

Dear Optimist,

Thank you for your continued patience and engagement as we navigate this important transition. We are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way and will continue to share updates and information with you regularly.

We've received many thoughtful questions. If you haven't yet received a personal response, please know we are actively working to provide answers and will get back to you as soon as possible. To help keep everyone informed, we're sharing the second round of answers to Frequently Asked Questions (see below).

Next week, we'll meet with a small focus group of members from clubs in your region to better understand the unique needs of our French-speaking members and determine how we can prioritize and develop helpful resources. In addition, we are looking to schedule a virtual Town Hall to provide broader updates and offer a space to connect and ask questions.

Each of you is a valued member of our organization. We have heard from many of you that you are being told that Optimist International doesn't value you or has decided to close the door on you, that is simply not true. Optimist International has always considered you and your club an important part of our organization, and we are working very hard to ensure that the administrative transition goes smoothly. We acknowledge your need for resources in French, and we are working to develop those resources for you.

Last year, Optimist International introduced our organizational values to guide our path forward: **Optimism, Integrity, Respect, and Global Community**. These values, along with our enduring Optimist Creed, remain at the heart of our mission and will continue to shape our work together.

Thank you for all that you do to inspire hope and make a difference in your communities.

With appreciation,

**Jan Oord Graves**

President, Optimist International

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Round 2**

### **1. When I add members to my roster, I see an invoice. Is there a fee for these adjustments?**

No. The invoice is automatically generated by the system when a change is made.

We're currently working to override this function. If you see a charge appear, don't worry—OI will manually remove it from your club record.

**2. Can we get a Presidential Citation in French?**

Yes! Each club may request one Presidential Citation per year. While the application form hasn't been translated yet, the Citation has and you can request a citation by emailing [leadership@optimist.org](mailto:leadership@optimist.org). Please include:

- Name of the individual
- Club name and number
- Member number
- Club president's contact information
- Your requested deadline

**3. Will there be a regional Oratorical Contest?**

Yes. A virtual Oratorical Contest for French-Canadian contestants will be held on **July 17**. The winner will advance to the Oratorical World Championship Finals via Zoom on **Friday, July 18**.

**4. We paid our annual dues earlier this year. Do we owe anything else to OI?**

No additional payment is required. If your club paid dues to the OFC, those will be honored for the remainder of the year.

**5. Will we return to Zones, Districts, and a Region structure?**

There will be an organizational structure in place, but it may not mirror the past system. Our priority is to first listen and understand what clubs need before finalizing any new structure.

**6. Will we still be able to do our fruitcake sales?**

Yes—we've noted this and will explore options with clubs in your area. Your traditions matter, and we're here to support them.

**7. When will resources be available in French?**

This is a top priority and will be an ongoing project. Several key documents on our website are already slated for translation. We will be prioritizing and rolling them out as soon as possible.

**8. Can we receive a copy of our club liability insurance information in French?**

Yes. We've already requested a French version from our Canadian insurance broker and expect to have it available next week.