

# DMM

## District Dispatch

Edition 5

Dakotas Manitoba Minnesota District

February 1, 2012

### Greetings from the Governor

Hello DMM'ers, Our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Board meeting will be held on May 4&5, 2012 in Watertown. The registration form is attached. Thanks to Carmen Bakken for organizing this meeting for us.

Our membership numbers declined in January, we are currently +4 and in 13<sup>th</sup> place in Optimist International. Great Plains Region Vice President Judy Boyd is offering a special incentive for Clubs who increase their membership through NOW events. Let's make her pay in the DMM.

-Larry(the knitting Governor)

### NOW Challenge from Optimist International Vice President Judy Boyd

To the **GREATEST GREAT** Plains Region -

I like the idea of NOW activities being targeted specifically for April because it gives us a good focus to work toward and should get members excited about what they are doing within their clubs - excited enough that they want to share those club activities and projects with others who like the idea of serving kids. What a great opportunity to promote Membership within our Districts! Wouldn't it be awesome if every club had a NOW activity (meeting, dinner, lunch, breakfast, dessert and coffee - the options are as varied as those we want to invite) once a quarter? Think of the potential for new member activity and growth within a club as well as your District!

*Here's a challenge for Club Presidents - if a club holds 6 NOW activities between February 1st and September 30th and a minimum of 12 new members join that club, I will treat that President to a steak dinner and I will personally contribute \$100 to that club's treasury! Do you have some club Presidents who like a challenge? Maybe this will be just the incentive they need to get kicking it in gear! And please let me know if you've got Presidents that are excited about this challenge - I'll be happy to give them a call and visit with them personally!*

Larry, I have worn my "Larry hat" a few times already and have felt the Larry hug, as well as the hugs and love that our group shares with each other. As I told you before - and I will continue to do so - you each bring your own unique gifts to our team and our region, and I could not have asked for better individuals to be a part of this GREAT Plains 2011-2012 team!

On we go, into month 5 of this Optimist year! Remember - I am here for you.

Judy



### *Deja Vu!"*

DMM District Governor 2011-12

**Larry Pelzer**

DMM District  
Secretary/Treasurer  
**Jo-Anne Pelzer**

DMM District Governor Elect  
**Wes Shewchuk**

DMM District Immediate Past-Governor  
**Pat Sechser**

DMM Past Governor  
**Sue Fix**

Great Plains Region Vice  
President  
**Judy Boyd**

International President 2011-12  
**John "Jack" Creswell**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Editor - Trudy Rougeau**

If you have any write-ups please email them to me by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month at [Trudy.rougeau@gwl.ca](mailto:Trudy.rougeau@gwl.ca)

## Training at 3rd quarter

Do you remember when Charlie Heinmuller from Duluth and Don Stover from Rapid City were competing to see who could make the most hats? They were using knitting looms and I don't remember who won the contest. But what is more important is that Governor Larry Pelzer has discovered knitting. He's addicted!

As we read your newsletters, we see that many clubs are collecting warm clothing for citizens in need. Imagine a service project where optimist members are making hats and scarves. Members are involved, not just writing a check.

Governor Larry will show anyone interested in learning how to make hats or scarves on a knitting loom at the 3rd quarter meeting in Watertown. Visit Michael's, Hobby Lobby or WalMart and pick up a set of looms (round for hats, rectangular for scarves) and a ball of yarn. Larry prefers the brand sold at Michael's. I am sure that Don and Charlie will also help out as mentors if they are able to attend. If you want to learn on needles, Trudy and Jo-Anne can show you but it is more difficult.

*Stop laughing, this is a serious offer.*

### **Jo-Anne**

p.s. Larry donated 86 hats to the United Way last week.

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It's not too late to have a CCDHH contest in your community. Go to your school district and inquire if they have deaf or hearing impaired students in your district. Visit with the teacher working with these students and inform them of the contest. Let them know we have a great scholarship opportunity for their students. The topic the year is "How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles." Any student up through grade 12 can participate so don't exclude the 14 and 15 year olds. Students only need an audiogram showing a hearing loss of 40 decibels within the last 24 months. The Optimist International website as all the rules and details for having a contest. You do need to arrange a place and set a date for the contest. You will also need three judges and one interpreter. Because we have had so few clubs who have a local contest, we have not had a need for a zone contest. We do however need three students for a district contest!

The DMM District contest is set for the third quarter meeting May 4-5 in Watertown. The registration fee is \$75.00 for the CCDHH contest. If the student brings family along, the pizza party and luncheon is an addition \$19.00 per person. I need to have the names of your CCDHH candidates by April 16<sup>th</sup> so set your local contest accordingly. If you only have one local participant, you can send him/her to the District competition. No Zone contest is needed. So get out there and provide a hearing impaired student with the opportunity to win a \$2500 scholarship.

It would be helpful to me if clubs could let me know if your club is having a CCDHH contest. If you have questions, email me a gbisek@charter.net or call 320-253-1462.

**Ginny Bisek, CCDHH Chairperson**

## What's happening around the DMM:

### **The Optimist Minute Presented by The Optimist Club of West St. Paul\*\*\*\*\***

#### **Spelling Bee**

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 24, thirty-seven 4th through 8th graders from elementary and middle schools participated in the 2012 ISD 197 Spelling Bee, hosted by the Optimist Club of West St. Paul for the 15th consecutive year. Anna Dupont, a sixth grader from Friendly Hills Middle School, won the bee and was presented a plaque and a \$100 cash prize. Anna will compete in the Minnesota Seven County Metro Area Regional Spelling Bee, and the winner of that bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in the Washington DC area.

Angela Remuto, a 7th grader at Heritage E-STEM Middle School, finished in second place and received \$50 cash and a plaque. This year, the Optimist Club also awarded a prize to the school of the winner, and the check was presented to Principal Joni Hagebock.

Thanks to Kelly Casey Spavin for coordinating the event.

#### **A & A Points 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter summary**

Total number of children served: 14, 046  
Total Amount Given to Projects: \$89,539

23 out of 58 clubs submitted A & A Reports

#### **Top Clubs (Over 30 Members)**

Sioux Falls Morning	10,550 points
Richfield	9,940 points
St. Cloud MN	8,250 points

#### **Top Clubs (Under 30 Members)**

Lakes Area MN	7,050 points
Deadwood/Lead	6,300 points
Rapid City Rushmore	6,000 points

Let us know if you have any questions. We will be on vacation beginning February 3rd. Jack and Cheryl

# Optimist International Essay Contest

**ATTENTION: DMM Club Essay Contest Chairs:** The following is the international web site for the essay contest: <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm>

*Topic: "How my Positive Outlook Benefits my Community "*

Who: Youth under the age of 18 as of December 31 of the current school year (December 31, 2011) who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent.

How To Enter: Interested students must contact their local Optimist Club. They need to submit an essay on the pre-assigned topic. To find out a contact, please e-mail the Programs Department at [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).

The Essay Contest planning pages are intended for use by Optimist Clubs in organizing and conducting a contest in their Club. They contain no information on entering the contest and are of no use to students wishing to enter the contest. Students must contact their local Optimist Club.

When:

Students

All Club-level contests are held by early February. Student submissions will not be accepted after the Club-level contests have closed. Please contact your District Chair for more information.

Clubs and Districts

The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 29, 2012. A \$15.00 district fee should be sent with all appropriate materials for each contestant essay to: Sally Damm, 525 9th Avenue, Brookings, SD 57006-Post marked no later than midnight February 29, It is leap year. Ask a boy to a dance!

OI has discontinued the International Contest. The DMM scholarship will be \$2500.

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## Make your Club heard

The Convention Resolutions Process can be used for any aspect of the organization not covered in the Bylaws. Clubs must submit resolutions by May 13, 2012, to the Resolutions Committee.

The Committee will choose the strongest resolutions and report them to Convention delegates on Saturday, July 14, for debate and vote. Resolutions endorsed by Convention delegates are non-binding and are sent to the International Board of Directors for further consideration and study.

Please type resolutions on Club stationery and

include your Club name, Club number and Club President's signature. All resolutions should be written in standard resolution format: "Whereas... , Whereas... , Whereas... , Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Optimist International is asked to consider...."

Please mail your resolutions to: Resolutions Committee, Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

### Essay Contest Quick Links

- [Contest Application \(Rules Pad\)](#)
- [Club Planning Guide](#)
- [District Planning Guide](#)

## MY NEW BOYFRIENDS !!!

I am seeing 5 gentlemen (give or take) every day!.

As soon as I wake up, **Will Power** helps me get out of bed.  
Then I go to see **John**.



Then **Arthur Ritis** shows up & stays the rest of the day.  
He doesn't like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from joint  
to joint.

After such a busy day, I'm really tired & very glad to go to bed  
with **Earl Grey**.

**What a life!**

Oh, yes, I'm also flirting with **Al Zymer**; or whatever his name is. I  
forget !

and I'm thinking of calling **JACK DANIELS**, Captain  
**Morgan** or **JOHNNY WALKER** to come over and keep me  
company.

Now remember:

Life is like a roll of toilet paper.....the closer it gets to the end,  
the faster it goes.

*So have fun, think 'good thoughts' only,  
learn to laugh at yourself, and 'count your blessings!!!'*

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## Dates of Quarter Meetings:

No 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meeting. Larry will be  
holding a conference call with the  
Executive Board to keep in touch with  
what is happening around the District.

### Third Quarter District Meeting

May 4-5, 2012  
Watertown Events Center  
Best Western Ramkota Hotel  
1901 9th Ave SW  
Watertown, SD 57201  
605-886-8011

### Fourth Quarter District Convention

August 9-11, 2012  
CanadInn Destination Centre Fort Garry  
1824 Pembina Hwy  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2G2  
204-261-7450  
888-332-2623

## 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



# DMM 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING

## Featuring "Oatmeal Martinis"

## May 4-5, 2012

### Optimist Member and Guest Registration Information

#### Best Western Ramkota/Watertown Event Center

1901 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW Watertown, SD 57201

605-886-8011 (call Hotel Direct)

Rooms only \$78.99 per night +tax

Suites \$139.99 per night+ tax

(ask for DMM Optimist Room Block)

Reserve your Room by April 4, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ \$36 (US Funds) Early Bird District Meeting Registration  
Registration & Payment  
Postmarked by April 20, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ \$41 (US Funds) District Meeting Registration  
Registration & Payment  
Postmarked after April 20, 2012

*Registration fee includes:*

*Friday: Defroster Social and Saturday: Buffet Breakfast, Oatmeal Martinis and Lunch*

**HOSTED BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Make Checks Payable to: DMM**

**Mail Reservation Forms and Payment to:**

Carmen Bakken  
PO Box 1632  
Watertown, South Dakota 57201

Questions? Please contact:

Carmen Bakken at 605-881-1348 [cvb@visitwatertownsd.com](mailto:cvb@visitwatertownsd.com)

Registration Information (one Member or Guest per registration form, please)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Number: 35-\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary or Physical Needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Optimist Member or Guest? \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Club Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Current District or International Position: \_\_\_\_\_

This is my first Attendance at a DMM District Meeting.

Yes, I'm interested in attending the Dutch Treat Dinner Saturday evening (off-site, location to be determined).