



# Grand Strand Optimist Informer

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 5 2015

APRIL



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- New Members
- Events
- More

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## President's Musings— Tom Wesley



What a year this is turning out to be. You certainly can't say that this year is turning out boring. We lost a member, Drake Tilley, and just yesterday we gained a future member, Ben Ruswinckel. Congrats to Bobbei and the new daddy.

We have already had several fund raisers and have begun 'contemplating' a few more.

As you know, it is election time and we have some business to get done here. We have been accepting nominations for several weeks for a president-elect-elect and 3 two year board members. We have received several names for consideration and I will begin reading them to the club the first week in April. We will read out the nominations for 3 weeks and will conduct the election the following week. I'm not exactly sure whether we will know at that time who the winners are or whether we will be waiting on the mail in's.

Now, you may be wondering about the president elect position since Mike Duff has let us know that he will not be able to perform that duty at this time. The board has decided to retain Mike as president elect until Sep 30, so as to maintain the proper number of board members. Tracey will be moving up to become the next Lt Governor for our zone, a job she is quite prepared for, and alas your current president is also your incoming president for next year. This year with my being the first repeat president was unprecedented and now to succeed myself is quite humbling. We did not feel that it was fair to someone to move from a board member to president without the ramp up time that we have always provided. So.....I will be leaning on all of you to help carry the load next year in particular. We will be deciding on projects, fund raisers, etc. just like always but this time we will be having someone take the lead from the get go. This is help with the planning process as well as distribute the load. Please consider how you might share the load for the rest of this year as well as for next year. If you haven't stepped up to get on the board think about it. We have brought in a number of new people over the last year and I see many of them taking over the reins over the next couple of years. Maybe you should be one of them.

I can say that I have always enjoyed being part of this club and especially being on the board. This has been a wonderful board this year and I look forward to another great board next year too.

Thank you all for your support and I will do my best to keep you proud of your club.

Like us on Facebook and share with your friends:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Grand-Strand-Optimist-Club/551250221567815>





**Newsletter Editor -  
Sandi Brown**

**Newsletter Editor: Sandi Brown:** Please e-mail any information you want included in the **May** edition of The Grand Strand Optimist Informer to: [sandibrownmb@gmail.com](mailto:sandibrownmb@gmail.com) or telephone: 919-604-0595. Remember the **deadline is the 15th** of each month.

1. Every Thursday 12:30 –1:30 PM Optimist Meeting at Pine Lakes Country Club
2. Board of Directors Meeting; Date to be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month 5:30PM, Building 200 at Horry -Georgetown Tech, 743 Hemlock St, Myrtle Beach .

## April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Meeting 12:30pm Pine Lakes CC	3	4
5	6	7 Oratorical Contest- it Methodist Church	8	9 Meeting 12:30pm Pine Lakes CC	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Meeting 12:30pm Pine Lakes CC	17	18
19	20	21 Board Mtg 5:30 PM Bldg 200 HGTC Myrtle Beach	22	23 Meeting 12:30pm Pine Lakes CC	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Meeting 12:30pm Pine Lakes CC		

2014-2015

## Optimist Club Officers and Board Members

President	Tom Wesley	tomwesley@sc.rr.com	222-4173
Past President	Tracey Palmer	Tracey.palmer@wynvr.com	445-5904
President Elect	Mike Duff	michael.duff@raymondjames.com	455-5985
Secretary	Judy Cox	gsocsecmb@gmail.com	650-4276
Treasurer	Barbara Thomas	bht805@aol.com	997-4263
Director	Phil Cox	rvspc@yahoo.com	650-4276
Director	Joel Mousaw	jtmousaw@gmail.com	910-280-0490
Director	Karen Terwilliger	karenbterwilliger@yahoo.com	903-4047
Director	Julie Golden	julie.golden@hgtc.edu	457-2605
Director	Bobbei Ruswinckel	ruswinckel@gmail.com	267-0744
Director	George Cox	coxlawfirm@aol.com	497-7000

**Get to know  
your Officers  
and Board**



Tom Wesley  
President



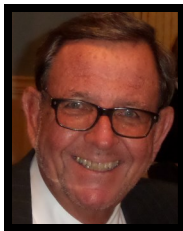
Tracey  
Rae  
Palmer  
Past  
President



Mike Duff  
President  
Elect



Judy Cox  
Secretary



George Cox  
Director



Bobbei  
Ruswinckel  
Director



Barbara  
Thomas  
Treasurer



Julie Golden  
Director



Karen  
Terwilliger  
Director



Phil Cox  
Director



Joel Mousaw  
Director

### Upcoming Events

**Optimist Cookbook Fundraiser— proceeds go to Jason's House.** Please contact Tom Wesley 222-4173 or tomwesley@sc.rr.com . **Only \$10 ! Please contact friends and neighbors and let's get these books sold!**

**Board of Directors Meeting** - Tuesday April 21, 2015 at 5:30 pm at Horry-Georgetown Tech, Building 200, 743 Hemlock St., Myrtle Beach, SC.

**Oratorical Contest** - April 7 - First Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach

## Just A Reminder...

From: Phil Cox

Our Do-it-Yourself contest continues with new prizes every month. Always remember to fill out your chance and drop it in the box on your luncheon table. We've had three winners to date... Tom, George, and George (yes, George Cox twice!). Get your name in the box every week and you may win free admission to our Installation Banquet this fall!

### Upcoming Speakers

April 2, 2015	M.B. Pelicans
April 9, 2015	Open
April 16, 2015	Tracy Rae Palmer -P.G.I.
April 23, 2015	Eric Spatz, Executive Director - Teach My People
April 30, 2015	Eddie Dyer -C.C.U.
May 7, 2015	Respect for Law
May 14, 2015	Youth in Government
May 21, 2015	Sue McKinney - Barnabas Foundation
May 28, 2015	Ed Piotrowski - Hurricane Season

All of us at the Grand Strand Optimist Club want to wish our fellow Optimists a Happy Birthday!

April:

Louise Lewis

John Heller

May:

Doug Blackburn

Tom Middleton

Contact Pat Henry at [843-457-6846](tel:843-457-6846) or [henryorchid@mail.com](mailto:henryorchid@mail.com) and let her know what month you were born and you don't have to give the year you were born . We would like to wish all of our Optimist Club members a happy birthday. So if you see any of our birthday club members give them a big Shout Out "happy birthday."

### Welcome New Members

87 Members

Debbie Perry - Terry Jones, sponsor

Young Photography (FOO) - Marino Garbin, Sponsor

Francesca R. Greggs (FOO)- Phyllis Miller. Sponsor

Autumn Fenstermacher (FOO)- Tracey Palmer, Sponsor

Steve Mathison (FOO)- Phyllis Miller, Sponsor

Raymond James/Michael Duff investment Executive (FOO) - Michael Duff, Sponsor

360 Auto (FOO) - Marino Garbin, Sponsor

Harry's Discount Tire (FOO) - Marino Garbin, Sponsor

Brenda Gantt (FOO)- Dee Middleton, Sponsor

Karra Bieber/Hot Shaves (FOO)- Marino Garbin, Sponsor

Ruswinckel/Shoreline Remodel (FOO)- Bobbei Ruswinckel, Sponsor

Alison Privet – John Grover Sponsor

Holly Perez – Tracey R Palmer, Sponsor

Louise Carson –Tracey R Palmer, Sponsor

Joel T Mousaw – Tracey R Palmer , Sponsor

Nicole Labrie - Pat Henry, Sponsor

Shannon Furtick - Bobbei Ruswinckel, Sponsor

## **My Take on Drake**

By Tracey Rae Palmer

As most of you know, we lost a member of the Optimist Club recently – Drake Tilley. Drake had been a member for seventeen years and he is already missed. When you first meet him, Drake appeared strong in his convictions, loud with his laughter and quirky with his shyness towards new people. The way it was done in the past was just fine for Drake, new stuff didn't appeal to him when came to Optimist changes. When he retired from J.C. Penney's, he became interested in computers, even taking a few classes to get the basics under his belt. He didn't know everything, but he felt like he was keeping up which is important when you retire. According to the statistics, retirees tend to die off six months after leaving their jobs and Drake tried to fit into that category by suffering a heart attack shortly after he left Penney's. He bounced back and plunged into life full force. He was a staple at the Myrtle Beach Business After Hours events, and he appeared quite often at the Penney's store browsing with his wife Vaughn and family. He was political with his prayers, always "praying as we believe" and was a no-nonsense man when it came to who he voted for and supported. Sometimes he would sneak out before the Creed was read out loud and I knew that wasn't his thing. It was okay he did that – not everyone likes reciting in front of a crowd. Drake always took his dessert home in a to-go container stating it was for his wife and yet we knew he had an insatiable sweet tooth. I wonder if that dessert really made it all the way home... He had his ticks, his moments of opinion and because of all that he was and wasn't – he will be greatly missed by me and many others. And yet I know somehow, he'll be there above us all on Thursday, waiting to see what's for dessert.

## **Why I Love the Oratorical Contest**

By: Judy Cox

For the first time in ten years I am going to miss our Club's Oratorical Contest and I hate it. The Oratorical Contest is my favorite event of the year. It doesn't require much work on my part but oh, the rewards I reap from it sustain me from one year to the next. I love to listen to the kids who enter this competition. They restore my hope in future generations and serve as a reminder that there are responsible and intelligent future leaders rising up. When I see the parents, grandparents, friends and teachers attending and supporting the contestants, it reminds me of the importance of a strong community and support system.

I find it interesting to hear how contestants of different ages and life experiences interpret the same theme. One year the theme was "The Internet – Friend or Foe". They all thought it was pretty close to an even split between good and bad. The good being how much information was at your fingertips and the ease with which you could communicate with other people. The bad part being the cyber bullying, online predators and that any information that is put out about you is out there forever. Another "bad" thing for many of them was that although they liked emails they disliked the fact that they didn't get letters in the mail from anyone. Do you remember how happy you were when you went to the mailbox and you had a letter or a card from your grandparents? They don't know that thrill.

Some of these kids have really overcome a lot. Our Club (and District winner) two years ago was the son of a father who was in jail for murdering the mother. One of the contestants last year was the daughter of an author who was missing for several days before his body was found. The District winner last year lost her mother several years ago and is being raised by her father. When she was finished speaking at the District Contest, one of the adults in the audience couldn't contain their response and let out a "Wow"! The girl never heard it, she was too busy looking for approval from the person she counted on the most and the look of love that passed between father and daughter was priceless.

Even now, many years later, I can vividly recall the little girl in Columbia who was barely visible behind the podium. She broke down in tears during her presentation. They let her take a few minutes to compose herself and then she came back and choking back the sobs, finished her speech. She got a standing ovation. When you see that kind of courage, you have to acknowledge it.

I won't be at the First United Methodist Church on April 7th but I hope you will plan to attend and support our Club and our Youth. I promise you, it will be worth your time.



Grand Strand Optimist Club  
Board of Director Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Wesley at 5:53 PM on February 17, 2015 at The Comedy Club at 1318 Celebrity Circle, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

**Members Present:** Tom Wesley                      Judy Cox                      Julie Golden                      Mike Duff  
Bobbei Ruswinckel    Tracey Palmer                      George Cox                      Phil Cox  
Karen Terwilliger    Joel Mousaw                      Barbara Thomas

**Members Absent:** None

Guests: None

**Agenda:** President Tom Wesley went over the items on the agenda. After some discussion, the agenda was accepted.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Tracey Palmer to accept the January Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Joel Mousaw seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Barbara Thomas went over the financial report. She reported that all bills have been paid and the taxes have been filed. We have \$19,464.03 on hand.

**Audit:** Barbara announced that on February 18, 2015, she is getting together with Susan Tucker to turn over all the paperwork so that Susan can start the audit. The cost is supposed to be \$500.00.

**Roster:** Secretary Judy Cox said that she has reinstated Ann Scott. Tom Wesley submitted the application of James E. Malloch CDR, USN, RET for approval. His sponsor is Terry Jones.

A motion was made by Tracey Palmer to accept James' application for membership. Phil Cox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Spaghetti Supper:** Will be on March 15, 2017 at Martin's Restaurant. The cost of the tickets will be \$8.00 with drinks and dessert extra.

**Oratorical Contest:** Will be held on Tuesday April 7, 2015 at the First United Methodist Church. We will have to pay \$80.00 for security because that is a requirement of the Church. We need to try to get participants from the High School, Early College and the Academy of Arts and Science.

**Upcoming Events:** Tom Wesley said that Cathe Singleton was Chairing Youth in Government and that will take place in April. Tracey Palmer said that she would be able to make the Certificates for that event.

George Cox said that Respect for Law will take place on Thursday May 14, 2015.

**Old Business:**

**District Meeting:** President Tom Wesley said that the Club was well represented at the District Meeting. Our Club had the most people in attendance. He said that he learned about HOBY there. HOBY is a youth leadership organization founded by Hugh O'Brien.

**Club Website:** Bobbei Ruswinckel reported that they are still working on it but a lot of progress has been made.

**Board Meeting Place:** We will no longer be able to meet at the Comedy Club. Julie Golden is going to see if she can get a place for us to meet at Market Common.

Tom reminded the Board that they need to continue to submit articles to the Club newspaper.

There being no further business to come before the Board, George Cox made a motion that the Board Meeting be adjourned. Tracey Palmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

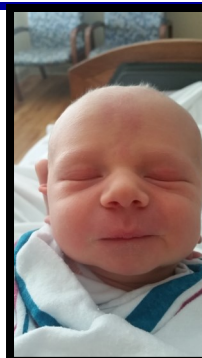
The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 17, 2015. The place to be announced at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Cox, Secretary

**Future Optimist Member**

As an Optimist member and FOO Bobbei and Geoff Ruswinckel would like to introduce their newest addition, a son, Benjamin William Ruswinckel. He was born Saturday, March 28, 2015. Ben weighed 7lbs 9.5oz and was 19.5 inches long.



**Business in Support of the Grand Strand Optimist Club**

Your Card Could Be Here

Contact Sandi Brown - 919-604-0595 or sandibrownmb@gmail.com

**COX LAW FIRM, P.C.**

*A Professional Corporation*

**GEORGE W. COX**

Attorney-at-Law

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 Oleander Office Centre - P.O. Box 1110 - Myrtle Beach, SC 29578  
 Telephone (843) 497-7000 Fax (843) 497-0000  
 E-mail: [coxparalegal@aol.com](mailto:coxparalegal@aol.com)



**PO Box 1311  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578  
Phone 843-448-4156**

**Weekly Optimist Meeting  
Thursday 12:30 to 1:30  
Pine Lakes Country Club  
5603 Granddaddy Drive**

## **Promise Yourself... For the Kids**



## **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 all your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to 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.