



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL 



Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota District

DMM District Dispatch

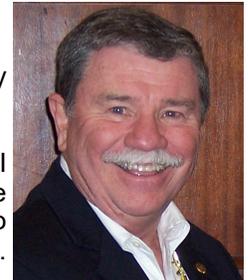
Issue 16.17.04

January 2017



Governor Gorman's Greetings

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season.



We've just turned the calendar on a new year, hello 2017. I don't know about you but for me 2016 just flew by. With the start of New Year we have a clean slate and we are able to reset and begin to complete anew our goals and dreams. We just completed the first quarter of the Optimist year.

As we begin the second quarter of the Optimist Year, our growth challenge is "Don't Drop until You Add". Starting January 1, 2017, please do not delete any members from your club until you add a member to replace them. This way, the district can continue to grow and your club will be eligible for the drawings for \$250, \$150 and \$100 at the end of September.

Second quarter is a busy time for clubs and members of the DMM. Your Club Essay Contest should be in progress and your winners' information must be sent on to Jeri Gorman, Essay Chairperson, by February 28th. Zone competitions for Oratorical and CCDHH should be completed by the first week in April to get your zone entrants registered for the district competitions at the 3rd quarter meeting in St Cloud April 28 and 29, 2017. Dave Nichols and Ginny Bisek will have the exact dates when these must be submitted.

I would like to thank Tim Goetz and Kevin Hammel for their complete overhaul of the DMM web site. Please take few minutes to check out our new web site www.optimist-dmm.org. If you have any suggestions or questions about the site please contact Tim.

(Continued on page 2)

2016-2017 Officers

**DMM Governor
Terry Gorman**

**DMM Secretary/Treas.
Lori Cook**

**International President
Jim Kondrasuk**

**Great Plains Region VP
Sue Fix**

**DMM Governor Elect
Kevin Hammell**

**DMM Immediate
Past Governor
Ken Schulz**

What you'll find in this issue....

Club Pres / Sec'y take note:

2nd Qtr Conference Call..... page 2
3rd Qtr Registration page 9
Club Anniversaries page 3
Club News page 3
December Sponsors page 6
DMM CCDHH page 7
DMM Essay Contest..... page 4

DMM/OI Gatherings page 2
Email Etiquette & Tips..... page 8
Gov Gorman's Greetings page 1
Growth / Membership..... page 5
New Club Building..... page 7
Optimist Creed page 3
Reminders..... page 4

DMM District Dispatch

Issue 16.17.04

January 2017

Governor Gorman's Greetings

(Continued from page 1)

The second quarter conference call for the Executive Committee will be held at 7:00 PM on Sunday, February 19, 2017. I will send out a toll free telephone number to call to take part in the call. **Club Presidents / Secretaries see more details below!**

Please take advantage of Optimist International's Season of Giving promotion. Your club does not have to pay the \$15 initiation fee to Optimist International for members added by January 31, 2017. Remember, also, that to add a Friend of Optimist, the annual fee is \$100 and the club receives \$40 back from OI, so it's a win-win situation. Finally, the 30 under 30 program is still in effect, so if you add a member who is under 30 years old, you pay only \$30 to OI for the first year of dues and do not pay anything to the district. With all these incentives for bringing in new member this is a great time to "Just Ask" a friend, co-worker, or neighbor to join your club.

I appreciate all of you who have been very active, not only with adding members, but also conducting projects that benefit the youth in our district. As we move forward in 2017 let's continue to add members, build new clubs in the DMM, and continue to "Bring Out the Best in Youth, Your Communities and Ourselves".

Terry Gorman, DMM Governor

Club Presidents and Secretary / Treasurers Take Note!

DMM 2nd Quarter DMM Conference Call



On Sunday, February 19th at 7 PM CST we will be holding our 2nd Quarter Conference. As we have done in the past few years this meeting will held via a conference call. (Call-in information will be distributed later by email and will be on this page of the February Dispatch).

This year in addition to the District Executive committee members and committee chairs participating we are inviting Club Presidents and Secretary / Treasurers to join the meeting/call. **Club leadership persons that participate in the conference call will be given attendance credit towards their Honor Club attendance at District meetings.**

Terry Gorman, DMM Governor



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

DMM / OI Gatherings

**2nd Qtr DMM Conf Call
7 PM CST**

**February 19, 2016
Phone #: TBA**

**3rd Qtr DMM Gathering
April 28-29, 2017
Marriott Hotel
St Cloud, MN**

**99th OI Convention
July 6-8, 2017
Albuquerque, NM**

**4th Quarter DMM Conv.
August 10-12, 2017
Canad Inn
Winnipeg, MB**

**1st and 3rd Quarter
DMM Gatherings for
2017-2018 TBA**

**100th OI Convention
July 7-10, 2018
Ottawa, Ontario**

**4th Quarter DMM Conv.
August xx-xx, 2018
Rochester, MN**

Editor: Curt Sandberg

THANKS to everyone that submitted articles for this newsletter. For those who wish to submit articles for future issues, please email them to me at dmmdispatch@midco.net by the 27th of each month. Thank you!

DMM District Dispatch

Issue 16.17.04

January 2017



OI Pres. Kondrasuk's Logo

Club Anniversaries

During January

Black Hills Noon
January 30, 1968

Winnipeg River East
January 14, 1982

Can we add Roseville, MN and Lakeville, MN to this list by the end of January 2017?

THANKS to Tim Goetz / **MARCO** for printing many of the handouts for our quarterly gatherings. **PLEASE** consider **MARCO** for your technology needs.

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Club News

from club bulletins

BISMARCK— implemented a new wrinkle to Gift Wrapping, their largest fund raiser. Businesses “paid it forward” by sponsoring half days for \$500 or full days for \$1,000.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN — May 18 at Marriott West is their annual Gala, raised over \$1,300 from nut sales and nearly \$2,500 ringing Salvation Army bells.

RICHFIELD — is now meeting in the community room of the all new Richfield-Bloomington Honda,

SIoux VALLEY — served kids via the Fostering Hope JUMP, the Horace Mann Elementary Ornament creation and wrapping, AND distributed over 400 toys as part of their TLC Toys project. They also held a club Christmas Party which included a White Elephant Gift exchange. Tri-Star Volleyball was postponed to January due to weather which is also the month of their video contest which will be followed by a bowling fundraiser in February. A VERY active club!

ROCHESTER — participated in Toys for Tots and Salvation Army bell ringing while preparing for February's Frozen Goose run. They also planned to gather and do an Escape Challenge on New Year's Eve.

SOUTH WINNIPEG — has given over 150 pair of mittens to those in need, prepared for their Christmas Hamper project and considered a new gift card fundraiser.

GRAND FORKS — completed their annual Fruit Sales and Gift Wrapping fundraisers.

(Continued on page 4)

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.

DMM District Dispatch

Issue 16.17.04

January 2017

Reminders . . .

| | | |
|-------|-------------|--|
| Jan | Lt Gov | Plan 2nd Qtr Zone Meetings |
| | Pres | Check progress on club goals |
| 31 | Sec/Treas | Deadline for 2nd Qtr OI & DMM dues |
| Feb | | Begin planning local Oratorical and CCDHH contests |
| 10-11 | | OI President's Midyear Meeting in St Louis |
| 15 | Sec/Treas | US Clubs' IRS 990 deadline |
| 19 | DMM Leaders | 7 PM CST / 6 PM MST -- 2nd Qtr Conf Call with Governor Terry |
| 28 | Essay Chair | Deadline for Essay submissions to DMM Essay chair |

(Continued from page 3)

WATERTOWN — 4,765 cars passed through Winter Wonderland despite closing on Christmas Day due to bad weather. They also held their annual White Elephant Christmas Party.

PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE — \$3,250 given to needy causes, raised \$5,200 via Garage Mahal, involved JOC in Toys for Tots and held a gift exchange, too.

BROOKINGS — provides cash to club honorees in lieu of plaques which they then donate to a cause / project of their choosing.

WEST ST PAUL — encouraged prospective members to give themselves a present for Christmas, i.e. membership in the Optimist Club!

VERMILLION — helped give away 25,000 pounds of food via the Community Food Giveaway, served 60 kids via the Shop With A Cop project, and help staff the Food Pantry on an ongoing basis.

WORTHINGTON — held their Wrestling Tournament involving 259 athletes on Dec 9.

SIoux FALLS MORNING — 140 kids were served via a wooden toy give-away at the Boys and Girls Club in addition to 100 kids served during the Children's Shopping Day project.

BLACK HILLS NOON — served kids via Lifeways, Big Brothers—Big Sisters, National Drug Free

Celebration—Red Ribbon campaign, Rapid City Festival of Lights, and Strider Bike adventure and giveaway.

Please be sure your club's newsletter, whether distributed monthly, weekly, or as needed, is sent to dmmdispatch@midco.net for possible inclusion in the monthly "Club News" column.

Remember if Plan A doesn't work, there are 25 more letters to try.
Anonymous

"An optimist is someone who goes after Moby Dick in a rowboat . . . and takes the tartar sauce with him."
Zig Ziglar, courtesy of the Sioux Valley Optimist Club newsletter

Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May....*What was the third child's name?*

DMM Essay Contest



Clubs need to submit all the following information by February 28th to enter their club Essay winner in the District Contest:

- ◆ The District Essay Contest Entry Form, completed by the student and signed by the Club President and Club Contest Chair.
- ◆ The Application for 2016-17 Optimist International Essay Contest completely completed and signed
- ◆ Copy of the student's birth certificate or passport (any other age verification documents will not be accepted)
- ◆ Printed and electronic copy of the essay sent to district chair
- ◆ Entry fee of \$10 in a check made out to DMM

Jeri Gorman, DMM Essay Chair
jeri.gorman@gmail.com
1745 Lincoln Ave, St Paul, MN 55105
651-690-4576

DMM District Dispatch

Issue 16.17.04

January 2017

Growth / Membership — HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The 2016 calendar year is done, and our first quarter, cleaning up our roster without penalty, is done. Whew! Both seemed to fly by in a blink. Now we're off to a new start. Hopefully, all of our clubs have now completed the necessary drops due to members not renewing their memberships and we can concentrate on "getting growing to serve more kids!" From the looks of our numbers at the end of December our trees are bare! Finishing December, we are at a minus **80**, (that's **2800** kids not benefiting). Now it's time to feed the roots and give them new growth.

Remember the rules of the "don't drop until you add" program: In order to be eligible for the \$250, \$150 and \$100 club monetary drawings, clubs **MUST NOT** drop more members in any one month than they add in that month starting Jan. 1 and continuing through the rest of our Optimist year, which ends Sept. 30. Remember to keep close tabs on when Friends of Optimist members must be renewed (funds to be in OI by end of the month, or they will be dropped automatically).

Here's a recap of the program:

Growth / Membership's 2016-2017 Don't Drop Until You Add

The same program will be used again this year as we did for the past two:

1. The 1st Quarter Grace Period allows clubs to clear rosters of necessary drops. **DONE**
2. Starting **January 1, 2017**, drops cannot exceed adds in any month through September - be ready for **NEW GROWTH**.
3. At year's end, the club must have at least a +3 over the October 1 start date. Don't forget to replenish those that are being dropped during 1st quarter!
4. Any month in which drops exceeds adds after January 1, eliminates the club from the year-end monetary awards drawing.



Winter

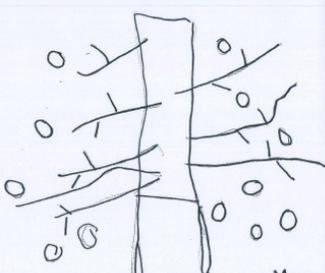
When I think of winter, I think of: boots, coats, hats, playing in the snow, snow covered trees, snow covered houses.....

My poem is about winter trees.

Trees

Trees, trees, trees,
Dark trees, tall trees,
Bare, brown, little trees,
Last of all, best of all,
I like snow covered trees!

By
Marc



Gita Hendricks – DMM Growth Chair
Together We Can!

DMM District Dispatch

Issue 16.17.04

January 2017

Growth / Membership — December 2016 Sponsors

| Thanks to these members for sharing their Optimism this month | # Children reached/mo | YTD |
|---|-----------------------|-----|
| Club: 35014 - BISMARCK, ND (Zone: 3) | | |
| Amanda Bakkedahl | 35 | |
| Club: 35096 - JAMESTOWN, ND (Zone: 3) | | |
| FOO - Newman Signs | 35 | |
| 35230 - DEVILS LAKE, ND (Zone: 3) | | |
| Allison R Schmill | 35 | |
| 35158 - SPEARFISH, SD (Zone: 5) | | |
| Rich Loose | 35 | |
| 35001 - BRANDON VALLEY, SD (Zone: 7) | | |
| Jon Hartsuiker | 35 | |
| Club: 35150 - SIOUX FALLS MORNING (SFMO), SD (Zone: 7) | | |
| Larry Eickhoff | 35 | |
| Thomas W Parliman - 2 | 70 | |
| | | |
| | 280 | |

Gita Hendricks – DMM Growth Chair
Together We Can!

This space was being saved to list more sponsors. There's plenty room for your name in next month's issue. Who do you know that wants to make a difference in the life of the youth of your community?

DMM District Dispatch

Issue 16.17.04

January 2017

DMM New Club Building Continues

The coming of the New Year will add two new clubs in the DMM.

We will see a new club in Roseville, MN! Still in the formative stage, but with the 15 required new members, we are looking toward a January 13 organizational date. Governor Terry has worked hard to make it happen (all by himself, by the way).

Another New Club effort has been taking place in Lakeville, MN, by the Prior Lake-Savage club. They, too, have reached the required number of 15. No date has been set as yet, but we hope to have it done also in January.

The Sioux Falls morning club is working on a new club in Harrisburg, SD.

Past Governor Ken has a location North of Jamestown that he considers "prime" for a new club.

Several other locations are also targeted for new clubs in the DMM. All in all, it's going to be a great year for growth in our district.

There are plenty of locations that could use an Optimist Club to serve the youth and the community. Why not get involved? How about a new club in Canada? Need some help or ideas, contact:

Jim Meyers, NCB Chair
Email: dmpstgov@aol.com



“2017” A New Year and the Restart of our Optimist Scholarship Projects.

My hope is that by now your club has chosen a member to chair the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It does take some effort to get in touch with these students, so January is a good time to start.

Every community has a student that would qualify for this contest. It is our job to go out and find *this* student(s). Contact your local schools, private and public, contact your home school association, distribute flyers around your community, check with county services to see if they have access to students with hearing loss and check with the State Offices for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in your state. Set the date and place for your contest and start getting the information out to the public.

This year's topic is "What the World Gains from Optimism" Eligible students need an audiogram showing a 40 decibel hearing loss and must not have graduated from high school. They need to write and present a 4-5 minute speech on the topic. They can give the speech orally or by sign. Because we have so few students that have participated in the past, the DMM has allowed clubs to send their club winner directly to the district competition.

The OI website has complete instructions on how to conduct a club contest. This site also allows you to print applications forms.

The District Contest will be in St Cloud, April 28-29, during the DMM 3rd Qtr Conference. The deadline for club entries is set for April 15th. As your District CCDHH chair please contact me, Ginny Bisek, at gbisek@charter.net or 320-260-5996 for any questions or concerns.

Provide a student in your area the possibility of winning a \$2500 scholarship!

DMM District Dispatch

Issue 16.17.04

January 2017

E-mail Etiquette & Tips Business & Personal Use

1. Format – Be aware that mail format (html, plain text, Rich text) chosen under Options could be why some people are having trouble receiving e-mails from you. Safest is plain text.
2. Avoid fancy fonts others may not have. Arial (Helvetica) and Times Roman are your best bet.
3. Do not type in all caps. It's considered **SHOUTING** in the e-mail world.
4. Be concise and to the point. Reading e-mail is harder than reading paper copy so don't try to be a novelist.
5. Use proper structure & layout . (Follow letter writing guidelines – salutation, complete sentences, one-topic paragraphs and closing.)
6. Use active voice instead of passive. (Mary hit the ball vs. the ball was hit by Mary.)
7. **DO NOT** use archaic language. (Attached is a copy of, not attached please find. Attached is the file you requested, not per your request).
8. Avoid long sentences. A variety of simple, compound and complex sentences is easier to read.
9. Use proper spelling, grammar & punctuation. Use spell check but also read carefully before you send.
10. Use a meaningful subject in the Subject line.
11. Use cc: sparingly.
12. Answer an e-mail quickly but don't assume that everyone does that. You many have to pick up the phone in some instances.
13. Do not attach unnecessary files. Be aware of the size of files you send since you the recipient's mail box may not be able to handle large files. Rule of thumb: No larger than 1 M for dial-up, no larger than 5 M for broadband. Even with broadband, a large file may fill up the mail box and cause other e-mails to bounce.
14. Do not copy a message or attachment without permission.
15. Avoid abbreviations in e-mails. Others may not understand.
16. Avoid emoticons except in the most casual correspondence. Again, others may not understand.
17. Do not overuse the high priority option unless a message is extremely important.
18. Do not forward virus hoaxes and chain letters. Be cautious even with your friends and relatives.
19. Do not use **Reply to All** unless you really want to send to everyone on the sender's recipient list.
20. Do not use e-mail to discuss confidential information.
21. Don't send or forward e-mails containing libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks.

Submitted By

Arnold L Odefey

2016-2017 DMM Activities Chairperson
alodefey@gmail.com (Cell) 952-288-4312



DMM 3rd QUARTER DISTRICT CONFERENCE

District Oratorical & CCDHH Contests

April 28 & 29, 2017

Optimist Member and Guest Registration Information
Meeting Hotel

Newly Remodeled Courtyard by Marriott
404 W. St. Germain Street, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Room Reservation – 320-654-1661

Room Rate: \$129.00 per night plus tax (Kings & Suites) – ask for Optimist Rate

Alternate Hotel (1 block Away): Best Western Plus – Kelly Inn

Room Reservation – 320-253-0606

100 – 4th Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Room Rate: \$94.00 per night plus tax (singles or doubles) – ask for DMM District Rate

Reserve Your Room Now - Cut Off Date: March 29, 2017

_____ **\$55** (US Funds) Early Bird District Registration

*Registration and Payment Postmarked by April 3, 2017

_____ **\$65** (US Funds) District Registration

*Registration and Payment Postmarked after April 3, 2017

If unable to attend the entire conference, register for individual events below:

Friday: Pizza Party \$15 **Saturday: Breakfast Buffet \$20** **Lunch \$25**

HOSTED BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. CLOUD

With In-kind, Technical, and Financial support from the SC Convention & Visitor's Bureau!

Make Checks Payable in US FUNDS to: DMM District

Mail Registration Forms and Payment to:

**Jim Bisek,
 2436 Imperial Drive,
 St. Cloud, MN 56301-5009**

Questions? Please contact:

Jim Bisek: (H) 320-253-1462

(C) 320-260-4000

E-mail: jimb@BlueChipInsuranceServices.com

MEMBER and GUEST Registration (One registration form per member or guest)

Name _____ Club _____ #35- _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Evening Phone () _____ E-Mail: _____

Current Office Held: i.e. Club and/or District:

Special Dietary Needs:

Is this your 1st or 2nd DMM District Conference? (Yes) _____ which one? (circle) 1st 2nd (No) _____

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Check #: | Amount enclosed: | Will pay in St. Cloud: |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|