

Proposed Policy Changes 2018

Language to be **added is printed in boldface**. Language to be ~~deleted is printed with strikeout lines through words or letters.~~

Rationale: *This change is proposed to make district policies comply with the change made by Optimist International to eliminate "octagon" and refer to youth clubs as JOI clubs.*

JUNIOR OCTAGON OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL (JOI) CLUBS

The District may maintain a JOI District structure and conduct an annual Convention for all JOI Clubs in the District. The District JOI Clubs Chairperson shall be the official liaison between the Optimist District and the JOI Board of Directors. Elections for JOI District Officers must be held in accordance with the guidelines established in both the JOI District Policies and the International JOI Bylaws. The finances shall be managed by the Optimist District Secretary-Treasurer, the JOI Chairperson and the JOI District Secretary-Treasurer. A separate checking account for JOI District funds may be established as long as a dual signature process is utilized. The Optimist District Secretary-Treasurer shall duplicate all account activity for Optimist District financial reports. The Optimist District shall use all dues rebate funds to support District JOI activities. Such activities may include the JOI District Convention, the production and distribution of a JOI District Newsletter, reimbursement of travel expenses and communication costs for JOI District Officers, and any other District JOI expenses approved by the District JOI Committee. Any rebate funds not utilized by year-end shall be rolled over into the next year's JOI budget.

Rationale: *This change is made to comply with the decision by delegates to Optimist International convention to conduct only combined gender oratorical contests beginning with the 2019 contests. OI will award first, second and third prizes which will total the amount offered in the two previous scholarships.*

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The District may conduct ~~either two (2) separate contests for boys and girls, or one (1) combined gender~~ **an** Oratorical Contest each year. The District Finals may be held in conjunction with the third quarter District Conference or as a separate event at another place and date. If preliminary contests are necessary, they will be held on the same day at the same location. Pursuant to the policies of Optimist International, all phases of the District Contests shall be conducted in strict compliance with International Oratorical Contest Rules

An entry fee of \$50.00 shall be paid by all Clubs sponsoring an entrant in a Zone Contest. The entry fees shall be adequate to cover all expenses incurred by the District in the conduct of the contest. The costs of all transportation, food and lodging while at, or en route to or from the District contest shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring Clubs. No additional entry fee shall be paid by Clubs sponsoring an entrant in the District Finals. Clubs not sponsoring contestants may be invited to provide additional funds to help defray expenses for the District Contest. All contestants and their parents or guardians are asked to attend the luncheon, the District paying only for the contestants' meals.

The winners shall each receive a scholarship provided by Optimist International, ~~one (1) boy and one (1) girl if separate gender contests are held.~~ The costs of all District awards and all authorized receipts and expenditures, shall be budgeted and audited under Accounts 140 and 370. All such items shall be

supervised by the District Secretary-Treasurer who shall make all purchases and expenditures and record all revenue and expenses.

It shall be the responsibility of the District Oratorical Contest Chairperson to submit the required materials and information on the District Contest winners to the International Office as required. Corporate sponsors may be invited to participate in the scholarships program and may offer additional scholarships for students. These funds will be maintained in an interest-bearing account with each winner's funds earmarked for a period of up to twelve (12) years.

Rationale: *Optimist clubs for persons with special needs have recently been included in Optimist International as affiliated clubs. The Friends Optimist Club in Lincoln is one of these new clubs. The dues structure involves an annual charter fee and dues of \$10 per member per year. This is similar to the dues paid by college members. Therefore, the executive committee of the Nebraska District is recommending that this club and any other special needs clubs would pay \$5 district dues annually rather than \$11. This change in dues structure must be approved by Optimist International.*

DUES

Each Club in the District shall pay for each member enrolled in the International Office as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June, annual dues of \$11.00 per member, payable quarterly each year, subject to the approval of the Optimist International Board of Directors and in accordance with the International Bylaws. (OI Bylaws Article VII, Section 5, Paragraph A)

Each Club in the District shall pay for each college member **and for each member of a special needs affiliated club** enrolled in the International Office as of 30 September, annual dues of \$5.00 per member, payable annually in the first quarter of each year, subject to the approval of the Optimist International Board of Directors and in accordance with the International Bylaws. Annual dues payable by a newly affiliated Club shall commence as provided in policies established by the OI Board of Directors.