doing a remarkable job planning and helping run the convention. **Governor Zeke** made a fine credentials chair and a Sgt.-at-Arms, and escorted President Julie to the final meeting. In other news, we were thrilled when **International Vice-President Tom Vaughn** asked clubs at our District Convention to each start a JOOI club. Also, please remind your JOOI clubs to send in their election reports and rosters as well as District dues if they have not already done so.



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## CCC Notes

by CCC Chair, Mike Mona

At the District Convention at Dav-  
enport, Doug Olson of the Urban-  
dale Optimist club won the HP 17  
inch Wide screen Laptop - congrats  
Doug. Also, Bob Wenner of Mar-  
shalltown won the Wii and the Ma-  
rio Cart add ons! Sure to improve  
Bob's driving on the golf course!  
;o)



To increase the donation amount  
to CCC, in other words - 100% of all  
donations went directly to CCC, the  
Mona family, Mike, Becky, Amanda,  
and Alex, decided to donate the  
Laptop, Wii, and other prizes to the  
OI Foundation.

I am pleased to report the pro-  
ceeds of the raffle for CCC were  
over \$2,100. Thank you to all Dis-  
trict members for your suport.



## 2009-10 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Commitment is the Key

*Please join us for fun, fellowship, and learning.*

Please mark your calendars with these dates to remember:

**September 19, 2009** - Iowa District Team Retreat @ Holiday Inn Airport-Des Moines

**October 16-17, 2009** - 1st Quarter Conference @ Holiday Inn Airport-Des Moines

**February 6, 2010** - 2nd Quarter Regional @ Holiday Inn Amana Colonies

**February 13, 2010** - 2nd Quarter Regional @ Holiday Inn at Ameristar-Council Bluffs  
*You can choose between either location and date whichever works best for you for the 2nd  
Quarter Regional. We will need the help of some of the District Team to attend both for  
leadership training.*

**April 24, 2010** - International President Visit & Awards Banquet @ Holiday Inn Amana  
Colonies

**May 21-22, 2010** - 3rd Quarter Conference @ Holiday Inn Airport-Des Moines

**July 29-31 and August 1, 2010** - Iowa District Convention @ Rathbun Lake, Moravia, IA  
at Honey Creek Resort State Park

*We look forward to seeing you at these Optimist District Events.*

*"We can't do this without you, You are Special!"*

### SHOEBOXES FOR THE HOMELESS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009 1ST QUARTER CONFERENCE SERVICE PROJECT

PLEASE JOIN THE DISTRICT OPTIMISTS IN HELPING THE HOMELESS WITH OUR  
"SHOEBOXES FOR THE HOMELESS PROJECT"

ITEMS NEEDED ~ SOCKS ~ NAIL CLIPPERS ~  
~ DEODORANT ~ BAR SOAP ~ DRINKING CUP ~  
~ TOOTHBRUSHES ~ TOOTHPASTE ~ SHAMPOO ~  
~ SMALL PAD & PENCIL ~ INSTANT COFFEE ~  
~ FEMALE HYGIENE PRODUCTS ~ COMB ~  
~ HAIR BRUSH ~ GLOVES ~ MITTENS ~ SNACKS ~  
~ DISPOSABLE WET WIPES ~ BOTTLED WATER ~

\*PLEASE NOTE\* ALL OF THESE ITEMS CAN BE PURCHASED AT A DOLLAR STORE  
FOR AROUND \$2.00 OR LESS  
~ AND OF COURSE SHOE BOXES ~

WE ARE ASKING EACH CLUB TO DONATE \$10 - \$25 WORTH OF ITEMS. THE BOXES  
WILL BE FILLED SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 AND BE GIVEN BACK TO ANY CLUB THAT  
WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THEM BACK TO HELP THE HOMELESS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

QUESTIONS ~ CONTACT LUCY HOUGH @ LHOUGH1@AOL.COM OR  
402-672-7626 OR 712-545-3787

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## FROM GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE BARB

Hi Optimist Friends:

You all are special!

Thank you all for what you are doing for your youth and communities. Our kids and communities probably don't know when a new Optimist year begins and ends. They just see you as Optimists "Making a Difference" in their lives. What an awesome responsibility and opportunity we have as Optimist members.

**"United We Stand"** as Optimists together to let our imaginations, enthusiasm and Optimistic attitude soar to the possibilities of being approachable with "Hello my name is" and share with a friend the difference they can make by joining you and your Optimist friends for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or a snack. Dale and I look forward to serving with you this year and helping continue growth in asking others to join an Optimist Club to help us with our mission "By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids."

We can accomplish much by being United to Share, Serve, Support, and Soaring like an Eagle to Promise Yourself... for the kids to continue growth. Thank you.

*To the world, you might be one person.  
To one person, you just might be the world.*

Barb and Dale Robertson  
Iowa District Governor 2009-10



## 2009-10 DISTRICT TEAM MEMBERS

Zone/Chair	Name		
Governor	Barb Robertson		
Secretary-Treasurer	Gerri Barnett		
<b>Lt. Governors</b>			
Zone 1	OPEN		
Zone 2	Kathy Baker	District Convention Co-chair	Earl Hopkins
Zone 3	Dick Baber	District Convention Co-chair	Marge Hopkins
Zone 4	Paul Beeler Jr.	Personal Growth & Involvement	Doug Davis
Zone 5	Ken Bassett	Essay & Oratorical	Judy Boyd
Zone 6	Dan Hagan	Finance	E. Ted Baker
Zone 7	Cyndi Barber	JOOI Clubs	Pam Miller
Zone 8	RD Keep	JOOI Governor	Caitlyn Miller
Zone 9	OPEN	Jr. Golf	Mark Rohde
Zone 10	Dave Phillips	Leadership Development	
Zone 11	John McFarland	& Governor-Elect	Gary Miner
Zone 12	OPEN	Membership	Lou Oswald
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
Achievement & Awards	Lori Brewer	New Community Growth	Doug Olson
Youth Activities	Sharon Miner	Supply	Paul Beeler
Bulletin Editor/Newsletter	Rich May	OI Foundation	Dennis McGregor
Webmaster/Governor's Assistant	Dale Robertson	Public Relations, Photographer,	
Candidate Qualifications	Janet Lloyd	& Internet Safety	Thomas D. Lloyd, II
Childhood Cancer	Sharon Nakato	Sgt at Arms	Rebecca Butler Mona
Club Services	Jim Boyd	State Fair Co-Chair	Jock Naert
CCDHH	Anthony Portero-Paff	State Fair Co-Chair	Lisa Naert
CPA	Leslie Mason	Conference Assistant	Elyssa Barnett
International Ambassador	Craig Kelley	Conference Activities	Lucy Hough
International Ambassador	Jeanne Kelley		

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## KENT STOCK

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Kent Stock, the inspiration behind the movie “The Final Season,” is a natural leader who strives to constantly excel and inspires others to do the same. He is a teacher, coach, middle school principal, and a powerful speaker. Kent Stock is also the man who coached the Norway baseball team during their now famous final season. As depicted in the 2007 film, “The Final Season,” the nationally recognized Norway baseball team came together under then first-year head baseball coach Stock to defy the odds and win Norway’s 20th state title in what would become the team’s final season before merging with a bigger, neighboring school district.

Growing up in central Iowa, Kent excelled at baseball with the support of his parents and grandparents. Waldorf College, then 13th in the nation, recruited Kent to play second base. For his junior year, Kent transferred to Luther College and continued playing baseball while earning his undergraduate degree in business management with a minor in education. He then went on to teach high school in Belle Plaine, Iowa where he became well-known and respected as both a teacher and coach. During this time, the head coach of near-by Norway’s baseball team, Jim Van Scoyoc, met and interviewed Kent for the assistant baseball coach position at Norway, a tiny community of less than 600 that defied statistical probability with 16 kids that went on to play professional baseball and about one third of them played in college.

Before he knew it, Kent was the head coach of a baseball team that would be playing its final season with one goal: to win Norway’s 20th state title. In the summer of 1991, when Kent was 30 years old, he helped them accomplish just that. After leaving the Norway baseball program, Kent remained at Belle Plaine High School another seven years before earning his Masters degree from Drake University in education administration. He left Belle Plaine to become a middle school principal in the Linn-Mar School District.

Today, Kent is a relationship manager at Community Savings Bank. In 2006, that special summer of 1991 was brought to life again by film-maker David Mickey Evans and the star-studded cast of the 2007 released film, *The Final Season*. While a long-time inspirational force for the many students he has taught and coached over the years, their families and countless education providers, Kent launched his professional speaking career in 2006. His inspirational message has a powerful impact on young and old alike and transcends the field, classroom, or office. Kent currently lives in Marion, Iowa with his wife Laurie and two daughters.



***Kent will be the special guest speaker at the First Quarter District Conference in Des Moines, October 17. Make sure you register and join us to hear this very exciting and inspirational message!***

## PASSING A LEGACY TO THE NEW PROJECT CHAIR

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by District CPA Chair, Kathy Baker

CPA (Community Project Awards) books are necessary to be Honor Club (at least one per club) and you are awarded 250 A & A points for each book entered (no limit on quantity). This record of project book gives your club the “how to” information that can be passed on to next year’s chair and committee.

The CPA books will be judged before First Quarter District Conference with the winners honored at the end of the conference. The deadline for submission of completed CPA books to District Chair (me) is September 30, 2009. Questions may be e-mailed to [tedbaker@cox.net](mailto:tedbaker@cox.net).

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