

WAIT!! DON'T PUSH DELETE YET! I am John Blackwell the governor of the South Texas District of Optimist International... I would like to congratulate each of you club presidents for being elected. This is a very challenging task and one to take to heart. I know how some elections go, miss a meeting and bam you are elected. It happens. I would love to meet all members of the district, however that is a pipe dream. I will be dropping in to a lot of club meetings.

As you know, we have been put in the spot light by our past governor and a lot of dedicated Optimists. We are the number one district for all of Optimist International. Being the number one is always great. Being a Distinguished District is good for the soul. To me, it means that we are working on that four million kids not currently being served by our district. Thanks to dedicated Optimist we put a good size dent in that figure. Over seven thousand kids were added to our responsibility this past year. Just absolute great. Only a little over three millions kids to go. Anybody up to the challenge?

I challenge each club to an all-out effort to grow their club by at least a plus three for our year. Further I challenge you to look for areas that does not have an Optimist Club and build one. Yes, I'm asking you for a lot of works. But it's for the kids. During the OI Year 2015-2016, I will donate to the sponsoring club \$100.00 dollars for each club built with 15 members. Build two clubs and your club will get \$250.00. What do you say? Do we have a deal? Let me hear you speak, visit with me in Laredo the weekend of 16-18 Oct. Together we will AIM HIGH AND MAKE KIDS HAPPY.