

## Minutes of the DMM Board of Directors Meeting

Fargo, ND, November 5, 2011

**Clubs Present:** 35013, 35156, 35021, 35207, 35130, 35051, 35078, 35096, 35111, 35204, 35116, 35005, 35125, 35126, 35123, 35127, 35210, 35143, 35150, 35151, 35153, 35158, 35019, 35131, 35135, 35140, 35163, 35166, 35157, 35171

**Executive Present:** Governor Larry Pelzer, Secretary-Treasurer Jo-Anne Pelzer, Governor-Elect Wes Shewchuk, Immediate Past Governor Pat Sechser, Past Governor Susan Fix, Lieutenant Governors Heather Hawley, Al Hanson, Arlene Olson, Tim Goetz, Carl Edwards, Carmen Bakken, Deb Ziemke, Doug Ladd, Don Berger, Jim Meyers, and Jeri Gorman.

**Guests:** Great Plains Region Vice-President Judy Boyd and her husband Jim Boyd.

**Call to Order:** 9:02 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies included the presentation of the flags by Fargo Scout Troop #214, the anthems, the toast to Canada and the invocation by Cheryl Dyvig. Cole Carly, President of the Fargo Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed the Optimists to Fargo.

**Board Installation** – Great Plains Region Vice President Judy Boyd installed the DMM 2011-12 Board of Directors.

**First Timers** – Lori Cook welcomed 6 First Timers to the meeting. Wes Shewchuk introduced the Past Governors and Past Secretary-Treasurers.

**Previous Minutes:** Moved by Linda Lockner, seconded by Jim Meyers to approve the August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> minutes from the Bismarck convention. Carried.

**2010-11 Financial Statement** – Linda Lockner reported that the 990 will be finished in one week and all paperwork has been submitted to Optimist International. Moved by Linda Lockner, seconded by Deb Ziemke to approve the unaudited yearend financial statement for 2010-122. Carried.

**2011-12 Budget:** Moved by Jo-Anne Pelzer seconded by Carmen Bakken to approve the 2011-12 DMM budget. Carried.

**A&A (Achievement and Awards):** Cheryl reported that 30 out of 59 clubs submitted A&A reports in 2010-11. Those 30 clubs served 76,119 children and spent \$386,000. Moved by Cheryl Dyvig, seconded by Jim Bisek to approve the 2011-12 A&A program. Carried.

Don Berger asked that more information be provided at the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter meeting on the partnered organizations on the President's Pride report.

**State of the District** – Governor Larry reported that the DMM is the 4<sup>th</sup> place District in Optimist International with current growth at +35. This upward trend is good news for the DMM. Larry promoted the Friend of Optimist membership. It's a solution for people who support the great work of your Optimist Club but do not have time to attend meetings. Larry encouraged the members to approach business leaders and professionals.

**Membership and Growth** – Marc Rougeau reviewed the requirements to be Honour and Distinguished requirements in 11-12 and the Déjà vu membership awards. Don Berger accepted Dime a Day, Women's Philanthropy, President's Club and the Christian D Larson Award on behalf of Becca Scholz who recruited 26 new members for the Bennie Johnnie Club. Carol and Paul Wellen represented the new Lakes Area Club which chartered on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with 22 members. The

DMM presented them with a bell, gavel and Awards banner. Congratulations to the Builders of Excellence, Don Berger, Don Clauson, James Gasperlin and Greg Anderson.

Gary Lambert reviewed the New Club Building efforts in the DMM; Chaska, MN (Eden Prairie and Bloomington), Shakopee, MN (Eden Prairie & Bloomington), Woodbury, MN (St. Paul), Cottage Grove ( West St. Paul), Bemidji , MN (Grand Forks), Eden Prairie High School Octagon Club, Rochester College Club, Gillette WY (Spearfish) and Marshall (Don Clauson).

**Optimist International Foundation:** Susan Fix reviewed the accomplishments of 2010-11, the ways to give, accepted donations and conducted several fundraisers. Total amount donated and raised was \$3,351.60.

**CCDHH** – Ginny Bisek encouraged Clubs to participate as the DMM must have 3 contestants to host a contest. Approaching schools for teachers or interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing children is the a good first step.

**Oratorical** – Rick Johnson reviewed the handout which can also be found on the DMM website.

**Childhood Cancer Campaign** – Vikki asked all clubs to notify her of their CCC Chair. She would like to hold an Optimists Have Talent contest as a fundraiser. Collections at the meeting totalled \$58.57 and Jamestown made a \$100.00 donation.

**Activities** – Bev Watje promoted the need for clubs to submit CPA books, not only for competition, but as training manuals for future club project chairs.

**JOOI** – John Dockerty reported on the new Octagon Club in Richfield. The key is to find the right person to be the advisor and consider paying a stipend to the advisor.

**AWARDS 2010-11** – Pat Sechser and Linda Lockner presented the banner to the Bennie-Johnnie Club and vests to the Builders of Excellence, Jim Bisek and Carol Wellen. The winning CPA books were Grand Forks for their Cotton Candy Fundraiser and St. Cloud for the Skateboard Contest Community Service Project. St.Cloud had the winning electronic scrapbook; Brandon MB scrapbook won for clubs under 30 members and Sioux Falls Morning scrapbook won for Clubs with more than 30 members. Membership awards were handed out to new member sponsors and Pat thanked her Executive Board and Committee Chairs. The Roger Haas DMM Optimist of the Year Award was presented to Rick Johnson.

Terry & Geri Gorman presented the Optimist International Foundation Awards. The DMM ranked #7 last year with a total of \$25,742.04 and \$12.98 per member. Achievement and Activities awards were presented by Jack & Cheryl Dyvig.

Past Governor Susan Fix and Past Secretary-Treasurer Arnie Odefey presented gifts to Pat and Linda and thanked for their service to the DMM.

**Fundraising Ideas** – 3 minute overviews were given by Jo-Anne Pelzer (Norwex), Terry & Jeri Gorman (Cadillac Dinner), Don Stover (Johnny Cash concert), Susan Fix (Cheese'n'Curds), Jim Meyers (Town wide Garage Sale), Jim Boyd (Avenue of Flags), Angie Wahl (Fall shopping Fair) and Jack Dyvig (sale of Advertising).

**Great Plains Region Vice President** – Judy Boyd brought greetings on behalf of Optimist International President Jack Cresswell. Judy told us how she joined an Optimist club and became more than 'just a member.'

**DMM Website** –Kevin Hammell offered a guided tour of the DMM website.

**Governor-Elect** – Wes Shewchuk asked members to contact him if you are interested in being part of the 2012-13 team.

**Candidate Qualifications** – Pat Sechser and Susan Fix are looking for a candidate to be the Governor-Elect 2012-13.

**Winnipeg 2012 convention** – Barb Sul, Fred Urso and Tom Nesby invited everyone to Winnipeg August 9-11, 2012 for the DMM convention. The committee is holding fundraisers to keep the registration fee reasonable. Rooms at the CanadInn Fort Garry Hotel will be \$119.00 + tax. The Children’s Program will be offered free of charge.

**Optimist International Convention** – Pat Sechser asked members to mark their calendars for July 12-14, 2011 for the Milwaukee convention. This is the first time that the Optimist International convention will be held in the Great Lakes Region.

**OIJGC** – Don Clauson will hold the US tournament on Father’s Day at the Craguns Golf Course in Brainerd, MN. Club sponsors are needed. Fred Urso reviewed the tournament to be held in Winnipeg.

**Public Relations** – Terry Gorman asked the members to be ruthless when promoting the Optimist Clubs. His ideas included displaying the club banner, handout the CREED cards, wear the OI insignia, have Friend of Optimist applications with you at all times, have a 30 second elevator speech ready to sell Optimist International, wear your Just Ask button, put up a road sign and submit articles to the newspaper. Linnea Solem told the meeting about the Tell-A-Vision program that helps youth plan their future. The link is on the DMM website.

**Credential Report** - Arnie Odefey reported that 31 of the 59 clubs were represented. Total attendance was 85 people with 11 Lt Gov and 18 of 20 chairpersons.

The meeting adjourned with the CREED at 3:30 p.m.