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2017-2018 President

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Greetings Fellow Optimists!

The 2017-2018 Optimist year will offer many opportunities for growth and service as we continue our quest toward achieving Optimist International's goal of 100,000 members by our 100th anniversary! Reaching this goal will be a significant milestone in our organization's quest to be the number one volunteer youth service organization in the world. It will enable us to serve over one million more youth than we do today. Your passion and commitment to serve combined with Optimist International's volunteer opportunities will be key to realizing this goal.

The theme for the 2017-2018 year will be "Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!" We gain strength by working together, sharing new ideas and passions, and opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities of serving more youth and communities. The focus for 2017-2018 will be on growth in membership and retention, leadership development and the expansion of the Optimist International brand. These three areas of concentration are essential to the health and welfare of our clubs and Optimist International. Clubs are the heart and soul of our organization. Optimist members working within their clubs are a force of positive change within their communities, are engaged in service to others and are dedicated to bringing out the best in youth, their communities and themselves.

The primary goal for every club is to achieve Honor Club status. This time-tested, club health maintenance program has been in existence for almost 60 years – it represents what we do best as an Optimist club. Clubs that achieve Honor Club status are healthy, active, strong and provide great value to Optimist experience. Strong clubs produce strong members, strong members produce strong leaders, strong leaders produce the initiative and strategies necessary to sustain and strengthen Optimist International. If Optimist International prospers, we all prosper.

Wishing you an awesome 2017-2018 year as we unite to build a better tomorrow for our youth, communities and ourselves.

Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!

All the best,

H. Nick Prillaman, Jr.