

Sun, Sand and Sage

February District Conference

The District Meeting was held in Clovis at Day's Inn Hotel. The Conference opened with the presentation of the Colors by the Cannon Air Force Base Color Guard. Optimist International VP Paul Lucas presented valuable training designed to make each of us better Optimists and to know more about how OI and the District work ranging from "So you are a new Optimist" to "So you want to be Governor." There was special training on the Centennial Incentive Award. This is a very nice piece of jewelry, celebrating the OI Centennial, to wear on your vest. To win this award the members must fill out paperwork stating your 30 second elevator speech on why you became an Optimist and why you remain an Optimist. Then using this speech, recruit one new member. The Membership is encouraged to have this project completed by the end of February, but the end of May is a more reasonable deadline. Those not attending the Conference missed some good food, lots of fun and some great fellowship topped off on Saturday night with a Disney characters costume contest.



Around the District

Sunrise Roswell Optimist Club

The Sunrise Optimist Club helped sponsor the Science Olympiad at the New Mexico Military Institute Saturday, February 2. The Sunrise Optimist Club organized, staffed, and supplied food for the hospitality room, as well as judges some for the competitions. They also donated money to purchase the medals for the winners.



about his family, his activities in high school and his plans for the future. Club President, Bud Hewett presented a certificate of recognition and a \$25.



Goddard's Student of the Month for February, Gerardo Rodriguez, was a guest of the club. Gerardo spoke to the club

Optimist Club of Las Cruces



The Optimist Club of Las Cruces presented a check to Jennica Bustamante from My Friend's Place at



FYI, which is the emergency shelter for teenagers. They are currently waiting to have their kitchen licensed, so they're not operational just yet, but VERY shortly and appreciate the donations.

The Club's guest was Andres Armijo, the principal at Crossroads Middle and High School, which is a program for students who have been long-term suspended from schools across the district for drugs weapons, gang and fighting. All the students have experienced trauma. The program addresses mental health issues. The workers are very special to take on these kids and the school has a full-time psychologist and they spend 50% of their day on mental health issues and 50% on school work. Armijo says it's very rewarding to work with these kids. Restorative practices is the fancy name for building relationships and fixing existing ones, just paying attention to the kids and digging down to the root cause of the problems the kids are experiencing. The school district had nine pilot schools in the

beginning, schools with non-stop discipline issues. Sonoma was an example he cited, which had over 950 office referrals in a semester. They did a big professional development drive, working with the teachers and the students and they are down to two referrals per semester. WOW! He currently has four coordinators working with every school in the district, where they must apply different approaches with every situation, because it's not a one size fits all solution situation. The teachers, principals, parents, community stakeholders and counselors work together to solve behavioral issues for collaborative solutions. It takes more time, but solving the problems is more helpful than applying a panacea. They are funded through the district but because they are a program, it's not the same sort of funding as for a school. He says a lot of the success is because the Las Cruces Public Schools administration strongly supports this program. They do have regular math, science, English and social studies as well as online course. PE online? Well, it exists.

Reintegration of the students is the goal and they currently have an 87% reintegration rate. They have STRONG support from the parents.

Send me your photos and copy, and I'll publish them here.

John Cowart, bent.tree@yahoo.com

Text in Word and photos as jpg.

Purposes of an Optimist Club

- To develop Optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;
- To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
- To inspire respect for 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 humankind, community life and the world.

Dime-a-Day

A new year, a new effort. The Optimist International Foundation supports our Oratorical and Essay Scholarships and helps to fund club projects. It needs our support. **Every member should try to contribute \$36.50 to the Optimist Foundation.**

This is just \$0.10 a day. Most of us spend \$36.50 on a night out. So, look deep into your heart and find a way to **bring a check for the OI Foundation for \$36.50 to your next meeting.**

BRINGING OUT THE BEST



INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Coming Events

Third Quarter Conference, April 26—28, Holiday Inn Roswell.

International Convention, June 30—July 3rd. Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky.

Fourth Quarter District Convention, August 9—11, Hilton Garden Hotel, Rio Rancho.



Galt House

Louisville, Kentucky
June 30 – July 3, 2019

Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself:

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To take 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 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, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Texas Dictionary

of the English Language
by Jim Everhart

ails – other than the person or things implied. “Ah only done what anybody *ails* would do.”

I'm so bored, I was about to run around the house naked but then I drank a bottle of Windex and it stopped me from streaking.



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Wisdom

It is amazing how complete is the delusion that beauty is goodness. Leo Tolstoy



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