



OPTIMIST CLUB OF CLAYTON

Friend of Youth

On the web at: www.claytonoptimist.org

February 2017

Letter from the President

My Fellow Optimists,

At the recent East Missouri conference in Rolla, another Optimist and I were chatting about ways to overcome pessimism. She shared the following story.

A coworker in her late 20s asked her how she could be an Optimist (or even an optimist) with the 24-hour news cycle showing so many stories about murders and robberies and failing schools. The Optimist responded, "How can I not be, for all those reasons, when the world is so desperate for anyone to share good news?"

The coworker looked at her strangely and said, "I guess we're just going to have to agree to disagree on this."

The Optimist responded, "Will you try something for me for just one week?"

Her coworker shrugged her shoulders and said, halfheartedly, "I guess."

"For one week, every time you hear a bad news story, will you text me about it?"

The coworker said, "I mean, sure, but I don't see what good that's going to do."

The Optimist said, "Trust me. What do you have to lose?"

For the next week, the coworker sent one or two texts a day with a bad news story. Each time, the Optimist responded with a good news story, something about an organ donor or a random act of kindness or a nonprofit service recipient testimonial.

The coworker didn't stop after the week was up, and the Optimist didn't stop responding. Within a month, the Optimist received an unexpected text from her coworker--a good news story. While she may be an Optimist, she is far from uptight, and she responded saying, "If you think you've tricked me into searching for a bad news story to send you, you have sorely misjudged me."

The coworker responded with, "Nope. I just found myself clicking on the headline and thought, wow. She's actually right."

This relationship touched me, because how many times do we hear that same comment about bad news being all that's out there? We all know that's not true, but how often are we proactive enough to address the speaker the way this Optimist did? And, really, how much of a time commitment did either party make in sharing news links?

But the outcome... The outcome was more powerful than either party expected.

I wish I could report that the coworker ended up joining an Optimist club. But she has ended up volunteering at her children's school and is overflowing with excitement when she reports back on these experiences to the Optimist.

As for the Optimist (optimist), she says, "I can't wait till she starts a JOI club at that school."

Optimistically yours,

Liz

Upcoming Meetings/Events

March 7, 2017, 6:00 PM at Fallon's Restaurant

The club oratorical contest winners will deliver their winning speeches.

March 21, 2017, 6:00 PM at Fallon's Restaurant

Guest speaker to be determined.

This n' That

February Fun Facts

- The birthstone for February is amethyst. The birth flower is the violet or iris.
- February is Black History month.
- President Andrew Jackson was impeached on February 24, 1868.
- The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910.
- Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on February 8, 1952.
- In the USA, February is National Pet Dental Health month. It is also Hot Breakfast month.
- February is the only month that can pass with no full moon. This will next occur in 2018
- February frequently occurs in lists of the most commonly misspelt words in the English language.

Announcements

The club would like to wish **Jennifer Adams, Roger Dickson, Steve Creamer, Kevin Murphy** and **Julius Juracsik** a Happy Birthday!

Quote of the Month: "Believe you can and you're halfway there." – Theodore Roosevelt