

# Land of Lincoln Bulletin

*Illinois Optimist District Newsletter*

*illinoisoptimist.org*

## Oratorical Contest & CCDHH a Highlight of the 3rd Quarter District Conference

A very special thank you to Ron Elvin from the Oswegoland Optimist Club for organizing and running the Illinois District Oratorical Contest and to Annie Moore also of the Oswegoland Optimist Club for organizing and running the CCDHH contest. The CCDHH has not been run in many years in this district and Annie did a great job getting the young adults to participate as well as the judges. Although our district winner did not take the International title this past week, all of the participants did an amazing job and know that the skill of public speaking will aid them in all of their future endeavors!

### Essay Contest Scholarship Awarded

By Connie Minnes, District Essay Chair

Sophie Rasmus, sponsored by the Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club. Sophie is a sophomore at Urbana High School. She has been awarded a \$2500 scholarship through the OI Foundation, which she will receive when she attends college.



# Taylorville Optimist Club 3rd Annual “Salute to Law Enforcement”



Pictured L to R: States Attorney Mike Havera; Officer of the Year, Chief Daniel Bland of Pana; Chief Brian Wade of Assumption; Officer Jody Grove of the Kincaid PD; and State Representative Avery Bourne.

The Taylorville Optimist Club hosted their 3rd Annual “Salute to Law Enforcement” as a part of the month long celebration of OI’s Respect for Law Month. Officers from all around Christian County gathered for breakfast with the club members on Thursday, May 10th. Local, county, state, and Federal officers, active and retired, were invited to attend. An “Officer of the Year” initiative was conducted over a two month period where citizens could nominate their favorite police officer for the Officer of the Year. The field of nominees for 2018 was cut from seven to three finalists. Gov. Bruce Rauner, via video, announced this year’s winner as Pana Chief of Police Daniel Bland. Other finalists were Chief Brian Wade of Assumption and Officer Jody Grove of the Kincaid PD.

Besides the video of Gov. Rauner, State Representative Avery Bourne spoke to the group, as did Christian County States Attorney Mike Havera. A reading of the names of officers who have died in the line of duty in 2018 was held to pay tribute to their ultimate sacrifice. So far in 2018, 51 officers across the US have given their lives while in the line of duty. At this point last year, that number was 45.

For the remainder of Respect for Law month, the Taylorville Optimist will host a town hall type discussion on school safety with the Superintendent of Schools, high school principals, and Chiefs of Police from Taylorville and Pana. This should be a very interesting and informative discussion of a most serious problem. The following two meetings will host law enforcement agents discussing the rampant drug problem facing our communities, and the topic of firearms will close out the month.

The Taylorville Optimist Club is very active, especially at this time of year, as we go directly into the month of June and will host our District Junior Golf Tournament for the 24th consecutive year.



## Optimist Jr Golf Tournament 2018



### Girl Winners 15-18 years of age

Left to right: Terry Wright, Emma Thorman, 1st place (76-76-152 won playoff), Karlie Schmepp, 2nd Pllace (77-75-152), Allison Schrock, 3rd Place (81-73-154), Lauren Hawley, 4th place qualifier (78-80-158), Sandi Schmidt, Dist. Gov-Elect

### Boy Winners 16-18 years of age



Left to right: Terry Wright, Zach Williams, 2nd place (71-72-143), Caden Ellis, 1st place (68-73-141), Kolten Bauer, 3rd place (75-73-148), Sandi Schmidt Dist. Gov-Elect



### Girls 10-12

L to R: Adam Vocks, Tournament IT Director, Catalina Easley, 2nd place (92), Ihneralayze Gerganey, 1st place (81), Terry Wright





## Boys 10-11

L to R: Adam Vocks,  
Austin Hofferkamp, 1st place (74),  
Terry Wright

## Boys 10-11

L to R: Adam Vocks,  
Jason Gordon, 1st place (80),  
Terry Wright



*Jordan Abdel-Haq, Ex. Dir.  
IJCA, Guest Speaker*



We have an exciting schedule of training coming together for the convention in August. Training will be offered by International Board of Directors Member Patsy Garner as well as leaders from around the District.

Sessions offered will include:

- President Training
  - Secretary/Treasurer Training
  - Lieutenant Governor Training
  - Maintaining a Healthy Optimist Club
  - Managing Change
  - How to Follow the New Brand Guidelines
- And more!

### **Governor-Elect Wanted**

By Sandi Schmidt, Governor-Elect

Now is the time of year when each of us should be thinking about what we can do to make the lives of kids in Illinois better. To support that very important goal, each of us should be considering how we can help make the Illinois Optimist organization stronger and better.

There's an opportunity open that is critical to the ongoing success of Optimism in Illinois. We're looking for an enthusiastic Optimist member (or members) to run for the position of Governor-Elect at our upcoming District Convention. The person elected to fill this role would begin planning to become the Governor for the 2019-20 Optimist year.

If you want to learn more about this position or you know of someone who might be a good candidate, please let me know. I'd be happy to talk with anyone who's interested and arrange for that person to talk to one or more of our past governors to get a good feel for what the job entails. Just give me a call at 309-236-1342 or send me an email at [schmidtsandi@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtsandi@gmail.com).

I'm excited to have the chance to serve our District, and I hope you are too!

### **Looking Ahead - Optimist Conferences for 2018-19**

By Sandi Schmidt, Governor-Elect

We're planning now for an exciting year in the Illinois District in 2018-19! Optimist International will be 100 years old, and there will definitely be some celebrating to recognize that milestone. We'll also have some great training and plenty of time to share ideas and fun with your fellow Optimists. More details will be provided as we get closer to these meetings.

Mark your calendars now for the 2018-19 Illinois Optimist Conferences and Convention:

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Conference – October 5-6, 2018
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Conference – January 25-26, 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Conference – April 12-13, 2019
- District Convention – August 2-4, 2019

All four of these meetings will be held at the Radisson Hotel Normal, in Normal, Illinois. I can't wait to see you all there!



**Granite City Club presented awards to the Club winners in the recent Poster and Essay Contests. Each student received a ribbon, certificate and monetary recognition.**





# **Des Plaines Optimist Club**

## **Movies In The Park are underway!**



Despite a rough weather start to the movies in the park season, the Des Plaines Club is on track! Opening the season with Space Jam (June 8), Moana & the Hawaiian Dancers (June 22nd), Despicable Me 3 hosting a kids drive in night (July 6), Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (July 20), Coco on August 3rd and wrapping up the season on August 17 with a costume contest and the Wizard of Oz. Fingers crossed—NO MORE RAIN

