

Illinois District Optimist Land of Lincoln Bulletin



June 2016

illinoisoptimist.org

Hope Johnson Wins Essay Contest

By Connie Minnes, District Essay Contest Chair

The Illinois District is pleased to announce that Hope Johnson, representing the Taylorville Optimist Club, is the 2016 Essay Contest winner. Hope read her essay "Lead by Example - Reality or Fiction" at the recent District Conference in Springfield.

Hope will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship toward her college education and received a plaque at the District Conference. Hope has chosen to attend the University of Missouri and will major in journalism.



District Chair Connie Minnes and Hope Johnson

Thank you to the Taylorville Optimist Club and all clubs in the District who sponsored Essay Contests this year.



Poster Contest Winners

By Charles Mayhew, District Poster Contest Chair

This year's poster contest theme, "Smoking is Totally Not Cool", inspired some outstanding artwork by students from nine Optimist Clubs. The winning posters were created by:

First Place - \$100

Boys: Jacob Bustos (Oswegoland)

Girls: Addison Willis (Marshall Clark County)

Second Place - \$75

Boys: Jadon Jones (Sterling)

Girls: Amari Johnson (Champaign-Urbana)

Third Place - \$50

Boys: Khaleo Price (Belleville)

Girls: Sage Maisel (Belleville)

Thanks to all the clubs and students who participated in the contest!

“How My Best Brings Out The Best in Others”

By Ron Elvin, District Oratorical Contest Chair



The 2016 Illinois District Oratorical Contest was held at our third quarter conference in Springfield.

Once again this year's District Oratorical Contest was a testament to the future as each of the finalists gave outstanding presentations.

The contestants are shown here with contest chair Ron Elvin.

The winners were Hakeem Jones for the boys and Alyssa Filicicchia for the girls.

The scores were extremely close, with Alyssa selected as the overall winner. She will travel to St. Louis for the 2016 Optimist International Oratorical World Championships June 23rd and 24th. Alyssa will be a tremendous representative of our District. Wish her luck!



Watch the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships as they happen! The day of the Regional Contests on June 23, visit www.optimist.org/stream. There will be two separate broadcasts happening simultaneously: Auditorium Stream and Seminar Room Stream. Click on the “Detailed Schedule” link to see what time Alyssa is speaking and in which live streaming broadcast. On June 24, the day of the World Championships, there will be only one live streaming window.

Camp COCO This Month!!

By Chris Smith, District Childhood Cancer Chair

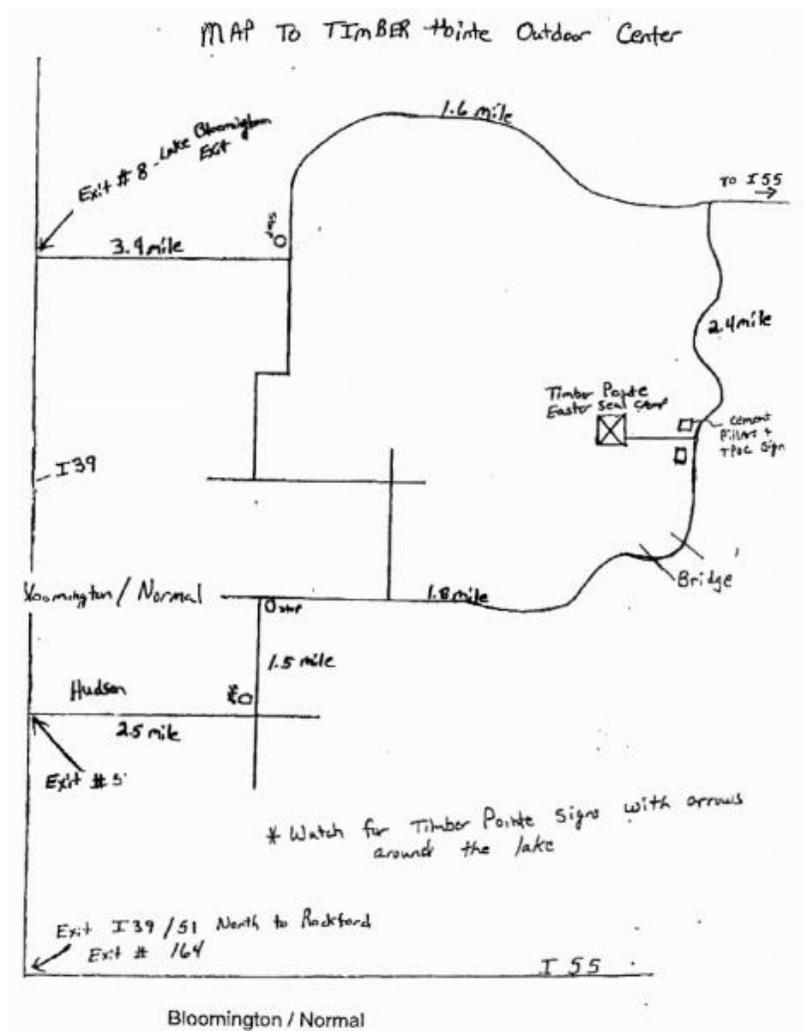
That's right – it'll soon be time to gather at Camp COCO to entertain the kids! Join us on Tuesday, June 28th, at Timber Pointe Outdoor Center at Lake Bloomington.

We'll be arriving about 9:00 a.m. to set up to entertain the kids from 10:00-12:00. We'll have lots of games, relays, and more! Some of the activities will be:

Dunk Tank	Golf Game
Tic Tac Toe Toss	Ring Toss
Penguin Fish Fling	Bouncy House
Basketball Toss	Gaming Trailer
Relays	

Thanks in advance for all your help! Looking forward to seeing you there! Call my cell (217-341-4350) for more info.

To learn more about Camp COCO:
<http://www.siumed.edu/foundation/campcoco.htm>



Directions to Timber Pointe Outdoor Center

Look for the large stone pillars & Timber Pointe Outdoor Center sign at the entrance.

From I-55 Southbound: Exit at Lexington. Take Lexington Road (Co. Rd. 8) west (right) 6 miles to the Lake Road (look for Timber Pointe sign). Turn left. Timber Pointe Outdoor Center is 3 miles south on the right.

From I-55 Northbound: Note that you cannot get off onto 1700E. You must exit on I-39 or Hwy 51 North. Go 4.5 miles to Hudson Road. Turn east (right) through town and 3 miles into the country to the stop sign or 1700E. Go north (left) 1.5 miles to Co. Rd. 2350N. Turn east (right) for 2 miles. Timber Pointe Outdoor Center is just after the bridge on the left.

From I-74 Eastbound: Exit on I-55 North to Chicago, then exit on I-39 or Hwy 51 North. Go 4.5 miles to Hudson Road. Turn east (right) through town and 3 miles into the country to the stop sign or 1700E. Go north (left) 1.5 miles to Co. Rd. 2350N. Turn east (right) for 2 miles. Timber Pointe Outdoor Center is just after the bridge on the left.

From I-74 Westbound: Exit on Hwy 51 North. Take Veterans Parkway (bus. I-55) north/east. Follow signs to I-55 South to Springfield (exits to the left) but instead of getting onto the interstate ramp, continue straight north on 1700E. toward Lake Bloomington. Go approximately 6 miles north to the T intersection. Turn east (right) for 2 miles onto Co. Rd. 2350N. Timber Pointe is just after the bridge on the left.

From I-39 (Hwy 51) Southbound: Take Lake Bloomington Road Exit (Co. Rd. 2500N) 3.5 miles to the T stop sign. Turn north (left) and follow the lake road over the spillway and watch for the camp sign, which turns to the right at the Lexington "Y". Follow the lake road 3 miles. Timber Pointe is on the right.

4th Quarter District Convention in Bloomington

August 5-7, 2016

Hotel: \$89 including breakfast for two

The Chateau Bloomington
1621 Jumer Drive, Bloomington, IL
Reservations: 309-662-2020
Cutoff Date: July 15 by 5 P.M.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Please mark your calendars for our 4th Quarter Convention.

Registration material and an agenda will be sent out soon.
Make sure you don't miss out! Call the hotel NOW and book your room.

Join in the excitement - we can't wait to see you.

Greenville Youth Appreciation

By Larry Martin, Greenville Optimist Club

The Greenville Optimist Club honored 2015–2016 Unit #2 High School Young Leaders on April 28th at their annual Youth Appreciation Reception held at St. Lawrence Church. Don Reed, Optimist President, delivered a message on leadership and praised the young leaders for their roles in community activities. The students provided a short speech on their club activities and were given a Certificate of Appreciation by Optimist Youth Appreciation Co-Chairman, Pat York. During the reception, the students and family members enjoyed punch and cookies.



(L to R.) Kayla Dannaman, Yearbook Editor; Mitchell Langham, FFA President; Jonathan Hall and Ryker Grove, Co-Presidents of Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and Bailey Sidwell, Junior Class President.

Not pictured and unable to attend were: Emily Unterbrink, Freshman Class President; T.J. Zobrist, Sophomore Class President; Ryan Wylde, Senior Class President; Meghan Thies, Student Council President; Katie Munshaw, LightForce President; Dominic Caldieraro, National Honor Society President; Nicholas Watterson, Chorus President & Band Drum Major; Caitlynn Elliott, Band Drum Major, and Andrew Riddle & Jacob Klenke, Scholar Bowl Co-Captains.

Champaign-Urbana Announces Winners

By Torianna Exem, Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club



Kyle Robinson, Oratorical Contest winner, with contest chair Barb Gillespie.



Daniel Driscoll, Essay Contest Chair, pictured above with his parents and Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club president, Grace Mitchell.

Oak Park Oratorical Contest

By Al Hippensteel, Oak Park Optimist Club

Shown below are our contestants for the Oak Park Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. The students represented Trinity High School of River Forest, Fenwick High School of Oak Park, and Crete-Monee High School of Crete. Our boy contestant, Ryan Lavin, placed first at the club level and the regional level in Oswego. The Oak Park Optimist Club has been hosting the Oratorical Contest for over 35 years.



Southern Region Oratorical Contest

By Terry Wright, Taylorville Optimist Club

The Taylorville Optimist Club hosted the Southern Region Illinois District Oratorical Contest on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Participants from Taylorville, Greenville, Quincy, Highland, and Belleville gathered at the Taylorville Memorial Hospital Auditorium to compete for the opportunity to advance to the District Contest on Saturday, April 30, in Springfield.



The contest participants were (l. to r.):

Tommy O'Brien (Taylorville),
Katarina Vrtikapa (Quincy),
Adam Klosterman (Highland),
Taina Estevez (Greenville),
Dakota Driemeyer (Greenville),
Brianaesha Millender (Belleville),
Hope Johnson (back-Taylorville),
Grace Meyer (front-Highland).

The first and second place boys and girls advanced to the District Contest.

Pictured l. to r.:

Dakota Driemeyer (Greenville, 1st)
Tommy O'Brien (Taylorville, 2nd)
Taina Estevez (Greenville, 2nd)
Hope Johnson (Taylorville, 1st)

The Optimists would like to thank Nancy Curtain, Melinda Reuter, and Sam Meister, all members of the Milliken University communication department faculty, who served as judges. We would also like to thank the *Breeze Courier* and U.S. Bank for their corporate sponsorship of the contest.



The Glasford Optimist Club chartered on August 16, 1956. Congratulations on 60 years of service to the kids in your community!



The O'Fallon Optimist Club chartered on September 26, 2006. Congratulations on 10 years of service to the kids in your community!

Driemeyer and Estevez Advance to Oratorical District Contest

By Larry Martin, Greenville Optimist Club



The Southern Region Oratorical Contest was held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the Taylorville Memorial Hospital Auditorium. The first and second place boy and girl advanced to the District Contest on Saturday, April 30th in Springfield.

Don Reed, Greenville Optimist president, and Larry Martin, Oratorical Chairman for the club, attended the contest to hear the speeches delivered on the topic "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others."

Dakota Driemeyer (left), a student at Pocahontas Elementary, who placed first among the boys, and Taina Estevez (right), a student at Greenville Junior High, who placed second among the girls, were selected to advance to the District Oratorical Contest.

Youth Appreciation Scholarship Banquet Honors Seniors

By Terry Wright, Taylorville Optimist Club

The Taylorville Optimist Club recognized five graduating Taylorville High School seniors at their annual "Youth Appreciation Scholarship" banquet. Students were selected on several criteria, the most important of which was their leading by example in those tenets reflected by the Optimist Creed. The students and their families gathered with club members on May 18 to hear Dr. Patrick White, President of Millikin University, talk on the topic, "Honoring Excellence: The Challenge of Optimism".

Students selected for these 2016 awards were: Alec Higgason, Meg Kettelkamp, Austin Marburger, Alysha Newlin, and Kailey Talley. Each received a scholarship from the Optimist Club and a variety of members of the business community.



Front row L to R: Len Hempen, Taylorville Optimist President; Talley; Newlin; Kettelkamp; Dr. Patrick White, President, Milliken University

Back row L to R: Higgason; Marmburger; Bob Richardson, Principal, Taylorville High School

Camelot Dinner and Auction a Big Success!

By Gregg McGee, Granite City Optimist Club

The annual Camelot Dinner and Auction, sponsored by the Granite City Optimist Club, was held October 24th at St. Gregory's Armenian Center in Granite City.



Dan Connors



Sandy Strohmeier and Paul Heinrich

Highland Announce Scholarship Winners

By Kevin Hemann, Highland Optimist Club

The Highland Optimist Club awarded three scholarships to seniors in the Highland community at the Highland High School Awards Banquet on May 16, 2016.

The Jerry Beaird Scholarship is a one-time \$1000 scholarship in honor of a past member of our club that wanted to see students not only get good grades and be an excellent student, but also wanted this student to have worked during his high school days. This year's recipient of the Jerry Beaird Scholarship is Austin Brown.

The Wally Hug Scholarship is a one-time \$1000 scholarship in honor of a past member of our club that wanted to see students excel in school and participate in some of our programs like the Oratorical and Essay Contests. This year's recipient of the Wally Hug Scholarship is Elizabeth Arend.

The Highland Optimist Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship renewable for four years to a student that was active in school and sports programs and participated in some of our programs like the Oratorical and Essay Contests. This year's recipient of the Highland Optimist Scholarship is Emily Duncan.



Scholarship winners Elizabeth M. Arend, Emily D. Duncan, and Austin Brown, with Highland Optimist president Jay Korte.

The club will award one additional scholarship to the family member of a club member in July. Each year the Highland Optimist Club awards \$8000 in scholarships.

Salute to Law Enforcement

By Terry Wright, Taylorville Optimist Club

As a part of "Respect for Law" month, the Taylorville Optimist Club held a "Salute to Law Enforcement". Approximately 80 people attended the breakfast which paid tribute to law enforcement officers from all around Christian County.



Assembled group of local, county, and state officers, active and retired.

A "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" contest was held in conjunction with this event. Nominations were accepted from the public, and a panel of three retired judges narrowed the field to three finalists, one of which was named as the "Officer of the Year".



Officer of the Year Finalists: Chief Deputy Bruce Engeling, Christian County Sheriff's Office; Sgt. Allan Mills, Taylorville Police Department; and Chief Dwayne Wheeler, Kincaid Police



Christian County Sheriff Bruce Kettelkamp; Officer of the Year, Chief Deputy Bruce Engeling; Illinois State Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier.



Justice Lloyd Karmeier

A very special speaker addressed the assembled members and law enforcement. He is State Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier.

The Taylorville Optimist Club was very pleased with this first time effort and hopes to make it an annual event as our tribute to "Respect for Law".

Greenville Optimist Strawberry Delivery

By Larry Martin, Greenville Optimist Club

Around 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 17, 130 flats of Florida strawberries, sold by the Greenville Optimist Club, arrived at Anthony Supply in Greenville. Over the course of the afternoon, the strawberries were either picked up by or delivered to the purchasers. The Greenville Optimist Club expresses their appreciation to those purchasing strawberries. Funds raised in this sale help support youth activities in the local area. This marks the fourth year of the successful event.



Highland Optimist Club Donates to Children's Library

By Kevin Hemann, Highland Optimist Club



The Highland Optimist Club recently toured the Highland Children's Library. After the tour, club president Jay Korte (above right) presented a check for \$1000 to the Children's Library. The Highland Optimist Club makes an annual donation to the Highland Children's Library.



Highland Middle School to Madison County Courthouse

By Kevin Hemann, Highland Optimist Club



Each year as part of the Respect for Law program, the Highland Optimist Club sends the Highland Middle School students to the Madison County Courthouse in Edwardsville to participate in a Mock Trial Program. The students get to role play real life trials as part of jury, prosecutor, and defense attorney. After they return to school, they have a speaker, a prisoner from a local prison. This year over 200 students participated in this program.



Want to see your Optimist Club in the Land of Lincoln Bulletin? It's simple – just email your pictures, with a story and/or captions, to the Bulletin editor, [Sandi Schmidt](mailto:SandiSchmidt@gmail.com) (SchmidtSandi@gmail.com). It only takes a few minutes to share the great things your club is doing!

Action pictures of your club's activities are more fun to share with your fellow Optimists around the Illinois District.

The deadline for the next edition of the Land of Lincoln Bulletin is **Friday, August 19**. Send your articles today!