



The OptiMessenger

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Lots of Chances to “Be Involved”

Welcome our New Member

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Dorothy Neisz has joined our Optimist Club. She will be inaugurated at our Dinner Meeting on February 5.

Please introduce yourself and send her your welcome at dorothyneisz@hotmail.ca.

Entries are Now Open for the Optimist Oratorical Contest

Once again our Optimist Club is sponsoring the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The contests (one for girls, one for boys) are open to students who are under 18 years of age on October 1, 2017.

Students are required to prepare a 4 to 5 minute speech on the topic “*Where are My Roots of Optimism?*” and present it on Saturday, March 17.

Entries are accepted on a first-come basis; so it is important to apply as soon as possible.

The Club contests are the first step in a series of Optimist Oratorical Contests with prizes of up to \$22,500 in post-secondary scholarships.

For additional information, Application Forms and Contest Rules, go to our Club website (www.optimistyc.org).

Bob Steele is Chairing the Contest and needs a few volunteers to help run it. Club Members are also asked to attend the contest on March 17, so the students have an audience to present to.

Please contact Bob at ironmanb@telusplanet.net.

The Next District Meeting

I still need someone to represent the Club at the 2nd Quarter District Board Meeting in Havre, Montana, February 9-10.

Please contact me or Lyle Bennett if you can attend this meeting.

Invite a Guest to Our Next Club Dinner Meeting

On February 5th we will return to the Danish-Canadian Club for our Monthly Dinner Meeting. This will be an excellent meeting to invite a guest to hear our speaker and learn about our Optimist Club. Stutt has arranged for Lori Williams, Associate Professor of Political Science at Mt. Royal University to be our speaker for the evening. She will cover all levels of government in her address – and there will be an ample question-and-answer period afterwards.

As usual, socializing starts at 6:00PM, with dinner at 6:30, and the meeting starting at 7:00.



Notes from OI President Nick Prillaman

The growth of our Clubs is the main priority for the health and success of Optimist International.

The 2nd Quarter Incentive is targeted at our local Clubs to encourage them to add new adult Optimist Members.

Make Your Voice Heard

Is there something you wish was different about the Optimist organization? Here is how *you* can recommend changes to OI.

The Convention resolutions process can be used for any aspect of the organization not covered in the OI bylaws. Members can submit resolutions to their Clubs. The Clubs then submit the resolutions to the OI Resolutions Committee by Tuesday, May 15. The committee chooses the strongest resolutions and reports them to Convention delegates for debate and vote.

Resolutions endorsed by Convention delegates are non-binding and are sent to the International Board of Directors for further consideration and study.

Alberta International Band Festival

"Where young Albertans learn to play, and play to learn."

The Alberta International band Festival is run by volunteers. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a performance platform for outstanding junior high / middle school, high school, and community bands. Our Club is a Festival sponsor.

This year the Calgary Festival dates are as follows:

- **Concert Bands (Grades 2- 5)** - February 21-27, at the Rozsa Centre (University of Calgary)
- **Jazz Bands (Novice to Advanced)** - March 6-9, at the Transalta Performing Arts Studios (just north of Calgary Stampede Park at 1302 - 6th Street SE)
- **Concert Bands (Grade 1)** - March 13-14, at Bishop Carroll High School.

The Festival requires a large base of volunteers in order to make it run smoothly and successfully.

Your participation provides a memorable and beneficial educational experience to the students.

There are a large number of positions and shifts available. *Please note that no prior music experience is required – and many of the jobs are relatively easy.*

On the day of your shift, a Festival Coordinator will walk you through your responsibilities and will be on-hand to provide assistance as needed throughout the day. Whether you can do one shift or multiple shifts, any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

To volunteer for a Calgary Concert Band session February 21-27 at the Rozsa Centre click on: <https://www.aibfestival.ca/Calgary/volunteer/volunteer/5/>

To volunteer for a Calgary Jazz Band session March 6-9 at the Transalta Performing Arts Studios click on: <https://www.aibfestival.ca/Calgary/volunteer/volunteer/6/>

It does not appear that they need volunteers for the Grande 1 Concert Band sessions March 13-14 at Bishop Carroll High School.

If you have any further questions, either email Aisling Palleschi at volunteer@aibfestival.ca or Lyle Bennett at lyle.bennett@shaw.ca. Please let Lyle know if you volunteer for the festival.

Our Annual Sunday Brunch

Daryl MacDonald is making the arrangements for our Annual Sunday Brunch at Heritage Park. This year it will be held on February 18 at 10:30 AM. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend. Details will be forthcoming.

You are invited to: LAUNCHPAD @ DIALOG

LAUNCHPAD is a celebration of works by artists at the Indefinite Arts Centre. (An organization we have supported.) This exhibition will be travelling overseas for the Centre's first tour in Asia.

Thanks to support from the Alberta Hong Kong Office and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, these works will be exhibited in Hong Kong in March, then they will move on to Seoul in June, before returning home in August.

In partnership with DIALOG, LAUNCHPAD is the Calgary "send off" - an opportunity to see these amazing works before they embark on their international journey.

The pop-up gallery in DIALOG will be open Mondays to Fridays from 9 AM to 4 PM, between **January 18** and **February 14**, 2018. It is located at 300 - 134 11th Avenue SE in downtown Calgary. Admission is free.

Up Coming Dates

There are a lot of activities coming up in the next two months. They present many opportunities for you to be involved in our Club and our Community. Please take advantage of several of them.

Jan 22: Board Teleconference Meeting
Feb 5: Dinner Meeting at Danish-Canadian Club
Feb 9-10: 2nd Quarter District Meeting in Havre, MT
Feb 9-11: U18 Curling Playdowns, Medicine Hat
Feb 19: Annual Family Brunch, Heritage Park
Feb 21-27: AIBF Concert Bands, Rozsa Center
Feb 26: Board Teleconference Meeting
Mar 1-4: U18 Curling Championships, Okotoks
Mar 5: Dinner Meeting at Danish-Canadian Club
Mar 6-9: AIBF Jazz Bands, Trans-Alta Centre
Mar 13-14: AIBF Concert Bands, Bishop Carroll
Mar 20-21: Park Society, Elbow River Casino
Mar 22-23: High River OC, Century Casino