



The SOC-KET

Bringing
Out
The Best
In
Children

The weekly publication of the Optimist Club of Salem
Volume 60 Issue 14 January 29, 2009
Ye Olde Editor — Wes Alderson

The Club meets every Thursday noon at Willson House
(check out our website at www.optimistclubofsalemor.org)

2007-08 Club Officers

President:	John Chamberlain
President-Designate	TBA
Immediate Past-President	Bruce Gilberson
Secretary/Treasurer:	Arlen Hollinshead
Directors:	John Day, Paul Negstad, Frank Masser, Dave Sevall, Vern Tabery, Dave Wiley



Past Governor Jim Jensen was on hand to address the club on a topic other than Optimism. As the banners shows, the topic of this day was Patriot Guard Riders. Now, just who or what is this group you might ask? To begin with, their mission statement probably states it as well or better than anything this writer might devise, so read on.

“Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives.

1. Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.
2. Shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions created by an protestors or group of protestors.

We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.

Patriot Guard Riders boasts of a membership of approximately 158,000 members. Their focus is mainly on those deaths that have occurred in Afghanistan and/or Iraq. Although there are both men and women who belong to this organization, the number of bikers who participate number around 70—75%. Each biker is provided with his or her American flag, and these are often used to shield family members from any sort of harassment at the funeral service.

Jim mentioned that one of their members is a woman 92 years of age. She lost two boys during World War II, one of whom was killed on the Bataan death march. Any of you who know a little about the early stages of the war with Japan will recall this travesty.

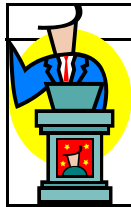
Just as we in the Optimist Club are in the market for new recruits, Patriot Guard Riders is always looking to add to their numbers, and you don't have to ride a motorcycle. If the understanding is correct, there are no dues to pay either. It is mostly a matter of wanting to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty, and for the good old U.S. of A.

It would be remiss of Ye Olde Editor if he did not mention the video presentations that Jim brought with him. They were quite moving, and one cannot help but sense the solemnity of the depicted event even though we were not present at the time.

The Salem Optimist Club offers sincere thanks to Jim for bringing this presentation before us. Until now, it is reasonably safe to say that very few of us were aware of this organization; this writer being one of them.



One doesn't really know why President John was scratching, but his guest, one Robert (Bob) Clausen, seems genuinely interested in that which is going on. A most sincere welcome, Bob, and return again soon!



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

With my visits to Optimist meetings being interrupted by a family tragedy, it turned out Youth Appreciation was the focus of two of the first three meetings I attended. Youth Appreciation during the meetings and that great creed at the end! Wow! What a powerful combination. After a couple of low points in my life, the creed really spoke to me and I took it to heart. I was hooked! There was no question joining an organization that works to benefit youth, with members who live and work by those meaningful tenets, was just what I needed at that point in my life. Soon, I was a full-fledged, card-carrying Optimist! And I soon found YA was just one of **many** great Optimist programs.

Later I would learn OI says each Optimist touches the lives of over 30 kids annually, at least indirectly. (Our club averages well above that, by the way!!) That was fine, but it seemed to me I'd be even happier knowing I had **directly** influenced the life of even just **one** kid per year (call it ego, or selfishness, I don't care!) I'm not sure I've met that goal, but there are specific instances in which I know it to be true. The stories are much too long to tell here, but some involve the Oratorical Contest; a couple relate to Youth Appreciation and one to mentoring a young man at Turner Elementary, based on an appeal by one of our meeting speakers. These are memories I cherish.

I can only blame Roy Proctor for my gradual increased participation at both the Club and District levels! He nudged — no, pushed — me into deeper involvement. And I must say it has been truly rewarding; meeting lots of great kids, and Optimists, from around this great Pacific Northwest District. So, I go plodding along, trying to be as Optimistic as possible, in the Club, in my activities with other groups, and in my personal life.

And, at those times I become discouraged with our declining membership, or inability to get members to assist with our projects, I stop and reflect on the good things which have happened to me, making the struggle bearable. And, of course, I always reflect on that marvelous creed! It really is much more than mere words!

Promise yourself to be so strong....!!!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Feb. 5 TBA
- Feb. 12 Youth Appreciation
- Most Involved in Vocational Technology
- Feb. 19 Ditto
- Feb. 26 TBA



Vern announced that he has six contestants lined up for this year's Essay Contest. The event is scheduled for February 5th. That date is getting ever closer.

Salem (Optimist) Relay Races



This young lady is carrying her baton toward the finish line. There will be a lot more like her competing on Saturday, May 9th. That which is needed at this time is a commitment by the Optimist Club members, and a goodly number of others, to help make this a success. Of course this is a reference to numbers of people to be on site when this event starts. Plan now to invite family and friends to offer a helping hand.



The reason you are getting this blurb is to announce that the 2nd Quarter District Board Meeting is to be a one-day affair on Saturday, February 21st. The meeting is to be held at Evergreen Aviation Museum, McMinnville. If you have never been there, this is the time to go. You are encouraged to go even if you have been there before.

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 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 countenance 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, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*

*Optimist Club of Salem
P.O. Box 262
Salem, OR 97308-0262*