

THE GEO OPTIPINION



Volume 39 Issue 8

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**A MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE GARDENA EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB
ZONE 3 - PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

President's Message:

It is already that time of the year again for our club election. The agenda for the dinner meeting on May 6th at the Happa Restaurant will include the election of the club officers and new board members. GEO welcomes three new members - Naomi



Suwa, Lori Hoshiko, and John Eng. Naomi is the Administrative Coordinator for USC Asian American Student Services. She is already involved in many GEO activities along with her husband Gene Matsumoto. Lori works as a Financial Planner for American Express Financial Advisors and involved with youth basketball activities. John is a Superior Court Commissioner and active in community service activities. The three new members will be inducted at the Club In Action program on June 17, 2003. We invite their participation in all of the club activities. Congratulations !!

The Braille Olympics will be held on May 3rd at the Braille Institute located at 3450 Cahuenga Boulevard in Los Angeles (near Universal Studio). Committee Chairperson Sid Halushka will appreciate all the help he can get for the events that are monitored by our club. It is very rewarding to see these youths

compete in the Olympic events. Please contact Sid at (310) 532-5570 for further information.

The 3rd Quarterly Pacific Southwest District Meeting will be held in Palm Springs on May 16 through 18th. Pacific Southwest District is honoring all Optimists who have been members for 30 years or more at the luncheon on Saturday, May 17th. Please contact club secretary Chris Yasaki at (310) 331-5351 if you plan to attend. Zone 3 is charged with hosting one of the hospitality rooms on May 16th. Zone 3 Lt. Governor Bill Coonce is coordinating this event. Since GEO is the dominant club in Zone 3, our club is essentially hosting this event. Please contact Bill at (310) 332-9616 if you can help with this event.

The Respect For Law dinner will be held on May 20th at the Cheesecake Factory in Redondo Beach. Committee Chairperson Ron Mark has promised a very interesting program with FBI Agent Steve Oda, SWAT Team leader for the Los Angeles FBI Office, as the guest speaker. Scholarship Chairperson Dave Yamamoto's committee has selected three winners from a list of over thirty applicants to receive the \$1000 Respect For Law college scholarships. Lets have a good turnout to welcome our guest speaker and to honor these outstanding students who will become our future leaders.

GEO has been contacted by an organization called "Operation Military Pride" which is coordinating local rallies across the United

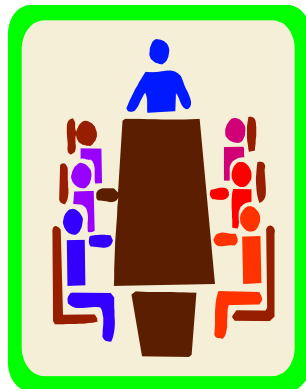
States on Armed Forces Day, May 17th. These rallies are to be held in conjunction with the main rally in Washington D.C. to show support for our military men and women. They are asking various business and civic organizations in the community to participate in the rally. The City of Torrance will host the Armed Forces Day Parade which terminates at 4:00 pm. at the Del Amo Shopping Mall parking lot. A special event is scheduled when the parade ends at 4:00 pm. I have asked Wes Sato to disseminate new information as it becomes available from the South Bay Coordinator through the GEO members E-Mail system. I hope our club can have a substantial presence at this rally to show our appreciation and support for the brave men and women who are serving our country.

On a personal note, I will be in Japan for a couple weeks attending to some personal business matters. During my absence President-Elect Carolyn Hyatt will preside over all GEO meetings and club related business.

Yours in Optimism,
Louis

Meetings:

- May 6th–7:00pm **Members' Meeting and Club Election Night** at Happa Restaurant in the New Gardena Hotel, 1641 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. in Gardena.
- May 13th–7:00pm **Board Meeting** at the JCI in room 206. All members invited.



- May 16th-18th –**PSW District Meeting** in Palm Springs.
- May 20th–7:00pm **Annual Respect for Law Dinner** at Cheesecake Factory Restaurant, 605 N. Harbor Dr. in Redondo Beach.

Braille Olympics:

The 31st Annual Optimist Braille Track & Field Olympics will be held on Saturday May 3rd from 9:00am until about 2:00pm at the Braille Institute Youth Center, 3450 Cahuenga Blvd West, in Universal City. Take the 110 to the 101 north and exit Universal Center Drive, turn left, proceed to Cahuenga, then turn right, go past the youth center and park either on the street, in the Hanna Barbara lot, or in the Credit Union. There will be signs posted. The phone number for the institute is (323) 663-1111.

If you haven't attended the Braille Olympics before (**all new members pay attention**), this is a must for you and your family, especially young people. You'll gain a deeper appreciation for the blessings in your own life as well as a high admiration for the courageous young people who compete in the events.

Chairman Sid Halushka requests that members and volunteers who wish to participate show up at the Youth Center by 11:30am for the noon shift. Also, please plan to bring money to purchase lunch and snacks at the event as this helps raise funds for the institute. Several Boy and Girl Scouts will be volunteering and helping us with the events and will be working the first shift. If you have any questions, please call Sid at 310-545-7018 (H), 310-532-5570 (W), or email at halushka@msn.com

Oratorical Contest:

Congratulations to our club’s girl winner, Alicia Lee, who was victorious at the Zone 3 level and will now advance to the District’s Area competition which will be held on May 1st in Burbank. If successful at the area, she will compete in the District Finals on May 18th in Palm Springs for a \$1500 scholarship.

Club Elections:

All members please be advised that our annual club elections will be held at our dinner meeting on May 6th. The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following slate of nominees to the membership for consideration and approval:

- Pres-Elect/VP Internal Affairs George Wada
- VP Youth Work..... Bob Lyons
- VP External Affairs.Chris Yasaki
- Board Member Mel Iizuka
- Board Member Valerie Jung
- Board Member Hiroshi Kika
- Board Member Ron Mark
- Board Member Shelly Oriba
- Board Member Ron Shintani
- Board Member Naomi Suwa

Remember that additional nominations may also be taken from the floor for the above offices and in the event of formal declinations. So if you have a desire to serve the Club in a leadership capacity, be sure to attend this meeting and make it known so your name may be placed in consideration. Also, in the event that any office becomes vacant for any reason, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy.

Respect for Law:

Chairman Ron Mark has arranged for what should be a most interesting and memorable evening. The venue this year is the famous Cheesecake Factory in Redondo Beach, where we will enjoy great food in their private upstairs banquet facility. Special guest speaker for the evening will be FBI Agent Steve Oda, Los Angeles SWAT Team Leader.

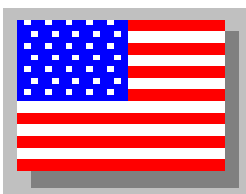
The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of our club’s Scholarship Awards. This year the selection committee has chosen three winners: Raphael Kang of Peninsula High School, Joey Furutani of the California Academy of Mathematics High School, and Marisol Bazan of Gardena High School.

Please support this event with your attendance to congratulate the awardees and enjoy an evening of wonderful food, conversation and camaraderie with your fellow members and guests. Ron’s telephone committee will be calling you to confirm your attendance plans.

Happiness:

Happiness is a kind of emotional resting place of quiet satisfaction with one’s life. It has been said that the art of living a happy life is a balance between getting what you want and learning to want what you get.

- Michael Josephson



MEMORIAL DAY
May 26th

OFFICERS

President..... Louis Ito
 President Elect..... Carolyn Hyatt
 Vice President Robin Arakaki
 Vice President Bob Lyons
 Secretary..... Chris Yasaki
 Treasurer Gene Matsumoto
 IPP Norm Hirata

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

First Year Members

Kathy Asanuma
 Bill Coonce
 Dwayne Hayden
 Deryck Koga
 Wes Sato

Second Year Members

Iopu Brian
 Sid Halushka
 Patty Kakita
 Ed Kambe
 Mike Tsuge

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jim Carroll Ed Kambe Wes Sato

THE OPTIMIST CREED

PROMISE YOURSELF:

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best to work only for the best and expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry too noble for anger too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

- Christian D. Larson

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May 11th