



OPTI-NEWZ



OPTIMIST CLUB OF NORTH AUSTIN
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Volume 1, Issue 1, November 2008

Editors: Olga Henson & Sandra Escobar

WELCOME

Next Meeting—Change of Pace—November 24
Next Regular Meeting—December 8

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 November 24, 6:45 p.m., at Hangtown Grill, 5800 Burnet Road (next to HEB in Allendale shopping center).

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
Open

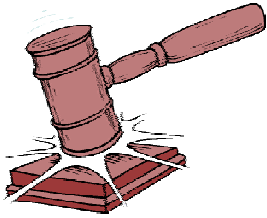
Mission Statement

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.

OPTI-NEWZ



THE PREZ SPEAKS, Anne Reed

Things for which I am thankful:

With the Thanksgiving holiday upon us, a time which we pause to reflect on all that we have been given; I want to share with you a few of the things I'll be giving thanks for this season. First, I am thankful for the support and confidence provided to me by the North Austin Optimist Club by electing me to be President for this upcoming year. I look forward to personal growth in addition to growing our club's membership. A very special "high five" thank you to Olga, Eddie, and Diana for bringing in seven new members this past month! Secondly, I am thankful for all of the NAO

members who work so hard to support our various programs and outreach activities. Some of these wonderful folks (aka committee chairs) have an update for you to get up to speed with all of our various initiatives. Next, I am grateful for the hundreds of children and their families who touch our lives throughout the year, either at the park or at one of our special events such as Signing Santa. Last but not least, I am thankful for the support so freely given to me by my family and friends and for being part of an international organization whose purpose is to bring out the best in our kids by providing

them with good, clean, healthy, fun activities and experiences. In closing, I encourage you to bring a friend to one of our monthly meetings, so that they can see first-hand how NAO contributes to our community. Now, we're off to Fredericksburg for Cowboy Days at the 1st District Quarter Meeting. In next month's issue of the newsletter I'll share what all we've learned. I'm very excited about attending my first meeting...YeeHaw!

Have a safe and meaningful Thanksgiving.

Anne

COMMUNITY SERVICE

submitted by Diana Melcer & Olga Henson



Signing Santa will be held Dec.9 at Barton Creek Mall between 6:30 and 8:00. This is such a heart warming event. Texas School of the Deaf will be present to sign to Santa what they want for Christmas. Our goal is to provide stockings and a picture with Santa for over 100 kids! This pro-

gram keeps growing each year. Please join us to share the joy of Christmas.

Christmas Family - as in years past our Club will once again be sponsoring a family from our neighborhood. Darlene McGinty will be contact-

ing one of the schools and will be getting the details of our family back to the Club and we will then start shopping for the needs of our family. We will get the details at our meeting on December 8 and set up a time for delivering the gifts and food at that meeting.

CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN

submitted by Diana Melcer



The holidays are near - it's a time of sharing and giving.

The club will be sending trays of cookies to the families at the Ronald McDonald House this season.

The Ronald McDonald facility is a temporary "home away from home" for the families of seriously ill chil-

dren being treated at nearby hospitals. We are collecting pull tabs from aluminum cans as a fundraiser to help with toiletries for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. We ask that all NAO members try to help in this effort and collect tabs at your home and work. Please spread the word to your

friends and other family members also. If you'd like a little box to collect the tabs in, let me know and I'll be glad to give you one. Otherwise, you can just gather them in a jar or bag or whatever is handy for you. Thanks so much for your support of this great cause!



MESSAGE FROM OUR VP OF Youth, Gray Richardson

Well Sports Fans we've wound down another season and all I can report are good things!

Our Spring Baseball and Fall Ball numbers were the highest we have had in years and Football numbers were exceptional as well! All of this was possible because of the hard work of our Baseball and Football Boards and the help of all the caring and devoted parents.

I want to take the time now to say "Thank You" to all these people. We could not have done it without you. I am

proud to say that standing with our long record of keeping kids busy and sharp witted, we have Winter Ball camp going on for the nominal fee of \$20 for 2 months worth of FUN! (Pretty good deal; I think!)

Looking to the future, I see tons of good things coming up. Spring Ball, Spring Football Camp, Summer Football Camp, Fall Ball, Tournaments, etc... Nothing but good things. I look forward to seeing everyone starting in January. Happy Holidays to All, and your Families! Remember, WE ARE THE BEST LEAGUE IN TOWN!

2009 Baseball Board

Wayne Gonzales, President
Sandra Escobar, Secretary
Olga Henson, Treasurer
Theresa Hilscher
Kristina Corpus
Kelly Price
Robert Gonzalez
David Reed
Dorman McGinty
John Haller-Umpire In Chief



2008 Football Board

Eddie Lewis, President
Melissa Correa, Secretary
Olga Henson, Treasurer
Misty Castaneda, Registration
Melinda Heimann, Sponsors
Dan Heimann, Field Director
Paul Delgado, Equipment
Sharon Fowler - Cheerleader Coordinator



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

JOO! 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

What a difference a year makes. Our football/cheer program has grown in to something we didn't think possible. BUT...we believed! When we began planning back in January and were very "Optimistic" in that our upcoming season would be a success. We had our ups and downs during the planning process, pushed through it and came out strong with 87 Bulldog Football & Bulldog Cheerleaders. We met our Goal! We have not had cheerleaders

for several years. We were all excited to see those girls out there cheering on the teams and our cheer goal for '09 is to double our cheerleaders. VP of youth, Gray Richardson has done an outstanding job in guiding us and I have brought back some of the old traditions and experiences that NAO has had from seasons past. Enoch & Sharon Fowler brought in many kids to the organization that has brought new life in to what our football

program can become. With any growing organization you have the backbone keeping everything running and the remaining board members have done just that. We joined a new league and with anything new, they had their growing pains as well. We felt them first hand as board members and as parents of players but we endured. The main thing is, the kids are having fun. Our outlook is "Optimistic." The goal

for the future of football & cheerleading is to increase our numbers! Each division has one final game this weekend to include a Championship game in the Senior division. We conclude our season on Sunday with Closing Ceremonies, this will include a Parent Dance Competition and a spirit award to be given to the division with the most spirit. Planning for '09 is right around the corner and we anticipate bigger and better things for Football at NAO!



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2008 NAO Shetland Longhorns

SAVE THE DATES

Winter Baseball Registration

Saturday - November 15
Saturday - November 22
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

JOOI Garage Sale
Saturday - November 22
8:00 am—12:00 pm

Signing Santa
Tuesday - December 9

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

MESSAGE FROM BASEBALL PRESIDENT, Wayne Gonzales

Dear Optimist Members: I would like to start out by thanking all our board members for the fantastic job they did during the fall season. Our baseball program continues to grow, which is very exciting for all of us.

The fall season lasted eight weekends, and finished up with an end of the season tournament that was held at NAO. We had teams from Austin and surrounding areas that participated in the tournament. The NAO teams did very well taking first place in two divisions.

On November 1, Closing ceremonies were held at

NAO. Participation trophies were handed out to all ball players. The best part of closing ceremonies was to see the joy on the faces of the kids as their name was called and presented with a trophy that, right there, was worth all the hard work and all the time spent at the field.

I would again like to thank our board members for the great job they did, and I would also like to thank Gray Richardson for all that he does for NAO baseball.

The fall program was very successful, and I look forward to continued success in the upcoming seasons. Thanks!

DID YOU KNOW?

The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621, to commemorate the harvest reaped by the Plymouth Colony after a harsh winter. In that year Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving. The colonists celebrated it as a traditional English harvest feast, to which they invited the local Wampanoag Indians.

Days of thanksgiving were celebrated throughout the colonies after fall harvests. All thirteen colonies did not, however, celebrate Thanksgiving at the same time until October 1777. George Washington was the first president to declare the holiday, in 1789.

THE JOOI REPORT

submitted by Theresa Hilscher



The JOOI Club has had a busy couple of months. After losing 8 members during the summer due to graduation we had a membership drive and were able to recruit 9 new members. We elected new officers for this year. Congratulations to our new officers: President: Margaret Wilson, Vice Presi-

dent: Colton Collins, Secretary: Veronica Garcia, Treasurer: Harmony Richardson, Sgt.@ Arms: Mason Royal. Board members include: Freshman Class Rep - Bret Hilscher Sophomore Class Rep - Vivian Garcia Junior Class Rep - Tara Medrano Senior Class Rep - Kristy Williams. The JOOIs have been busy the last couple of months gathering items all over town for a huge

fundraiser. They are hosting a yard sale to beat all yard sales! It will be held at the ballpark on Nov. 22. Come by and check out all the goodies the kids have been collecting over the past month. The JOOIs will be helping the Optimist at the annual Signing Santa event on December 9 at Barton Creek. This has always been a rewarding experience for our kids, helping other kids!

WEB SITE REPORT

submitted by Sandra Escobar

Our web site is www.naopt.com. If you haven't visited it in a while, please do so as the site is generally updated on a weekly basis with news and info about current happenings. Most recently there have been several scrapbooks posted from the various different sectors - foot-

ball, baseball, Optimists. Please always remember that the web site is our main tool for getting our message out. If there's anything you want people to know let's get it on the site. Please help me make the site one of the best informational tools for our audience—prospective Optimist members, parents, kids, volunteers. There

is also a "Members Only" section on the site that all Optimist members have access to. If you need the login and password, please let me know and I'll send it to you. Additionally, you are always welcome to see stats of the site - just go to <http://stats.naopt.com>. There you get a nice visual of the web site hits on a monthly/daily basis.

CLUB SERVICES REPORT submitted by Olga

We installed 3 new members at our Change of Pace meeting in October. What a fun and exciting time we had! In our Board meeting in November we voted in 4 new members and will be installing those members at Change of Pace meeting on November 24. That's SEVEN new members in 2 months. That has to be a record. Keep up the great work and keeping bringing in those members!

WE CAN DO THIS – WITH EVERYONE'S HELP!

Also – we have a District meeting coming this week in Fredericksburg. Members are encouraged to attend these meetings and our Club receives credits on our A&A for attending. As of today Anne, David, Isabel, Roy, and I are the ones I know who are planning to attend. The dates are November 14, 15, & 16. NAO is well on its way on becoming an HONOR Club this year. Let's keep up the GREAT work and continue to work as a team and support the kids in our community!

CONCESSION REPORT submitted by Sandra



Concession did very well during the spring and fall ball seasons this year. Spring started off with a bang as our main 500lb ice maker died on us and Diana and I had to purchase a replacement. Another huge investment was the much needed Gator – this was purchased with earmarked funds from the previous

fiscal year ('06-'07). Luckily, with the increased participation in both seasons, this greatly helped Concession budget to come out in the black. Because of this Concession was able to earmark '07-'08 funds to go towards a tilling implement that goes on the back of our tractor, a new push tiller, and some picnic tables for placement at each of the ball fields. Diana and I want to thank the numerous volunteers who helped make this past year successful. THANK YOU.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



JOHN HENSON
November 5

THERESA HILSCHER
November 13



Optimist Anniversaries:
MIMI VASQUEZ -
November 2001
THERESA HILSCHER -
November 2005

Wedding Anniversaries: *None this month*

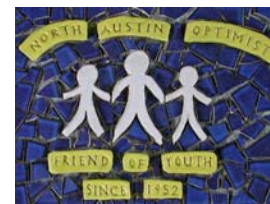


Within the past two months we have voted in SEVEN new members. Please extend a warm welcome to:

- Kristina Corpus, Melissa Correa,*
- Lisa Pelayo, Susan Doyle,*
- Leslye Garcia, Melinda Heimann,*
- Sharon Majors-Fowler*

UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

Date	Event
November 14, 15, 16	STxD District Mtg, Fredericksburg, Tx
November 15	Baseball Winter Clinic Registration
November 22	JOOI Garage Sale & BBall Clinic Registration
November 23	Football Closing Ceremonies, Dobie MS
November 24	Change of Pace Meeting/Hangtown Grill
November 27	THANKSGIVING
December 8	Optimist Meeting, 6:45pm
December 9	Signing Santa @ Barton Creek Mall



I PROMISED MYSELF

I promised myself through my Optimist Creed
 To help any person that I found in need.
 If by only a word or a cheery smile.
 To make them feel they were really worth-while.
 To be so strong that what troubles I find
 Will not disturb my peace of mind.
 Health and happiness will be my theme
 And a rich fulfillment of every dream.
 For mistakes I make, I will atone
 By making each one a stepping stone
 That will lead me on, and guide my way
 To greater achievements at some future day.
 Too large for worry, too strong for fear
 Too noble for anger should trouble appear.
 With an Optimistic nature, and that spirit implied
 I will always look on the sunny side.
 I will strive for the best and do all that I can
 But I'll praise the success of my fellow man
 I will keep so busy at my own enterprise
 I will have no time to criticize.
 So when I come to the end of the day
 I can put my thoughts and my troubles away
 I will have that feeling as I take my rest
 That throughout this day I have done my best.
 Yes, I promised myself through my Optimist Creed
 To help any person that I found in need
 And I've kept that promise, but I must agree
 That the one I've helped most, has really been me!

Author Unknown

LEFTOVER TURKEY??

Turkey Tetrazzini

- (16 ounce) package uncooked spaghetti
 - 1/2 cup butter
 - 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 - 3 cups chicken broth
 - 2 cups milk
 - 1 2/3 cups grated Parmesan cheese
 - 4 cups chopped cooked turkey
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees). Lightly grease a medium baking dish.
 2. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add spaghetti, and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente. Drain, and place in the prepared baking dish.
 3. Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Stir in flour. Mix in chicken broth and milk. Cook and stir until the mixture comes to a boil. Stir in about 1 1/3 cups Parmesan cheese, and remove from heat.
 4. Mix chicken broth mixture and turkey with spaghetti. Top with remaining cheese. Bake 1 hour in the preheated oven, until surface is lightly browned.

WIT AND WISDOM

- If the stars are blinking and flickering, a storm is coming.
- Observation, not old age, brings wisdom.
- It is good luck to spill wine on a tablecloth.
- There is no better month in the year to cut wood than November.
- Thunder in November indicates a fertile year to come.
- If animals crowd together, rain will follow.
- November 20, 21— Best days to harvest below ground crops



SIGNS OF WINTER

Few things concern the gardener more than the first warning signs of winter. The following are all considered traditional signs of a severe winter ahead:

Geese fly south at a high altitude.

Oak trees bear many acorns.

Chipmunks are abundant.

Lakes and rivers freeze later than usual.

Onions grow thicker skins than usual.

Squirrels are gathering a large supply of nuts.

Woodpeckers appear early.

Lots of berries.

Corn husks are thicker and stronger.

THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Dear Ann Landers: I hope you will print something a friend in Australia sent me.

I think it's perfect to run on Thanksgiving. -- Bee in Fairfax, Va.

Dear Bee: Please send my best wishes and warm thanks to your friend in Australia. Here's the thoughtful piece she sent:

Things to Be Thankful For

- Be thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means you have enough to eat.
- Be thankful for the mess you clean up after a party, because it means you have been surrounded by friends.
- Be thankful for the taxes you pay, because it means you're employed.
- Be thankful that your lawn needs mowing and your windows need fixing, because it means you have a home.
- Be thankful for your heating bill, because it means you are warm.
- Be thankful for the laundry, because it means you have clothes to wear.
- Be thankful for the space you find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means you can walk.
- Be thankful for the lady who sings off-key behind you in church, because it means you can hear.
- Be thankful when people complain about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.
- Be thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means you're alive.

~ Taken from Ann Landers' column—11/22/01

