

# OPTI-NEWZ



Fa la la la la... la la... la la Merry Christmas!

OPTIMIST CLUB OF NORTH AUSTIN  
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## WELCOME

Next Meeting—Change of Pace—December 22  
Next Regular Meeting—January 12, 2009



North Austin Optimist (NAO) has been serving the youth of Austin since 1952 with its primary focus on providing sports activities, educational programs, self-esteem and skill enhancement to the youth in our community. The programs involve both male and female youth ages 4 to 18, and their families. Currently NAO provides services for approximately 500 youth in year round programs. The NAO membership and innumerable volunteers assisting in these character-building programs take immense pride in providing Austin's youth a chance to participate in their community.

NAO is committed to serving

youth regardless of their race, creed, religion, or financial status, in the belief that both boys and girls of all ages will be welcomed with open arms. Our ultimate goal is to "become the betterment and welfare of today's youth."

### What is an Optimist Club?

Meeting the needs of young people in communities worldwide, Optimist Clubs have been "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" since 1919. Optimist Clubs conduct positive service projects aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Club Members are best known in their communities for their upbeat attitudes. By believing in young people and empowering them to be the best they can, Optimist volunteers continually make this world a better place to live.

### Our Meetings

Our meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. The first meeting of the month is held at our club house at 1105 Morrow. Our second meeting of the month is actually a "Change of Pace" gathering where Optimist members and their families meet at a designated restaurant.

The upcoming meeting is actually our "Change of Pace" and we'll be having it on December 22, 6:45 p.m., at Dart Bowl on Grover—across from McCallum High School.

Are you Interested in becoming a *Friend of Youth*? Feel free to attend one of our meetings to check it out.



### 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 COUNTERTENANCE 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.

## 2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS:

**President,** Anne Reed

**VP of Youth,** Gray Richardson

**VP of Finance,** Dorman McGinty

**Secretary,** Sandra Escobar

**Treasurer,** Olga Henson

**Past President,** Darlene McGinty

### DIRECTORS:

#### 2 Year Members

Roy Henson  
Josie Martinez  
Theresa Hilscher

#### 1 Year Members

Diana Melcer  
Kelly Price  
Eddie Lewis

### Mission Statement

BY PROVIDING HOPE AND POSITIVE VISION, OPTIMISTS BRING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS.

### Vision Statement

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WILL BE RECOGNIZED WORLDWIDE AS THE PREMIER VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT VALUES ALL CHILDREN AND HELPS THEM TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas



# OPTI-NEWZ

## THE PREZ SPEAKS, Anne Reed

Season's Greetings! This is my favorite time of the year, for it is a time for families to gather and share of themselves. I am glad to be a part of the NAO family; our family has been growing by leaps and bounds—since October we have added 10 new members. Indeed an awesome achievement!

Our family should be pleased and grateful that we have been able to come together and share our bounty with others in a variety of ways, such as with the Signing Santa

program and sponsoring a less fortunate neighborhood family for Christmas.

Many in our NAO family are experiencing difficult times. Most recently, Bev Brown lost her son James. I would like to thank those who supported her by providing food and attending James' memorial service. I know that meant a lot to Bev. Please keep Bev and her family in your thoughts and prayers during their difficult time

Thank you all for sharing your gifts, whether that is your time

or your resources, with those in our community who are in need. I truly believe it is by giving that we receive.

Merry Christmas from my family to yours,

Anne



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

submitted by Olga Henson

### Signing Santa Update

What a huge success our Signing Santa project was for the deaf kids from the Austin area. This year we were able to service a record 137 kids. What a delight it was especially for us, the adults. As one of our new Optimist members put it "The last time I cried from happiness was when my son was born. I loved the experience!" This

continues to be a rewarding project for our club and is growing each year. Many thanks to Gray Richardson & Diana Melcer for their countless hours in organizing this event.

### Christmas Family Update

In keeping with our Club's annual Christmas tradition we have adopted a family from a local elementary school in the neighborhood

who is in need of assistance during the holiday season. Our family this year consists of a Mom with three kids, a 4th grader, 1st grader and a 2 year old. We will provide gifts for all the family along with a Christmas meal. We'll be wrapping up the Christmas gifts next Tuesday(12/23) at the club house. Please come by to help. Bring your favorite appetizer to share with others. Plan to meet at 6:30



## MESSAGE FROM LT. GOVERNOR

submitted by Isabel Brugman

Plans are on the way to have a Zone 5 meeting by the second week in Jan. Place and time TBA .

District report forms will be required and must be turned in for each club in zone 5. I will have forms at the meeting.

Guest speakers and raffle

items are also in the agenda for that night. I will let you know on a definite date by Jan 2, 2009.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR LT. GOVERNOR!

*As we grow up, we learn that even the one person that wasn't supposed to ever let you down probably will.*

*You will have your heart broken probably more than once and it's harder every time.*

*You'll break hearts too, so remember how it felt when yours was broken.*

*You'll fight with your best friend. You'll blame a new love for things an old one did.*

*You'll cry because time is passing too fast, and you'll eventually lose someone you love.*

*So take too many pictures, laugh too much, and love like you've never been hurt because every sixty seconds you spend upset is a minute of happiness you'll never get back.*



## MESSAGE FROM OUR VP OF Youth, Gray Richardson

Well Ho! Ho! Ho! Tis the season around here at North Austin Optimist. Between all of our civic activities, i.e. Signing Santa, cookies for cancer patients, collecting soda tabs for cash contributions, our Baseball Board has been meeting and planning an exciting Spring Season for us all. Our Football Board is formed and ready to start formulating their season as well.

The construction has begun on our combination football/baseball field, and, thankfully, our new parking lot. Watch the changes closely

because this whole thing should happen quickly!

All in all, I am so looking forward to the coming year and all of the opportunities it offers. I see a lot of other parks sitting stagnant where ours is moving ahead continually and, as an official of the park, it is our pledge and responsibility to keep striving for improvement of ourselves and the kids we oversee and the facilities we provide for them.

Best of wishes to all for the coming year.

E. Gray Richardson

### 2009 Football Board

Eddie Lewis, President  
Olga Henson, Treasurer  
Melissa Correa  
Misty Castaneda  
Sharon Fowler  
Enoch Fowler  
Sonia Vidaurri  
Randy Niedecken

### 2009 Baseball Board

Wayne Gonzales, President  
Olga Henson, Treasurer  
Sandra, Secretary  
John Haller, Umpire-in-Chief  
Theresa Hilscher, Head Team Rep  
Dorman McGinty, Softball Commissioner  
Robert Gonzales, Shetland Commissioner  
Kristina Corpus, Sponsors  
David Reed, Pinto Commissioner  
Kelly Price, Equipment Manager

## CLUB COMMITTEES, 2008-2009

Bylaws: Roy, Olga, Gray, David Reed  
CCDHH: Bev

Childhood Cancer: Diana, Gray

Club Community Service: Sandra

Club Services: Olga

Concession: Sandra, Olga, Theresa, Diana, Melissa

Fellowship/Program (Change of Pace): Theresa

PGI: Isabel

Field Development/Fundraiser/Future Development: Dorman, Olga, David Reed, David Russell, Gray, Donna, Tom

Finance: Olga, Erin

Fundraising: Lisa Pelayo, Club

Gold Youth Leadership: Club

JOOI Club: Theresa, Olga, Diana, Sandra

Life Member: Darlene, Connie, Olga, Roy

Membership: Club

Nominating Committee: Darlene

Publication/Newsletter/Web Page: Sandra, Olga

Respect for Law/Youth Safety Program: Isabel

Scholarship: Olga, Darlene

Scrapbook: Sandra, Kristina

Security: Dorman, Theresa, David, Gray

Signing Santa: Diana, Gray, Sandra

Tri-Star Sports: Eddie, Gray



## MESSAGE FROM FOOTBALL PRESIDENT, Eddie Lewis

The 2008 Football season has come to a close. What a way to end it! We had our closing ceremonies at Dobie Middle School and raised the roof! From parents & coaches dancing the Cupid Shuffle to the Spirit Stick award which went to our Senior Team. All players were recognized for their hard work. It was an afternoon of fun for all the kids and parents. 2009 is

right around the corner and our 2009 Football board has been voted on and approved. We welcome Sonia Vidaurri as our Head Team Rep and Randy Niedecken as our Equipment Manager. They will be joining our already established group of board members who chose to do it for another year. What a success we have had with these group of parents. Keep

an eye and an ear out for 2009, with the new field being built planning for next season will begin after the first of the year. We will start taking registrations in March and will be holding a Spring and Summer camp. More details to come on those two events. Next season looks to be very promising

and with the help, dedication & support from the board, parents & Optimist group we look forward to more success. Go





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## MESSAGE FROM BASEBALL PRESIDENT, Wayne Gonzales

Dear Optimist Members,

A new month has arrived, bringing the start of the Winter Baseball program. Winter Baseball began on December 2nd, and will continue through approximately February 12th. The participation in our second year of this program has far exceeded our expectations. We increased our enrollment from 22 players for the 2007 Winter Baseball season to 55 players this year. We also expanded the program this year to include our Softball program.

Practices during the week focus on defensive fundamentals. On weekends, we hold hitting clinics. This is a great opportunity for our players to work on their conditioning and fundamentals during the off season. I would like to thank all of the coaches who have come out to lend a hand with the Winter program. Without you, this program would not be the success that it is.

In other news, construction has started on the re-development of the Pony field and parking lot. At this

time, funds have been allocated toward field improvements including sprinkler systems, turfing batting cages, and general maintenance projects.

We greatly appreciate the dedication and hard work of the board members, parents and other volunteers who help us throughout the year.

We hope you all have a safe, happy holiday season!

Wayne Gonzales

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Spring Baseball and Softball Registration**

**January**  
17, 24, 31—10-2pm  
20, 27—6-8pm

**February**  
7, 14—10-2  
3, 10—6-8pm

### The Youth Code

I PROMISE TO-

- Honor my parents and those to whom wisdom has come through experience,
- Respect the belief of others
- Prize friendship and keep its sacred truth
- Seek intellectual growth, physical development, and avoid abuse of mind and body
- Be diligent and give each task the priority it merits
- Strive to be courteous at all times and truthful with everyone I meet
- Practice thrift and put material matters in proper perspective
- Respect all living things and help maintain the balance of life
- Work to preserve our form of government and the freedoms it guarantees
- I will value independence of mind and develop self-reliance, setting high goals in life and dedicating myself to the service of others

### THE JOOI REPORT

submitted by Theresa Hilscher

The JOOI Club has had a great month. Our garage sale was a success. Cars were lined up down Morrow waiting for us to open. We had some help from parents which was greatly appreciated. We raised



\$600 for our club. We are donating \$200 to a foster home for abused children.

All of the JOOI Club showed up for Signing Santa this year. We will be meeting December 18 at the Hang Town Grill to swear in the new officers. All of the officers are meeting to plan events and goals for the new

year. We hope to have a great year.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.



### ORATORACLE CONTEST INFO

submitted by Sandra

The official topic for 2008-2009 is: "For Me, Optimism is..."

First conducted in 1928, the Optimist Oratorical Contest is one of the most popular programs for Optimist Clubs. More than \$150,000 in scholarships are given annually to winners of district oratorical contests. The competition is open to students under the age of 16 as of December

31, 2008. There is no minimum age. The Optimist Oratorical Contest is conducted at the club, zone, regional and district level concluding with the District Finals at the 3rd Quarter meeting. The South Texas District conducts separate contests for boys and girls.

The winning boy and winning girl at the District contest will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

Following are the competition dates:

Club Competition - 4/11/2009

Zone Competition - 4/25/2009

Regional Competition - 5/9/2009

District Finals Saturday 5/23/2009 in Houston

**Good Luck to All Participants!**



**FIELD DEVELOPMENT** submitted by Dorman McGinty

I have been working with the developers at the ballpark. They have leveled

our old parking lot, pony field and football field.

They have been really helpful in using some of their equipment and time to

do some leveling on our overflow parking lot plus taking care of the holes

behind the bathrooms and all the way down to the dumpster.

Now it looks like they are

focusing on the new parking lot. I can't wait!



**ESSAY CONTEST INFO** submitted by Sandra

The official topic for 2008-2009 is "The Power of Youth"

The essay contest is open to youth under the age of 19 as of December 31, 2008. There is no minimum age. It allows students to develop opinions and express them openly in written form. The contest is held on three levels: Club, District and International. The District winner receives a Scholarship of \$650.00. The International winners receive a Scholarship of \$6,000 for 1st, \$3,750 for 2nd, and \$2,250 for 3rd.

Local clubs will award medallions and may give other awards. The club winning essay must be received by the District contest chair on or before February 28, 2009.

Contest rules, application form and guidelines are located on the NAO web site (under the Club section).

We encourage all JOOI members to participate in this event. We have a lot of talented youth in JOOI and this would be a great experience for all participants.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**



- Roy Henson  
December 8
- Susan Doyle  
December 8
- Edgard Brugman  
December 27
- Vernon Webb  
December 29



**OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES**

- BOB PURCEL -  
December 1963
- JUAN & ROSIE LIRA -  
December 2000
- JOHN HENSON -  
December 2002

DAVID & ANNE REED—December 2006

**Wedding Anniversaries:** *None this Month*



*Our NAO family continues to grow.  
In December we voted in three new members.  
YEAH!!!!*

*Please join us in welcoming:*

- Marcie Dixon**
- Laura Hancock**
- Misty Castaneda**

**UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS**

Date	Event
December 22	Change of Pace, Dart Bowl, 6:45 pm
December 23	Wrapping of Gifts for our Christmas Family, 6:30 pm at the Clubhouse
December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!
January 7	First Baseball Board meeting of the year, 6:30 pm
January 12	Optimist Meeting, 6:45 pm
January 26	Change of Pace, restaurant TBD
February 9	Optimist Meeting, 6:45pm
February 13-15	District Meeting in Austin



### P.G.I.

#### Personal Growth & Involvement Program

P.G.I. is your passport to personal development, increased member involvement and club growth. Participation in P.G.I. offers members the opportunity for personal growth while working at their own pace. It also helps them to learn more about optimism.

Some of the elements of P.G.I.: presence/attendance; activities/programs; growth/new members; knowledge of the organization; personal growth/self development; communication.

There are ten levels of the P.G.I. Program and presently NAO is proud to say we are the home to 9 participating members. This is AWESOME!

A big "Thank You" goes to these members for their efforts at spreading the word about Optimists and Optimism which has, in turn, brought to our organization the much needed membership and increased member involvement that we presently have.

#### THANK YOU....

- Level 2**—Rosie Lira, Connie Tarvin, Bev Brown
- Level 3**—Roy L. Henson
- Level 4**—Diane Counts
- Level 6**—Tom Tarvin, Darlene McGinty, Isabel Brugman
- Level 9**—Olga Henson

### QUOTES FOR THE DAY

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

~Mark Twain

"Optimists enrich the present, enhance the future, challenge the improbable and attain the impossible."

~William Arthur Ward

"One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn't pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself."

~Lucille Ball

"Always look at what you have left. Never look at what you have lost."

~Robert H. Schuller

"Life is too short to spend your precious time trying to convince a person who wants to live in gloom and doom otherwise. Give lifting that person your best shot, but don't hang around long enough for his or her bad attitude to pull you down. Instead, surround yourself with optimistic people."

~Zig Ziglar

### PICS, PICS, PICS

These are just a few snapshots taken at Signing Santa. More pictures can be found on the web site soon. Again, thanks for everyone who came out to help!



### THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE



The candy cane represents one of the oldest symbols of Christmas, the shepherd's crook. The shepherds were among the first to experience that first Christmas. The colors of the candy cane have special meaning, too.

The wide red stripe represents the sacrifice of Christ, For by his stripes we are healed." If your candy cane has a narrow red stripe, it represents our own sacrifices (giving). The white stripe is a symbol of purity.

The peppermint plant is a member of the hyssop family, referred to in the Old Testament as a medicinal herb used for cleansing.

As you eat your candy cane, you might want to break it, as Christ's body was broken for you, and share it with a friend, thus sharing in the sweetness of the true meaning of Christmas.