



Accepting the Challenge!



"Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it." - Goethe

The first step along the way to being a great president is to decide that you believe in the Optimist philosophy and in reaching out to others.

Success can be defined as applying effort with a great attitude toward a noble goal. Take the first step and make the commitment toward yours being a good Club.

A good club is known by the community for who they are and what they do – Optimistic volunteers dedicated to “Bringing out the Best in Kids.”

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REWARDS OF BEING PRESIDENT

The job of President is a “people job”. Your ability to get the best out of others will result in a fun, thriving club that will attract volunteers who want to help make a better community for children.

Being President is a “growth” opportunity as you face challenges and overcome them with successes. Some days you will grow weary with your efforts and other days you will “soar” to new heights of delight in being able to make a difference in the lives of others.

You will use your strengths and abilities in the best way you know how. You will develop other skills as you need them. With time you will earn the respect of all those you lead and the appreciation from those whom you give opportunity. These are just a few of the “rewards” of being a club president.



ROLE AND FUNCTION

As we discussed, your primary purpose is to help others succeed.

As President you are the “Chief Executive Officer” of your Club. Your Board of Directors makes policy and determines objectives. You carry out the directives of the Board and make things happen. You lead others who do the service to youth and community.

You preside at Club Member meetings where you enjoy fun, food and fellowship. You also preside at your Board meetings where you carry out the business of the Club.

You appoint and oversee the operation of all of your club committees. You will help club leaders to have good meetings, recognize efforts and accomplishments of others, create budgets and monthly financial reports, obtain good publicity, grow your membership, have good communications and other great youth and community service activities.

OPTIMISM AND ENTHUSIASM



Optimism and Enthusiasm are what inspire others. Optimism defines who we are. You are the leading Optimist in your Club!

Choosing Optimism for yourself means not only reading our “Optimist Creed” at the end of each meeting but really “living” its tenets. If you practice each tenet yourself, others will feel better about themselves, they will feel better about you, and they will be more open to volunteering.

Be enthusiastic in all you say and do. Being enthusiastic draws others toward you and inspires them to enjoy what they are doing. Enthusiasm is contagious, pass it around!

It's easy to smile, shake hands with others and call them by name. To show others you appreciate them helps them to appreciate you!

GETTING STARTED – THINGS TO DO



There seems to be so much, where do I start? Certainly there are a lot of resources and ideas available on our Web-sites. Start with the basics and allow ideas and interests of your volunteer members to move your club forward. You are there to ask people to volunteer, guide their progress and recognize their effort.

Your Club's Organization Meeting (For New Optimist Clubs)

This is done by a Field Representative assigned by Optimist International. This is your first official meeting at which you were elected. You probably received a lot of information and your head may be spinning. Not to worry, all of this information is available on-line at www.optimist.org and in your club materials.

Organize your Club

- Make appointments to each committee. This can be based on the "interests" of each member as stated on the back of their member application. As each person is assigned, review their duties and responsibilities; then let them talk with you about their action plan. Use the one-page committee assignment "modules" at www.optimistleaders.org . Click the "Clubs" icon.
- Create and adopt a Club budget for the year. This can be done with your Secretary-Treasurer and finance chair using the "Budget Worksheet" provided (also online).
- Conduct your first Regular Member Meeting. Be early, welcome members as they arrive, use the pre-printed agenda (simply filling in the information to be announced), explore ways to have fun and to allow members to enjoy each other's company, have good programs and end on time.
- Conduct your first Board of Directors Meeting. This is for conducting club business. Set a monthly time, day and location and use a pre-printed agenda (filling in discussion items). Begin by adopting one youth service project and one fund raiser (with member interest and community need). Ask for reports from each active committee.
- Conduct an "Annual Club Planning Conference". This is a time for the Board to get together to gain a sense of cooperation and plan for the future. This is facilitated by your Lieutenant Governor by using a specially prepared form.



Lead by Example

- Be Optimistic and Enthusiastic as an example for others.
- Invite the first new member to join your club.
- Role up your sleeves and work on one of your club's projects.

Ask, Guide and Recognize

- Personally ask a volunteer to do something
- Support, encourage, guide and cheer them along
- Recognize appropriately and publicly their achievements
- Repeat this process hundreds of times in creative, thoughtful ways

Continue to Learn and Grow as a Leader

- Attend District (state) and International Conferences
- Seek information on-line at www.optimist.org
- Check your mail box at www.optimistmail.org (follow password instructions)
- Continue to develop your people skills to help others succeed

REVIEW QUESTIONS

What do Optimists do? What is our signature brand?

What kind of business are you in? What kind of job do you have?

What club members conduct the business of the club?

Who can help you conduct an “Annual Club Planning Conference”?

“Kids grow up with or without Optimism . . . The Choice is Yours.”



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