Central Ontario District – Optimist International
Third Quarter District Conference
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday May 2, 2026 | 2:00 PM
Sandman Hotel, 3451 South Service Road, Oakville, Ont

Board of Directors Amended Meeting Minutes

2:00 pm Board Meeting

Head Table: Governor Larry Harper, International President Tom Kendo, Governor Elect Christine Smith, Immediate Past Governor Bonnie Scheer-Porteous, Past Governor Ralph Brunton, Secretary/Treasurer Brian Wick, Governor Advisor Gord Holly.

- **Call to Order**

- **Approval of Agenda**
  - Motion to approve the agenda with a change to add discussion on separating the District Secretary and District Treasurer job. By Christine Smith, 2nd by Iris Krahmer, carried.

- **Approval of Previous Board of Directors Minutes**
  - Motion by Larry Harper, 2nd by Jean Clarke, to approve the minutes of the February Board of Directors meeting, Carried.

- **Review and Approval of 2nd Qtr Financial Report**
  - Motion by Brian Wick, 2nd by Christine Smith, carried.

- **Report on 2024/2025 Financial Review**
  - Motion by Alex Hilson, 2nd by Sue Montgomery, carried.
  - Thanks went to the review committee of Brenda McDonald, Gerald Heaton and Jim Lynge.

- **Approval of the 2026/2027 District S/T**
  Motion by Sue Montgomery, 2nd by Don Zynomirski to approve the appointment of Linda Mitchinson as secretary and Michelle Stokes as treasurer, pending approval of a policy change. Carried.

- **Zone Realignment Policy Updates**
  Zone 10 has grown to 10 clubs, leading to a decision to split Zone 10 into two new zones:
  Zone 10 (containing Arnprior, Arnprior Optimistic, Forest Park, Spencerville, Nepean, and Cornwall)
  Zone 11 (containing Seaway, Stormont, Augusta, and Lancaster).
  Motion to create these new zones by Christine Smith, 2nd by Larry Harper, carried.

*Terry Muir asked the question. Does this mean that there are no geographical boundaries between Clubs and Zones? Response by Parliamentarian Alex Ansell: As per our district policies there are no boundaries as such. Confirmed by members of the rezoning committee.

Committee Reports:

- **Candidate Qualifications** Past Gov Bonnie Scheer Porteous
  - Bonnie reported we have one candidate for Governor Elect and appointments or elections for all Lt Governors except Zone 6

- **Essay and Oratorical** Gabrielle VanHooydonk
  District essay contest, with Camille Bessner from Cornwall winning first place and a $2,500 bursary, followed by Lana Carame from Aurora in second place with a $1,500 bursary, and Aiden Joyce from Main Place in third place with a $1,000 bursary

- **CCDHH** Past Governor Ted Simmonds
  Increase in participation with 25 students involved and 6-7 signers this year

- **Junior Golf** Dennis Kwasnicki
  Junior golf tournament is at Caledon Country Club on June 13, noting that five clubs have already sponsored and seeking 13 more sponsors at $200 per hole

- **Membership and Engagement** Don Devreede
  Membership growth in the district achieved a net gain of 69 members, resulting in a 34.13% increase in membership growth percentage within Optimist International

- **Growth and Retention** Past Governor Al Fourney
  The district successfully chartered its second club, Augusta Optimus, and is developing two additional clubs in Zone 11

- **Leadership Development** Past Governor George Clarke
  George invited the members to renewal now for the Optimist Institute subscription and encouraged members to log in to access training and development courses. He also requested suggestions for leadership and development modules to be presented at quarter conferences

- **Conference Report** Barb Holly
  Upcoming convention in August at Morrisburg, to include officer and Lt Gov training.

- **OI International Convention** Governor Larry Harper
  Consider attending the upcoming International Convention in Jacksonville at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

- **Presentation by CCOF President** Denise Nacev
  Recognized Ted Simmonds significant contribution to the Canadian Childrens Optimist Foundation, presenting him with a certificate for joining the William H. Harrison Society

- **CCOF** Past Governor Ted Simmonds
  Spread Relief program, which provides up to $3,000 for childhood health and wellness initiatives, with a deadline of May 31st. Denise Nacev mentioned three new joint grants available: club grants for Joy Clubs, district grants for new/rebuilding districts or community service projects, and funding for Joy Kids attending Summit.

- **Junior Optimist** Past OI VP Anne Donkers
  19 participants attended an event at the Oakville Hall this weekend. The group created 150 care packages from donations, which will be delivered to women's shelters in Hamilton.

- **A&A Awards** Lauralee Riely
  Increase from 29 to 30+ submissions this year compared to last year.

New Business Governor Assistant PDG Gord Holly

Announcement of Convention Date, and Location: Barb Holly

For the Good of Optimism Governor Elect Christine Smith

Adjournment with the Optimist Creed

Next Executive Meeting Announcement July 30, 2026 7:00 pm (ZOOM)

International Convention Jacksonville, Florida June 28-July 1, 2026

Central Ontario District Convention & AGM August 15-16, 2026

MacIntosh Country Inn & Convention Center 12495 Hwy 2 E, Morrisburg, Ontario K0G 1X0
