

Optimist Club of the Westbank Spring 2021 News

COVID-19 Update - Our club continues to look for ways to interact with each other and members of our community while following safety protocols recommended during this COVID-19 Pandemic.

FEBRUARY

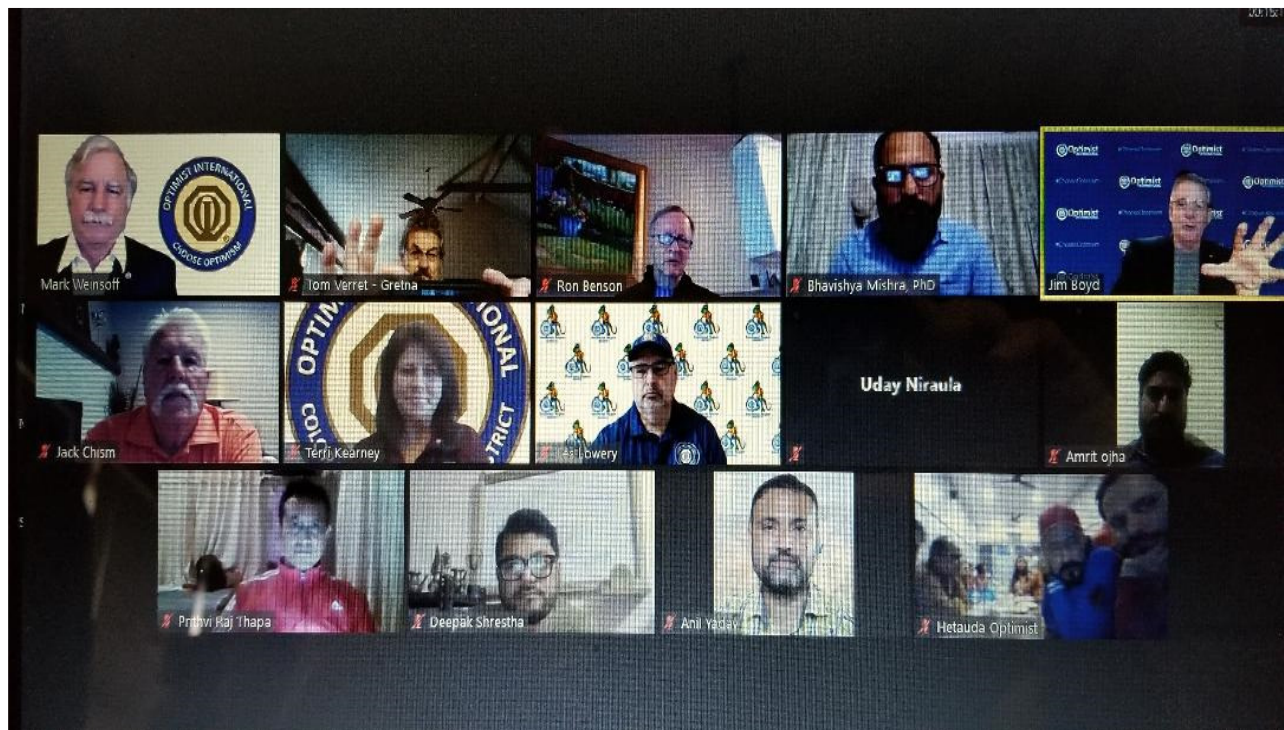
- The City of Gretna by Proclamation declared 04 February as Optimist Day.



- West Bank Optimist Board Meetings were held on 10 Feb and 10 March at Ernie's Café a local eating establishment. COVID-19 recommended protocols were followed.



- Our West Bank Optimist Club has elected to sponsor an international club to assist and support them in becoming an International Optimist Club. We welcome the Optimist Club of Hetauda, Nepal and look forward to our successful collaborations and sharing our optimism by working together and mentoring the Hetauda Club to support future projects to benefit the children.



- The West Bank Optimist Club's Essay Contestant Isabel Willems competed and was selected as the Louisiana District's Winner. Isabel will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to help with expenses at the college of her choice.

Topic for the 2020-21 school year is: "Reaching your Dreams by Choosing Optimism" **Who:** Youth under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2020 (and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution) in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean. There is no minimum age. **How To Enter:** Interested students must contact their local Optimist Club. They need to submit an essay on the pre-assigned topic. To find out a contact, please e-mail the Programs Department at programs@optimist.org.

MARCH

- Members of our Westbank Club participated in the Optimist Southeast Regional Conference & Happiness Rally on March 6 & 7 via Zoom. The entire summit was 7 hours total for both days and proved to be both fun and educational with distinguished great speakers. Our district presented an informative 40-minute breakout session on Virtual and Online Fundraising followed by a couple of fun recipes for entertainment presented by two Southeast Regional Governors, Louisiana's Les Lowery – the Sazerac invented in New Orleans and Alabama Mississippi's Alfred Adams – Supreme Chicken Salad. A video featuring activities held throughout the Louisiana District was presented and Governor Les also provided the closing music for the Conference, a moving and inspiring musical video for the 35th Anniversary of "We Are the World" tune. Together we can work to improve our world with happiness



ONLINE AND IN REAL TIME

Regional Conference and Happiness Rally
Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7, 2021

2 Days. 6 Hours. 7 Districts. 1 Awesome Region.
MAKING MEMORIES FOR LASTING CHANGE

It promises to be an exciting, engaging, and optimistic experience with a great group of inspiring, brilliant and happy Optimists!!!

PLAN TO BE THERE



Gov. Alfred Adams
ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI



Gov. Les Lowery
LOUISIANA

Optimist International Southeast Regional Conference and Happiness Rally 2021
ONLINE AND IN REAL TIME

DISTRICT BREAK OUT ROOM
ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI and LOUISIANA

Timely! From Planning to Completion! **Fundraising Online** will be very informative and inspiring you to get to work on new fundraising projects right away. **Cooking with Governor Alfred Adams!** Alfred shares one of his favorite recipes with us! Delish! Join us **Governor Les Lowery** for a **New Orleans original** cocktail, from circa 1838, **The Sazerac!** in **Hospitality, Cocktails and Story Time!**

Sunday March 7 @ 2:10 p.m. All times EST

- Our WB Optimist Club elected to provide needed supplies for the Roatan Island Sandy Bay Lighthouse Orphanage which will be hand delivered to the children in the month of March.
- March 15 - the day selected for the Optimist International Musical Happiness Competition. Members tune in for a Happiness Celebration while listening to inspiring original performances.



This exciting new program is designed to encourage and celebrate youth Musical and Vocal categories. Scholarships will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the OI level for each category. The Musical or Vocal submission shall be no longer than three minutes. The Musical Happiness Competition – Musical and Vocal - gives the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity!

- Members of our West Bank Optimist Club joined other participants from the entire Louisiana District to celebrate the International Day of Happiness by sharing our Happiness with our families, friends and others while attending the 3rd Qtr Louisiana District Convention on March 20-21 in Bossier City. The Day of Happiness was created by the United Nations in 2013, its purpose is to "recognize the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world." Find out more at <https://thedayofhappiness.org>. Essay, & Oratorical Contests were held during the Convention with this year's theme being **"Healing the World with Optimism"**.



