



The OptiMessenger

The Optimist Club of Calgary

www.optimistyyc.org

December 24, 2018

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***It's that time of year!
Many of us are celebrating Christmas.
Others, Hanukkah. Some Kwanzaa.
And all of us are planning for the New Year.
So let me wish you, Happy Holidays
and best wishes for the New Year!***

A Message from our Governor



Eric Christianson, our District Governor sends us this message:

"I want to wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all in Calgary. Thanks for all you do for your club and the youth

of your community."

A Great Festive Showcase

This year's Festive Showcase was our most successful concert ever. 1644 tickets were sold!

We gave 10 tickets to the Kerby Centre, 5 to Ian Bazalgette School for music students, and 3 to Southwood United Church for recent immigrants from Iraq, to attend the concert for free. These tickets were paid for and donated by Club Members.

Over 700 youth performed in the concert from seven different performing groups.

The 50/50 winner won \$2,610.

Lyle sent an email thanking the many Members for their help and support.

A Message from our OI President



From our OI President Rebecca Butler-Mona:

"I know each of you share my desire to make this year memorable in "Bringing Out the Best" and celebrating the positive impact of Optimists during our 2018-19 Centennial year, and I appreciate all that

you are doing in your community.

On behalf of Optimist International, I would like to thank you for everything you do for this organization and the children in your community. Happy Holidays and I hope to see you in Louisville!"

New Club Members

I'm pleased to report that in December we continued to gain new Club Members. Please join me in welcoming:

- Khadija Abdallahi
- Arshia Alam
- Sarah Alam
- Shamaila Butt

Please be sure to welcome them at one of our Club meetings or at a Club event.

Oratorical Contest

This year is the first year that our Club is offering a single gender contest. This is also the first year that the age limit is under 19 as of October 1, 2018. Speakers will write and present a 4-5 minute speech on the topic **“Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?”**

We want to encourage students who have public speaking experience through school, church, Guides, Scouts, 4-H, Cadets and other organizations to enter starting on January 20, 2019. Entries will be accepted on a first-come basis until ten positions are filled. An entry form containing all rules and other information can be found on our Club website: www.optimistyyc.org.

Medals and cash awards of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be given to the contestants that finish in the first three places of the Club contest.

The contest will be held in Calgary on a Saturday afternoon in March 2019 at a date, time and location to be announced.

The best speaker from the Club contest will move forward towards the District competition. There will be an intermediate Alberta contest prior to the District Contest sometime in April.

The District competition will take place on May 18th in Medicine Hat. Three scholarships will be awarded to the first three place winners of the District contest: \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively. Over the past three years, four winners from our Club contests have won District Oratorical scholarships totaling \$10,000.

The winner of the District Oratorical Contest will get to compete in the Great Plains Regional Oratorical Contest. This contest is held in June using the internet to connect with the contest site. The winner of the Regional contest is awarded an additional \$5000 scholarship and gets to compete in the Optimist Oratorical World Championships Contest.

The Optimist Oratorical World Championships Contest awards additional scholarships of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 to the top three speakers.

In the 2016 – 2017 Contest year, Ye-Jean Park, a Grade 10 student at Webber Academy in Calgary, who entered her first contest with the Optimist Club of Calgary, won the District and Regional contests and came in third in the World Championships, winning a total of \$12,500 in scholarships.

Our January Club Dinner Meeting

Our next club dinner meeting will be on Monday, January 7, 2019, at the Danish-Canadian Club.

Stutt Pottruff was successful in convincing the Calgary Public Library to have guest speaker Christine Hayes give us a presentation about the new Calgary Public Library. Normally, these presentations are only given at the library.

Thank you Stutt!

Essay Contest

We are still accepting applications for the Club's Optimist International Essay Contest.

Students under 19 years of age on October 1, 2018 are required to write a 700-800 word essay on the topic **“When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?”** and submit it to the Calgary Optimist Club by January 18, 2019.

Please inform students you know about this opportunity to potentially win a \$2500 scholarship. An entry form containing all rules and other information can be found on our Club website: www.optimistyyc.org.

The 2Q District Meeting

A reminder that the 2nd Quarter District Meeting will be held here in Calgary, February 8-9, hosted by the Calgary Dinner Optimist Club. January 15 is the deadline for Early Registration.

We encourage you to attend. The Club will reimburse the \$140 Early Registration Fee for Members that attend the Saturday Meeting and Workshops.

Up Coming Dates

Jan 7: Club Dinner Meeting, Danish-Canadian Club
Jan 27: Zone 6 Meeting in Calgary
Jan 28: Board Meeting teleconference
Feb 1-3: U18 Curling Area Play-downs, Calgary CC
Feb 4: Club Dinner Meeting, Danish-Canadian Club
Feb 8-9: 2nd Quarter District Meeting, Calgary
Feb ?: Club Sunday Brunch, Heritage Park
Feb 25: Board Meeting teleconference
Mar 4: Club Dinner Meeting, Danish-Canadian Club
Mar 14-17: Alberta Optimist U18 Curling Championships, Medicine Hat CC
Mar 25: Board Meeting teleconference