



# OPTI-NEWZ



OPTIMIST CLUB OF NORTH AUSTIN  
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WWW.NAOPT.COM

Volume 1, Issue 4, February 2009

Editors: Olga Henson & Sandra Escobar

## The Power Of Optimism

VISITORS ARE  
WELCOMED!



Next Regular Meeting—March 9th  
Change of Pace —March 23rd

Author—Gary Miller

[www.lsnare.com](http://www.lsnare.com)

It's not very often that we get to be with a person who is optimistic about most of their life. That would be a person with a smile on their face that almost seems to be permanent. It would be a person who thinks that life is a blessing and sees more good things to life than bad. They would be the person who feels less troubled on a bad day than many of us feel on one of our best days. In fact, they would feel blessed even if they had nothing at all. A person like that would have full control of themselves almost every minute and would be completely in charge of every situation with an open heart and mind. "Is this even possible?" we might ask. The answer is yes! With the power of optimism you can change your entire life and

retrain your heart and your mind to think like a winner. You can train yourself to see opportunity when others see failure. You can learn to see the good in anything that happens and feel grateful to be alive each day. Optimism is truly an incredible power.

Optimists are believers in themselves. They believe that they can do anything and everything and they never get tired as they continuously aspire to do more. Failures don't stop them because this is the thing that actually gives them more reason to go on. They see failure or disruptions as a challenge to do more and everything appears to them as part of a larger plan. Optimists see a silver lining in even the worst situations and always find a way to be happy with what they have. Even in times when they have nothing at all, they

still feel grateful and content.

Optimists know that life is never without problems. Who would expect such a ridiculous thing as to have no problems? What optimists expect is that they will face the problems with an eager smile and enjoy the chance to overcome the problem and move on to the next.

Optimists truly have the key to life and they work very hard to turn that key every day and make their lives into something outstanding. They see life with so much promise that they never imagine staying on the ground whenever they may fall. A fall is just something to look at with an interesting glance and to get up from and move on.

There's no better way to become an optimist than to do it right now.

## 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 NAO 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.

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## THE PREZ SPEAKS, Anne Reed

As many of you know, and shall I say, personally experienced, this month has been a very, very busy one for the club. Between organizing the Hello Party, Goodie Bags and handling the registration desk at the South Texas District Meeting, our baseball/softball program has been holding registration and having field work days as well, and I hear football/cheerleading has been planning their upcoming season....and despite all this flurry of activities we're not done yet! Saturday, February 28th we will hold a fundraiser at the Sam's Club which I hope many of us will be able to lend a hand!

As we have so many new members in the club joining our ranks, I thought that I would share my personal ex-

periences surrounding the question: "Why should I attend meetings when I don't have a vote?" I have found over the past few years that by my attending the bi-monthly meetings, I have learned more about what the Club does (aside from sports), how it works, and I've gotten to know more about my fellow optimist members. By volunteering at additional Club events, I have met other area optimist members and have become even more energized by them. Last year, I was voted in as a 2-year Board Member, this year as Club President, each year has laid the foundation for my next step of involvement. My answer to the question I posed is: You do have a voice and your input is needed and valued. While I am new at my

current position, I hope you have seen at the meetings you have attended, that I do ask for discussion on items which the board will be voting on... because this is a very important part of the Club's decision-making process.

Ironically, while during my first year I was a bit frustrated with not having voting capabilities, I now find myself in the same position. So, why do I continue? I'm in it for the kids--to bring out the best in our kids--- I keep my eye focused on that key OI mission.

So I hope that we all, those new to the roster and those not so new, will attend meetings, that way we'll all have the opportunity to grow the strength of OUR Club and our new relationship as fellow optimist members.

All the Best,  
Anne



*Optimist: A man who gets treed by a lion but enjoys the scenery.*  
~Walter Winchell

## ZONE 5—A MESSAGE FROM OUR LT. GOVERNOR

Fellow Optimists,

Congratulations to Zone 5 for a job well done. North Austin Optimist (NAO) came in 2nd for Awards & Achievements. All clubs in Zone 5 were recognized for outstanding leadership and community services.

Thank you for all of your help and donations.

To Lt. Gov. Jim Barrett, Zone 4 and his clubs thank you for your support and for volunteering your services. I am proud to say that you exemplify unification and team work.

Austin Moore from the Austin club was the winner in the Young Texan Texanne Award.

Special thanks to my club, NAO, for their outstanding job in hosting the Hello party! NAO was also responsible for the goodie bags. It took several weeks to gather all the variety of items that were collected for the bags. A special "thank you" goes to Lisa Pelayo for her efforts at collecting the majority of the items herself. THANK YOU! Thanks to our newest members for stepping up to the plate and showing eagerness in helping out—Melinda Heimann, Laura Hancock,

Melissa Correa, Lisa Pelayo, Susan Doyle, Kristina Corpus. You are greatly appreciated; you represent loyalty and commitment.

NAO is the hardest working group in this community. Don't forget to start working on your PGI. I need your passport signed by the President or the Sec.-Treasure so that I can submit prior to next district Meeting on May 22-24. You need to be recognized for all the hard work you do. Thank you again for being the best.

Lt.Gov. Isabel Brugman



*Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push. A smile. A word of optimism and hope. A "you can do it" when things are tough.*  
~Richard M. Devos

## MESSAGE FROM OUR VP OF Youth, E. Gray Richardson

I'd like to take this time to let you know how proud I am to be able to work with such a fine group of people on these two boards—Baseball and Football.

It takes a lot of hard work, time, and dedication to get these sports programs off the ground. These Board Members have shown exemplary acts throughout these past several weeks.

The Baseball Board has been meeting on a weekly basis ever since the latter part of December. Their work has paid off as we have a banner year for baseball with a total of 21 teams registered—233 players.

This is AWESOME!

The Football Board is not far behind. They have started meeting since the end of January.

I forecast this year's football season to be the best we've had in several years. We have a brand new football field that we'll be playing on and we'll now be able to host football games at our complex.

Thank you, again, to my Boards! Keep up the great work! This is what it's all about.

*E. Gray Richardson*

### 2009 Baseball Board

Wayne Gonzales, President

Sandra Escobar, Secretary

Olga Henson, Treasurer

Theresa Hilscher

Kristina Corpus

Kelly Price

Robert Gonzalez

Bennett Reed

David Reed

Dorman McGinty

John Haller



### 2009 Football Board

Eddie Lewis, President

Melissa Correa, Secretary

Olga Henson, Treasurer

Sharon Fowler

Enoch Fowler

Misty Castaneda

Sonya Viddurri

Randy Neidecken

## 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

Finance: Olga, Erin

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, Kristina

Respect for Law/Youth Safety Program: Isabel

Scholarship: Olga, Darlene

Security: Dorman, Theresa, David, Gray

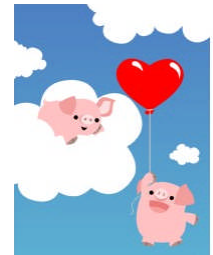
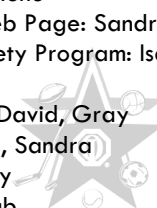
Signing Santa: Diana, Gray, Sandra

Tri-Star Sports: Eddie, Gray

Young Texan/Texanne: Club

Youth Activities: Gray & Baseball/Football Boards

Youth Appreciation Week: Club



## MESSAGE FROM FOOTBALL PRESIDENT, Eddie Lewis

Things are starting to come together in the 2009 Football Planning process. We are putting together our budget for 2009 with many exciting events in the near future to include fundraising and preparations for the new field.

We hope to begin registrations for the upcoming season in late March. Due to the pricing, payment plans will be available. Coaches will be holding

a Spring Football & Cheer camp the week of Spring Break, March 16 thru 20th in the evenings. Flyers will be sent out to the area schools to promote our program and the camps.

Our Cheer program is growing and the goal for this year is to have more cheerleaders. We need cheerleaders and cheer coaches! The cheer package that is being provided offers everything from the uniform,

megaphone to all cheer accessories. If you know anyone who would like to join as a cheerleader or help coach please spread the word!

With sadness, we say goodbye to Misty Castaneda as our registrar. All the best to you and your family Misty and thank you for all of your hard work these past two years. It was with

your help that we have become a successful football program.

As some things end, new things begin. We would like to welcome Laura Hancock as our new registrar. Laura has promised to help continue in the strive for success as an Optimist member and now a member of the football board.

*Eddie Lewis*

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## MESSAGE FROM BASEBALL PRESIDENT, Wayne Gonzales

Dear Optimist Members,

Registration for the spring baseball season ended on February 17th. Tryouts & the draft took place on Saturday the 21st. Registration was very successful, with approximately 233 players registering to play. We have players & coaches joining our league from UHO, Manor, and other leagues.

Overall, we have formed 3 Bronco, 4 Mustang, 4 Pinto, 5 Shetland, 1 Pony, and 4 Softball teams.

We held field work days on the 7th and 14th. New backboards were constructed and mounted on the Mustang and

Bronco fields. John Haller tilled the Shetland, Mustang and Bronco fields. The fencing on the Bronco fields was repaired & tied down. I'd like to thank all of the parents, coaches, and Optimist friends who helped with the maintenance effort. Now that the maintenance projects have been completed, we are hoping to begin practices on the 26th.

Special thanks to Sandra Escobar, Olga Henson, Theresa Hilscher, Kristina Corpus and Anne Reed for all of their help with the registration process.

Sincerely,

Wayne Gonzales



**It's not too late to register!  
Openings in all divisions.  
Please contact the  
Division Commissioners  
for Registration:**

**Shetland-Robert Gonzales  
797-9141**

**Pinto-David Reed  
450-0236**

**Mustang & Bronco-Kelly Price  
773-2410**

**Pony-Bennett Reed  
470-8060**

## 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



## WHAT IS JOOI? - taken from OI Publication, JOOI Brochure

The Mission of JOOI Junior Optimist Octagon International is an all inclusive youth organization that embraces the positive values of optimism, respect for self and others, and independence of mind through the unlimited opportunities of community service and sponsorship by Optimist International.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with more than 125,000 adult and youth members in 4,000 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico and throughout the world. Carrying the motto "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year.

JOOI stands for Junior Optimist

Octagon International and it is a service-learning organization.

There are different levels of JOOI Clubs for different age groups:

Alpha Clubs – ages 6 to 9

Junior Optimist Clubs – ages 10 to 13

Octagon Clubs – ages 14 to 18

With three different age groups available, kids can never outgrow JOOI!

Junior Optimist Octagon International was created to enable kids to do community service. JOOI reached the international level in 1989. Since that time, JOOI has grown to 17,600 Members in 690 Clubs throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and France. And guess what? The numbers are rising all the time thanks in part to great kids like you who want to make a difference in their community.

Why should you join JOOI?

Because it's fun!

- It can fulfill high school graduation requirements for community service
- When we help others, everyone wins!
- JOOI looks great on college applications
- You have leadership opportunities at the club, district and international levels!
- You can learn about teamwork, communication, self-esteem, money management and citizenship in nontraditional, fun ways

NAO is fortunate to have a JOOI club—the Octagon (ages 14 to 18).

If you know of anyone interested in JOOI, please contact the JOOI Chairperson, Theresa Hilscher, at 585-7216.

## CONCESSION COMMITTEE, Sandra Escobar, Chair

Concession is starting to gear up for the busy season. This year we will be providing concession to Spring ball, Football, and Fall ball. It will definitely be a busy year for us. Spring ball alone will be busy for us—we have a total of 21 teams.

We have our first committee meeting scheduled for March 7th. We'll combine this into a work day as well.

We'll be reviewing several things: the menu, Sams Club membership, the work schedules for the various game

days, and various other items.

We'll be cleaning the concession top to bottom and getting rid of everything that's been on the porch for the past 4-5 months now. It seems like every time we turn around, the concession porch has inherited something different.

The bathrooms will get a good washdown with a nice power spraywash. Right now there's a few items inside concession that belong to JOOI and to the Optimist Club that we'll have to move out to store elsewhere so we can start stocking the inventory for concession. We'll be restocking

little by little starting the week of March 9th.

I'd like to thank the Committee ahead of time because this is no easy task—Melissa Correa, Theresa Hilscher, Diana Melcer, and Olga Henson.



The Pony baseball and new football field are almost completed. They just lack the goal posts, scoreboard, and the concession building.

The main entrance at Watson is almost completed. There is a new metal electrical pole in place. When the old wooden pole is replaced our entrance will be completed. For now, we will still enter our part at the old entrance on Aggie Lane.

Utilities are being run to the McCrackin House and should be completed in a few days.

The club thanks Dorman for overseeing the construction on a daily basis. Due to his diligence and persistence, Trammel Crow has given in to several of our requests. **THANK YOU, DORMAN!**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, CONCERNS



Sandra Escobar 02/05

Marcie Dixon 2/7

Bob J. Purcell 2/9

Rosaura Lira 2/10

Melinda Heimann 2/13

Isabel M. Brugman 2/16



**Wedding / Optimist Anniversaries:**  
*None this month*

Special thoughts and concerns for the following:

Anne Reed's Great Aunt In Michigan passed on Ash Weds. Her mom is having a hard time.

In this time of economic hard times, we pray that everyone will be strong and patient to endure what's left to come. We know that those that are without jobs, will soon be taken care of. There is that special job out there just for you....we know it.

The McCracken house—may we be filled with creativity and open minds about the many possibilities this house has in store for us.

Sandra and her kids recently lost Bitsy, their 14 1/2 year old Chihuahua. Please keep Bitsy in your prayers.



NAO welcomes any visitors to our meetings. If you'd like to get a better idea of what Optimist Clubs are all about, pop in some time. We would love to have you.

Our club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. The first meeting is held at our club house at 1101 Morrow. The second meeting of the month is usually at a local restaurant. Here all family members are invited to come join in on a little bit of socializing and getting to know each other.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

Date	Event
February 28	NAO Fundraiser at Sam's Club
March 9	Optimist Meeting, 6:45pm
March 23	Change of Pace, 6:45 pm, Site TBD
March 24	Spring Ball 1st Day of Season
March 28	Spring Ball Opening Ceremonies & Carnival
<b>SAVE THE DATE—3rd Quarter District Meeting</b>	
May 22, 23, 24	Houston, Texas



## OPTIMIST CLUB OF NORTH AUSTIN

512-451-8355

### HAPPY VALENTINES DAY February 14th! Did you Know?

15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

Cupid, another symbol of Valentine's Day, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards holding a bow and arrows because he is believed to use magical arrows to inspire feelings of love.

Only the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Australia and the U.K. celebrate Valentine's Day.

In the United States, 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

It wasn't until 1537 that St. Valentine's Day was declared an official holiday. England's King Henry VIII declared February 14th a holiday.

### The Optimist Quiz Bowl

By what date should a Club elect new officers? **Before May 1**

What does an Optimist receive for sponsoring a new member? **sponsor lapel pin**

The "Zone" is a group of Clubs representing an arm of the District administration. What District officer serves the Zone? **Lieutenant Governor**

What publication does every Optimist member receive? **The Optimist Magazine**

Who presides at a Club meeting if the President is absent? **Vice President**

Who is considered the "right arm" of the Club President? **The Secretary Treasurer**

What are the restrictions for monies gathered from "fund raising" events? **they must be held in a "youth fund" and be used for projects to benefit the community unless otherwise disclosed to the public**

How often should a Club Secretary-Treasurer present a financial report to the Club Board of Directors? **monthly**

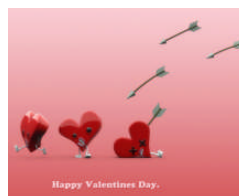
What is the non-profit status under which most US Clubs are incorporated? **501 (c) (3)**

Solicitations by Club members should not be done in what setting? **District, Zone or International Optimist meetings**

Who can change our Bylaws? **Club delegates at International Convention**

What is our official "Creed?" **the Optimist Creed**

What is the name of the form to report the addition of new members to Optimist headquarters? **"CRA - Club Roster Adjustment" form**



### New Field Development

