

# Optimist Club of Timonium Inc.

www.TimoniumOptimist.org

**PRESIDENT:** John Paull  
**SECRETARY:** Sue Cavanaugh  
**TREASURER:** Donna Bullen  
**V.P. OF YOUTH:** Laura Hunt  
**V.P. OF MEMBERSHIP:** Bob Hoffman  
**V.P. OF PROGRAMS:** Gary Shultz  
**IMMED. PAST PRESIDENT:** Ann Shultz  
**PAST PRESIDENT:** Mickey Price  
**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:** Dolores Righter  
**BULLETIN EDITOR:** Joanne Paull  
**PAST INTERN'L V.P.:** Dick Price  
**PAST INTERN'L V.P.:** Jim Yates



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
**ONE YEAR:** Skip Bullen  
Karl Parks  
Ann Siegmund  
**TWO YEAR:** Pat Nardone  
Jim Righter  
Bill Snyder  
**ZONE 9 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:**  
Carole Bankert  
**MD/SD DISTRICT GOVERNOR:**  
Sonny Neal

Club meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 6:30 p.m., Timonium Holiday Inn • Board meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:30 p.m., N.H. Yates & Co  
Bulletin news due two days after club meetings; send to Joanne Paull at 410-252-0694 or joanne@jpaull.com

*Bringing Out the Best In Kids for Fifty Years!*

OPTI-MEMO: Mar. 23, 2007

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1, 2007 — Deadline for Timonium Optimist Scholarship applications—remind high school seniors!  
April 2, 2007 — Dinner meeting at Timonium Holiday Inn Select; 6:30 p.m.  
April 9, 2007 — Board meeting at N.M. Yates & Co.; 7:30 p.m.  
April 12, 2007 — Zone 9 Oratorical Contest at Friendly Farms; time 6:30 p.m.  
Date TBA — Bingo at Crowmwell Genesis; 2:00 p.m.  
April 20–22 — Third Quarter District Conference & District Oratorical Contest in Ocean City  
May 7, 2007 — Dinner meeting at Timonium Holiday Inn Select; 6:30 p.m.—election night!

## Our Last Meeting—Monday, March 19, 2007

The second dinner meeting in March is always devoted to the club's Oratorical Contest. President John Paull welcomed 75 people to the event—62 adults and 13 children. The number included 34 Optimists; the rest were judges, contestants and others who came to enjoy the competition. Dennis Schulze asked the blessing, and Joanne Paull led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pres. John reminded members of our upcoming meetings into April. The cutoff for hotel reservations for the Third Quarter District Conference in Ocean City has passed. The Conference is set for April 20-22. The District Oratorical Contest will be held that weekend. He also mentioned that the Ridge Ruxton School dinner and fashion show is coming up on May 10, and reservations are due by April 17. Ken Bollinger reminded members to recruit sponsors for the Timonium-Hereford golf tournament in July. [See article.] Pres. John announced the slate of candidates for positions on next year's board. [See article.] The election will be held at the May 7<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Nominations will be accepted that evening from the floor.

Following dinner, the Oratorical Contest was held under the direction of co-chairs Jim and Dolores Righter. This year's theme was: "My Biggest Challenge Is ...." Jim served as emcee for the contest portion of the evening. All ten contestants were students in grades six through eight at St. Joseph School who had won in the school competition. In the first round, the five girls gave their presentations, followed by the five boys in round two. Each speaker was timed (the allowance was 4–5 minutes) and judged for content and delivery. Neither the speakers nor the judges were identified by name until after the competition. In between speakers, to give the judges time to complete their evaluations, Jim deftly kept the audience engaged with a zany selection of Irish jokes.

Dolores Righter hosted the next part of the program. While the tally was being made, she introduced the students by name, who in turn introduced the guests who had come with them. In addition to family members and friends, guests included St. Joseph Principal Sr. Anne O'Donnell and several other members of the school faculty. Each young speaker received an Optimist certificate of participation from Pres. John. The first-, second- and third-place finishers for both the girls and boys received "gold," "silver" and "bronze" medals respectively. The top girl and

boy will compete at the Zone level on April 12 to vie for a chance to go to the District contest in Ocean City. The contestants were: (girls) Maria Conner (1<sup>st</sup>), Olivia Brocato (2<sup>nd</sup>), Rachel Higdon, Maria Palmer and Julia Tomek (3<sup>rd</sup>); (boys) James Bacon (1<sup>st</sup>), Blaise Connor, Connor Manning (2<sup>nd</sup>), Peter Slattery (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Austen Strzelczyk.

The team of judges included Matthew Rakentzes, a retired Balto.Co. School principal, Maria Folsom-Kovarik, Director of Adult Ministry at Nativity Parish, and Fernando (Nando) Tosti, a video producer and cinematographer who was part of the production team for the 1999 Academy Award winning documentary *King Gimp*. The timekeeper was Bob Hoffman. Maria spoke on behalf of the judges in complimenting all the speakers for the excellence of their presentations and for their courage in putting themselves in front of an audience. Dolores commended the judges for handling their tough job so well and the teachers and administration at St. Joseph School for their dedicated support of the contest. The judges and timekeeper were given small gifts in token of the club's appreciation. Appreciation goes as well to Dolores and Jim for their outstanding leadership.

Following the contest, Sr. Anne was asked to draw the ticket to win \$39 for the 50/50. Somewhat to her chagrin, she drew her own ticket. Sister decided to split the winnings among the contestants, but the students unanimously decided to contribute the money to the Poor Box at their church. As another amusing aside, Nando and Sr. Anne figured out during the evening that she had been his first-grade teacher. At the close of the evening, Dolores Righter led the assembly in recitation of the Optimist Creed.

#### **OUR NEXT MEETING—APRIL 2, 2007**

Our next dinner meeting will feature a presentation by Mr. Ross Fornaro of the landscape company Living Waters. He will tell us about garden design. We'll also meet our Student of the Month from Cockeysville Middle School. On the menu will be ham steak with pineapple and an ice cream sundae for dessert. Your call captain needs your reservation by Wed., Mar. 28.

#### **SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2007–2008**

The Nominating Committee (Past Presidents Jim & Missy Yates, Chez Miller, Mickey Price and Mark Harris) respectfully submits the following slate of candidates for officers and directors for next year. The club will hold the election at the dinner meeting on Monday, May 7, 2007. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

President—Joanne Paull  
Vice President, Membership—Bob Hoffman  
Vice President, Programs—Gary Shultz  
Vice President, Youth—Laura Hunt  
Secretary—Sue Cavanaugh  
Treasurer—Mark Harris  
Sergeant-at-Arms—Dick Price  
Bulletin Editor—Mickey Price  
Board of Directors (1-Year): Pat Nardone, Jim Righter, Bill Snyder  
Board of Directors (2-Years): Jose Arbelaez, Donna Bullen, Ann Shultz

#### **BINGO AT CROMWELL GENESIS—TWO IMPORTANT NEEDS**

Usually, the third Saturday of the month is Timonium Optimist Bingo day at the Cromwell Genesis nursing home. In April, most of the usual volunteers will be in Ocean City for the MDS District Conference. Unless some others can cover, the date will have to be changed or BINGO will have to be canceled. This afternoon activity is really a bright spot for residents that they look forward to all week, so we hope to work out the problem. If you will be in town and could help with BINGO on April 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., please let Jim and Dolores Righter know right away (410-557-0468). A few people are needed for calling numbers, helping players watch their cards and distributing prizes.

Please don't forget to bring prize donations to the Righters at meetings—jewelry, knick-knacks, personal care items, stuffed animals, etc. are appropriate. The club provides small prizes that make BINGO fun for the elderly players. Lots of games are played each week, and most games have multiple winners—we go through prizes pretty quickly! The need is continuous, so please consider bringing in prize donations on a regular basis. The Cromwell Genesis patients thank you.

### **TIMONIUM OPTIMIST GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Have you asked businesses you frequent to support our golf fundraiser yet? We need to get serious about recruiting sponsors for tee signs and program ads because that is how we make our profit! If you just ask, they probably will be glad to contribute to our work for kids in this way. Of course, we need golfers, too, so ask a few friends to play. You don't have to have a complete foursome to sign up. The event will be held Monday, July 16, 2007 at Oakmont Green Golf Course in Hampstead, Md. Get details and registration forms from Chairman Ken Bollinger (410-357-5718 or [kenfern@bcpl.net](mailto:kenfern@bcpl.net)) or download what you need from [www.timoniumoptimist.org](http://www.timoniumoptimist.org).

### **MEMBERSHIP BARGAIN—GET YOUR SPOUSE TO JOIN FOR FREE!**

The club is looking for new members, and where better to find them than among the people who know and love us best! This year is the ideal time to ask your husband or wife to join you as a Timonium Optimist. In keeping with her theme of "Love" for the year, OI President Ronnie Dunn has declared that any spouse of a current member who joins as a new member between 2/14/07 and 2/14/08 will have the one-time \$30 OI registration fee fully waived. There is also a savings on dues for the new member up through second quarter of next year. Pick up a special membership application from VP Bob Hoffman (410-668-4190).

### **THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW**

- Skip Bullen remains at Sinai Hospital. Donna says that visits from Optimist friends would really cheer him up.
- Bill Leizear had eye surgery this week and is doing fine. His shoulder surgery is now set for April 3.
- Ken Bollinger's cracked rib is still on the mend. He hopes to be swinging a club in time for golf season.
- Jennifer Oswald—the Carver Center senior honored at our Youth Appreciation dinner and who also placed second in our Essay Contest—has been named "Baltimore County Young Woman of the Year" by the Baltimore County Commission for Women. She received a citation from County Executive Jim Smith at a reception on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Ridge Ruxton School, our Student-of-the-Month school that serves a special-needs population—is holding its fifth annual Dinner and Fashion Show to raise money for a new playground. Members who have attended in the past report that the evening is delightful. The event features student models, dinner catered by Outback Steakhouse and door prizes donated by local merchants. It will be held at the school on Thurs., May 10, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are just \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids under 13. Send checks payable to Ridge Ruxton School, Attn: A. Engel, 6916 N. Charles Street, Towson, MD 21204. Reservations must be in by April 17, 2007. Several club members will be going and would like to have your company.