

OPTIMIST CLUB OF ORANGEVILLE

2013 – 2014 Membership Kit



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 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 onto the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature 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.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ®

Welcome to our New Member

Becoming a member of the Optimist Club of Orangeville means that you have chosen to volunteer your service to benefit our community. There is no greater opportunity for participation in community affairs and service than in an Optimist club.

The purpose of an Optimist club is to develop Optimism as a philosophy of life; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of mankind, his community and the world.

The Optimist Club of Orangeville strives to meet these objectives and our members have developed their own personal mission statement to meet the individual needs of our club.

Mission Statement

The Optimists of Orangeville serve our community through activities that encourage the development of youth. Through active participation, our members enjoy fellowship, opportunities for personal growth and a sense of common purpose.

Introduction

Our club has served the youth of Orangeville for over 40 years. As a new member, we want you to learn about our history, structure and purpose. We want you to clearly understand what we expect from you and what you can expect as a member of our club. Our members work as a team and we continually evaluate our purpose and performance to ensure we meet the needs of both the community and our members. We need your active participation and input to continue building upon our success in Orangeville.

A member fulfills his/her role through active participation in projects, attendance at meetings and social activities, serving on club committees and/or boards and by inviting others to join in the club's pursuit of our mission.

We are committed to creating a more optimistic future for our youth and that is what differentiates Optimist Clubs from any other volunteer organization. Membership will allow you to develop new social and working relationships with individuals from all walks of life, within your community. The opportunity to develop and demonstrate

leadership skills locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, as well as the satisfaction of making our community a better place to live and work. Whether you are searching for an outlet to help your community, for personal development or rewarding camaraderie, you'll find what you desire within the Optimist Club of Orangeville.

History

The Optimist Club of Orangeville was organized on September 29th, 1971 following sponsorship by The Optimist Club of Newmarket. The club began with 35 charter members and currently, David Tilson is the only original charter member remaining. Our present membership stands at approximately 45 men and women. There are 5 other clubs in our Zone, including the Optimist Clubs of Bolton, Brampton, Caledon, Erin, and Georgetown.

We meet occasionally with the other clubs in our Zone, to share new ideas and join in fellowship. Our club is but one of more than 3500 other Optimist clubs worldwide.

Club Structure

Our club is managed by a Board of Directors that includes the President, President-Elect, Past-President, 2 Vice-Presidents and 6 Directors (3- two year and 3- one year positions). These are all elected positions. Also included are the Secretary and Treasurer who are appointed.

Board of Directors

The entire Board determines operating policies and ensures they conform to our bylaws, establishes short and long-term plans, addresses membership issues, monitors club committee's, sets annual budgets and deals with financial issues. Board meetings are held monthly. Any club member not on the Board may attend these meetings.

President

The president co-ordinates and encourages participation of club members, facilitates the implementation of club policies and programs, presides at dinner and board meetings and represents our club within our community and through Optimist International.

President-Elect

The President-Elect is elected each year. They are designated to become President at the end of their development in this position. They assist the President in fulfilling their obligations and in doing so develop the necessary knowledge and leadership skills to lead the club in the following year. Simply put, they “shadow” the President to ensure leadership consistency from year to year.

Vice-Presidents (2 Positions)

The Vice-Presidents liase between the Board and Committees, preside at club activities during the absence of the President, serve on the Board of Directors and assist the President in fulfilling their obligations.

Secretary

The secretary maintains club records, handles correspondence and provides regular reports to Optimist International.

Treasurer

This individual maintains the financial records of the club, disperses funds, prepares the annual budget and handles any other monetary issues.

Past President

Provides the new board with the benefit of his/her experience and assists the President on matters of policy.

Committee Chairs

Once each year, club members sign up as members on a number of our committees. One member assumes the role of chair and one as co-chair. The chair directs his committee to ensure projects are completed. The co-chair assists the chair in this endeavour and is then expected to chair that same committee in the following year. The “hands-on” experience by the co-chair will ensure program consistency in the following year.

Current Committees and Programmes

Christmas in the Park: The Orangeville Optimist Club leads the creation of a Christmas light display in KayCee Gardens park that all residents of Orangeville enjoy.

Fundraising: The club organizes a major fundraising event each year to support our activities, projects and charities. It could take the form of a raffle or an auction, or other significant fundraising activity.

Maple Syrup Festival: A spring festival held at the Island Lake Conservation Area. We conduct interpretative tours of Maple Syrup production, offer children's activities and sell syrup and food as a means of raising funds for the club.

Jackrabbits: The Club's cross-country ski-training program for youth at Monora Park.

Youth Appreciation: A program designed to recognize outstanding and positive contributions of the youth in our community.

Respect for Law: The importance of law enforcement and citizen support are highlighted by special events May 1-7 each year.

Bike Rodeo: In conjunction with the Orangeville Police Service, our Club conducts bicycle safety inspections and a yearly rodeo to teach safe cycling to youth. This is normally held near the end of May each year.

Junior World of Golf: Youth from our community participate in local golf tournaments with an opportunity to continue on regionally or nationally.

Children's Christmas Party: This is traditionally a "Breakfast with Santa" party for the families of our members. We also invite other service providers: i.e., Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Family transition Place and other less fortunate children living in our community.

COLS Leadership Seminars: The Club financially supports Orangeville youth to participate in leadership development programs.

Finance: Club members develop fund-raising initiatives, set budgets and make general financial decisions in co-operation with the Board of Directors.

Bar: Members are responsible for properly operating a non-licensed bar at our regular dinner meetings and other events.

Programme Committee: develops programmes for each of our dinner meetings. Meetings include social activities, fines sessions, and guest speakers.

Membership Committee: is responsible for addressing membership issues.

NOW Committee: organizes an annual program to invite community-minded individuals to join us in service to our community and it's youth.

Fellowship Committee: is responsible for developing programmes to foster fellowship within the club, monitoring family situations and responding appropriately where required.

In addition to the above noted committee's, our club assists and sponsors a number of other organizations in the Orangeville area. This might include providing financial assistance, participating in events or providing manpower to assist with other activities. Some of these groups include; 3rd Orangeville Scouts, Girl Guides, Big Brothers & Sisters, minor hockey, baseball and soccer, Orangeville Police and Fire-fighters, Family Transition Place, Orangeville Seniors and a host of other organizations.

MEETINGS AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

MEETINGS

Our club holds dinner meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Orangeville Seniors Centre, 26 Bythia Street, Orangeville. We do not have dinner meetings during the months of July or August. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m., and members are called to order by the President at 7:00 p.m. Greeters are regularly assigned to greet members arriving for the meeting. This is an ideal way for new members to meet with other Optimists. We then sing the national anthem, toast the monarch, provide an invocation, and then commence with dinner.

During the meal we conduct a fines session. A club member is selected as a Finesmaster to levy appropriate fines against the challenged member. He has a Sergeant at Arms, who is responsible for collecting those fines. The fines session is very light-hearted and designed to stimulate fellowship, enhance camaraderie and improve speaking skills. Members try to fine one another for comments, behaviours, etc., usually stemming from past Optimist activities. The Finesmaster then levies fines, usually in the range of 25 to 50 cents. The proceeds of the fines pot are then donated to the Optimist International Foundation. The fines sessions are fun and should not be considered intimidating to new

members. As you get to know more about your fellow Optimists, you will look forward to the opportunity at each meeting.

Following dinner, the President makes any necessary announcements and asks for a very brief program update from the various Committee chairs in attendance. We then commence with our guest speaker program, which varies with each meeting. The meeting usually wraps up between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m., and is followed by some fellowship.

You are not required to attend every activity or dinner meeting. However, your consistent attendance adds to the enthusiasm of meetings and activities. The Programme Committee will contact members, several days before meetings, to ascertain whether you will be attending. This is done to encourage your attendance and to provide the number of attendees for our caterer. If you commit yourself, but fail to show, you will still be billed for your meal, since the club must pay these costs. Attendance is taken at the meetings to track participation and ensure accuracy of our billing records.

There are a number of social events held throughout the year and you will receive appropriate notification of these events. There are also a number of “spouses nights”, where you can bring your spouse to the dinner meeting. Spouses are always welcomed and encouraged to participate in regular club activities and social events. The success of our club relies upon the active participation of its members. We will examine excessive absenteeism to measure your level of commitment or to address problems.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Membership in our club requires payment of annual dues and meals. The annual dues pay for operating and administrative expenses, as well as dues assessed by the District and Optimist International, bulletin publication and monthly Optimist magazines. This cost is **\$160.00** per year. Meals are currently charged at **\$17.00** per person/per dinner meeting. Special evening events such as our Christmas or Valentine party will each be charged at **\$40.00** to **\$65.00** per person. If you attend all of the dinner meetings throughout the year, and special meetings with your spouse, your total financial commitment, including dues, will be approximately **\$600.00**.

Since we work closely with children, a criminal records check by your local Police Service is required. This is necessary to maintain our high ethical standards in the community. The Police Service may charge for this review process.

The dues are payable up front in October and the meals are pre-paid in October, January and June. Any missed meals will be adjusted during these billings.

To support our obligations to the community, it is necessary that our club engage in fund-raising activities. We continually seek out opportunities to raise money, which can be used to maintain or expand our programs in the Orangeville area. You will be expected to assist in our fund-raising efforts, however we work hard to keep the “fun” in fund-raising and not allow this necessity to deter from our mission.

AWARDS

There are a number of awards available to the club from Optimist International, for meeting specific requirements and promoting excellence in Optimism. Details of these awards are noted in your the new member kit you will receive from Optimist International.

CLUB INITIATION

Once you become familiar with our purpose and the general operations of our club, we trust you will be impressed with our dedication to Optimism and the service we provide to our community. When you join our organization, you will be inducted into our club at a designated meeting. You will receive your membership certificate, Optimist pin and name badge. Your sponsor will answer any questions you have and ensure you are familiar with all aspects of our club. We look forward to your participation and involvement.

Updated November, 2013