

Sun, Sand and Sage

November 15, 2020

NM-WT District of Optimist International

Volume 75, Issue 2



Friend of Youth



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John Cowart

Secretary/Treasurer

Lynne Martin

Governor-elect

Fred Trussell

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Lt. Govern Zone 1 & 2

Suzann Owings

Lt. Govern Zone 3

Sallie Rizzo

Lt. Govern Zone 4

Roger Burnett

Lt. Govern Zone 5

Jack Barclay

Lt. Govern Zone 6

Greg Siewert

Lt. Govern Zone 7

Pat Siewert

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Choose Optimism

Mark Weinsoff was not always an optimist. The path to Presidency of Optimist International took him through careers in radio broadcasting, banking, business ownership, and technology development. While he encountered the Optimist Creed early on this path, he did not truly incorporate optimist into his life until 16 years after he joined the Northside Optimist Club of Santa Barbara.

His theme for 20-21 is Choose Optimism. He is on a mission to to convert Optimist International from a Service Club Organization to an Optimistic Organiza-

tion that focuses on service to youth. He is asking all Optimist Clubs to Choose Optimism in every gathering. Clubs should provide five essential elements of well-being and should focus on delivering these things:

- Optimism
- Purpose
- Engagement
- Relationships
- Accomplishment

In this way, we will fulfill our mission: by providing hope and positive vision. Optimists

bring out the best in our youth, our communities and ourselves.

Applied Optimist:

- **Positive Intent:** 1st thing in the morning think of something you can do to make a positive difference.
- **Mindfulness:** Take time every day to meditate.
- **Gratitude:** Before going to bed list 3 things in a Gratitude journal you experienced that day for which you are grateful.

District Convention November 6-7

The November District Conference was held on Zoom, November 6th and 7th. While there were a few people who had difficulty getting into the meeting, most of the issues were solved.

Friday evening was a Welcome session with a couple of videos from OI's video collection.

Saturday Morning started with the Past Governor's Breakfast at 7 AM. Next up were several training sessions' the 1st was "Virtual Fund-

raising"; 2nd was "Leadership Management System" to allow members to use OI's system; 3rd was session on "Engaging Virtual Meetings" to give some ideas on how to make those Zoom meetings better; 4th was "What Does Optimist International Do for ME to Make ME Want to Pay Dues and Donate to the Foundation?" to explain why and how funds are used; 5th were concurrent sessions on "Why Would I Want to Be a

Zone Lt. Governor, what is in it for Me?" and "Professional Development Program – Level 1"; and finally concurrent sessions on "Why Do We Need District Committees & Why Would I Want to be on One?" and "PGI Level 1".

The District Board meeting covered the previous minutes and Budget. Then approved some changes to District leadership. We ended at 3:30 PM.

District Meetings 20-21

- November 6-8 either Zoom or El Paso—Sunland Park
- February 12-14 in Las Cruces, NM
- April 23-25 In Belen, NM
- Optimist International Convention June 30—July 3
- August 6-8 In Albuquerque, NM

Loss of An Optimist

The loss of an Optimist is always a sad occasion. Loss of an Optimist with over 50 years of service to a community is a great loss, but also needs to be recognized not for the loss but for the service that spanned that half-century. Let us always respect and honor those

among us who have dedicated their time and energy to serving our community, our youth and our clubs.

Let us rededicate ourselves to make sure that every club member is appreciated and feels wanted in our club.

Retention of our members

should be at the top of club efforts along with our projects. Make every members feel that they have been a part of the community efforts and service to the youth.

Growth is More Than a Six Letter Word

These are exciting times. You are just taking the controls of your Optimist Club for the coming year. For some people, they can't wait. For others, there is some uncertainty for what lies ahead. But regardless of where you stand, we believe growth will make your year more enjoyable, more fulfilling and will bring a level of energy to your Club that it has not seen for a while.

This is the time in which you can take Growth and turn it into a moti-

vatational tool. Anecdotal evidence abounds that shows people get excited when others who believe as they do join a cause. In this case, more people joining your Optimist Club means more help at the next project, more camaraderie and more ideas to make your job as President successful.

This is your time to make Growth an avenue toward a healthier Club by extending its reach into

another community.

New Club development is challenging yet fun and it leads to sometimes a lifetime association with people you otherwise would have never met had you not decided to "build" a new Optimist Club.

So please consider growing your Club and the organization in the coming Optimist year.

Socks For Kids



Chairperson Deborah Benavidez, collecting donated socks from the UPS Store in Los Lunas

The Rio Communities Optimist Club is preparing for a "Socks for Kids" program that will be conducted throughout the Belen Consolidated School System.

Many of the children in the Belen School System come to school without wearing socks, so the

goal of the Club is to provide at least three pair of socks for every child.

Bel Air Adds a New Member



Bel Air has gone and done it. They added a lady to the club. WooHoo!

Congratulations Socorro Valenzuela. Although she has been a stalwart for the club in the past it is good to see her have a membership role.

Here is hoping she has a long and distinguished time as a Optimist!

New blood is the strength of our Optimist Clubs, ask someone to join.

Sunrise Optimist Club of Roswell Installation



Teri Garvey—President

On September 29th the Sunrise Optimist Club of Roswell installed new officers at a Zoom meeting.

President - Terri Garvey,
Vice President - Gary Smith,
Vice President - Karen Hamilton,
Secretary - Pat Burnett,
and Treasurer - Gwen

Hamilton.

The Directors installed were: Jenna Lanfor, Art Sharp, PJ Marshall-Riese, Cheryl Martinez, Amanda Wheeler, and Jim Crowl.

Congratulations to these new officers.

Five Honored During Installation

During the Sunrise Optimist Club's installation and Awards program held via Zoom. Tracy Mumford was presented with top honor—Optimist of the Year Award—for his outstanding participation and dedication to the club's projects and the youth of Roswell. Not only did he work on just about every project, he chaired the annual Sunrise Optimist Poe Corn Basketball Tournament, a monumental task.

Pat Burnett was presented with an Officer of the Year Award for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Pat has been and still is the Secretary of the club, which she does with professionalism and consistency.

Another Officer of the Year Award went to Gwen Burke, Treasurer. A position she has held for several years and does a great job. Gwen has been involved in many other projects.

The Sunrise Optimist Club Rookie of the Year Award went

to Diedra Duvall. She jumped right in and started working on projects even before she was a member. She probably participated in just about every project during the year.

Roger Burnett received the President's Award from outgoing President Mike Whitehead. The award is given to a member who has shown outstanding to the President during his term of office.



The Optimist Club of Albuquerque and Sunport Installations

On September 27th the Optimist Club of Albuquerque held their installation program via Zoom.

In attendance were Regional Vice President Carol Hodges, Regional Vice President-elect Curtis Merrill, Governor-designate John Cowart, and OI President Designate Mark Weinsoff, as well as members of the club and Lt. Governor Lynne Martin.

It was actually a joint Installa-

tion with the Sunport Club and had participation by several Sunport members as well.

The Optimist Club of Albuquerque Officers are : Rita White-President, Jim White-VP Admin, Steve Garcia-VP Youth, Fred Trussell-Secretary/Treasurer, and Directors: Pat Trussell, Ron Rees, LaSheka Mason, Dolores Morgan, Karl Saltzman, and Catherine Hatcher. Fred Trussell was recipient of the President's Citation.

For the Sunport Club: Cathy Darrah

-President, Sallie Rizzo—VP Admin, Cecilia Pounds—VP Youth, Lynne Martin—Secretary/Treasurer, and Directors: Bob Garcia, Jonathon Martin, Sarah Skeen, Esther Vigil, Joe, Vigil, Chuck Werkmeister.

Congratulations to these new officers.

Coffee Café and Tech Talk

A little know secret of Optimist International opportunities is the Coffee Café and Tech Tips virtual meetings.

By entering just two words and a period (coffee.cafe) you can be connected with a world of training and interfacing with other Optimists world wide. Just enter "coffee.cafe" in your browser and it will take you to a web page that allows you to join the Coffee Café

group of your choice. These are done at different times and dates. Be sure to pay attention to the time zone listed so you correct to Mountain Time Zone.

There are Tech Talks available and you can select what you want to learn about. I attended one on how to get members dues payments and donations online instead of checks or cash. This is a favored method for the younger

people. Again pay attention to the time zone.

NM-WT District of Optimist International

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Friend of Youth

Optimist International is an association of more than 2,900 Optimist Clubs around the world dedicated to "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. With their upbeat attitude, Optimist Club members help empower young people to be the best that they can be.

New Mexico / West Texas District is just one of approximately 50 Districts in the US, Canada and Jamaica. There are currently 27 clubs in the district and approximately 350 members.

This district includes the State of New Mexico as well as the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Loving, Reeves, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Pecos, Brewster and Terrell in Texas.

Each Optimist Club determines the needs of the young people in its community and conducts programs to meet those needs. Every year, Optimists conduct 65,000 service projects and serve well over six million young people.

Ronald McDonald House



There are three Ronald McDonald Houses in our District: Albuquerque (2) and El Paso (1).

Did you know Ronald McDonald House of New Mexico not only covers all of New Mexico but takes in families from Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma, Utah, Chihuahua, Senora, west and southwest Texas? It has rooms and people to support families with sick children in hospitals throughout New Mexico. UNM Hospital serves as the re-

gional cancer hospital and serves a large area.

There is also a Ronald McDonald House in El Paso to help families in the west Texas area. Generally if a family with a sick child goes to the nearest in-state hospital. There are cases where the nearest hospital is across the state line and because of the situation the child is taken to there first, later to be transferred in-state. The majority of families served in El Paso come from the surrounding areas including West Texas, Northern Mexico and

Southern New Mexico.

How can your Club help? Like many other Optimists you can collect Pull Tabs (Pop Tops) for the House in your state. If you are close to one of the Houses you can volunteer. There is lots to be done. Help with Bingo one night a month. Help fix and serve meals. Prepare day snack kits. Clubs can help the House with fund raisers. Golf Tournaments and even a Girls Night Out! The in hospital RMH rooms are always in need of volunteers.

Optimist Creed

Let us all remember and live the Creed each and every day.

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 opti-

mism 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 eve-

ry 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.

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