

Optimist Club of the Westbank Summer 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.

APRIL

- 1- The City of Gretna and Gretna Economic Development Association held the Bayou Classic Nationals at Gretna's BMX Raceway April 9-11 with approximately 1,200 people attending this year's event. This event provides a safe, quality, and fun environment for BMX racing at both the local and national level. Our club provided a sponsorship donation and needed volunteers to assist working in the refreshments booth. This event inspires young people to compete for prizes and recognition while exhibiting their skills for BMX Racing.



- 2- Our club donated funds in Bobby Hebert's name (former Club President & District Governor) to the Plant a Tree in Jefferson Parish event for Earth Day April 22nd.

MAY

- 3- May was a busy month for Westbank Optimists. We sponsored a golf team to participate in west bank golf tournaments including the Rotary club of Westwego's Spring Swing golf tournament this year honoring Past Optimist Club President Bobby Hebert.



- 4- Our club also funded a sponsorship for the Louisiana District Optimist Junior Golf Qualifying Tournament at the Timberlane Golf Course on May 22 with several of our members assisting with the set-up and providing refreshments throughout the tournament day. Those golfers qualifying are eligible to advance to the Optimist Tournament in July at the Doral Resort, Miami.





JUNE

- 5- On June 9th, the Optimist Club of the Westbank held a banquet at the Beef Connection restaurant to honor the 2021 Silvia Ricks Scholarship Award winners. The 2021 award winners were Hope Bran and Cameron Thompson. Congratulations!



- 6- Optimist Club also participated in the “Love Thy Neighbor” Gretna Prayer Dinner which featured Ms. Gayle Benson (owner of the New Orleans Saints & Pelicans) as the guest speaker. This event is held annually and is always very well attended by members of Jefferson Parish, the City of Gretna and other neighboring communities. Our Optimist Club was well represented with roughly 16 members attending. Our own Les Lowery (Optimist LA District Governor) also assisted in the event by sharing one of the scripture readings with the crowd and Kevin Avery also shared his inspiration. Participation in these kinds of events demonstrates not only our Optimism but also our willingness to share inspiration and good will amongst our neighbors.



- 7- Louisiana Kids Competition thanks the Westbank Optimist Club for their support & care of helping/lifting kids up in sponsoring the Louisiana Kids, Inc. Entertainment Organization & Competition held on June 19th. Louisiana Kids, Inc. was formed to focus on the God given Talents of our children, while using the Performing Arts as the venue Vehicle to develop self-esteem and character in children three years of age to high school seniors.

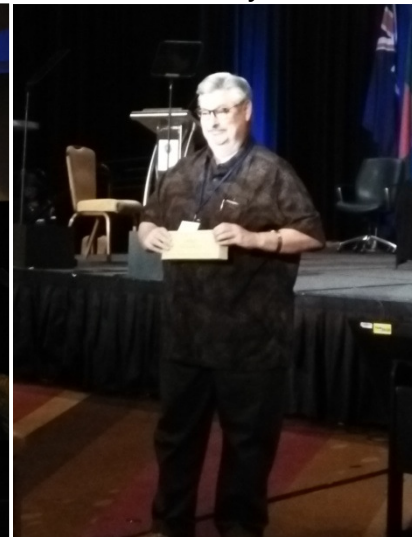


8- The end of June was highlighted by the kick-off of the 103rd Annual Optimist International Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia. Our club was represented at this year's OI Convention by Les Lowery (LA District Governor & Karen Lowery (OI Convention Ambassador) in person and by Tom Verret (Optimist Club of the Westbank) virtually. The convention provided training, policy updates, project reviews, and interaction and camaraderie with fellow Optimist members from all parts of the country while maintaining Covid Safety protocols during the pandemic.





- 9- Our LA District Governor, Les Lowery, was honored to receive the Governor's Pacesetter Award. This award is given to Optimist Governors that grow their district by net 15 members and build two or more new clubs in the District by June 30.



10-Our Westbank Optimist Club was also recognized and honored at the OI Convention as a Certified Optimistic Optimist Club. Our focus continues on growth by adding new members of all ages through the next months, while spreading Optimism, Good Cheer and Happiness to all we meet.

