



The Orange Coast Optimist Club  
of  
Garden Grove  
***Rak Kan News***

Editor - Stacey Yoshinaga

February 2002

P.O. Box 28802•Santa Ana•CA•92799

## ***Message from the President . . .***

Have you ever asked yourself "Why am I getting myself involved in all of this?" or "Why didn't I just say No?" Well . . . just look at your children . . . and you'll know the answer! That's what I do . . . every time that question pops up in my mind! OCO has grown tremendously over the past several years and so have our activities. This requires a lot of man/woman power. Without the constant participation of some of our core members, many of the programs that OCO has could not and would not exist. Who is benefiting from these programs? Our children! Through the sports programs, our children have created new long and lasting friendships, have become more self confident and have become more physically fit. Through our education programs, our children can experience educational experience through competition. Through our service programs, our children learn the meaning of giving. Most importantly, through our involvement, our children learn to become involved as well! It's amazing, but they do see and appreciate why we do this. So. . . why not get involved? Why not say Yes?

Our Casino Night is approaching soon . . . and we will need a lot of help throughout the evening as well as your attendance to make it a success. Many people have spent numerous hours in the planning of this event. If you would like to help and have not been contacted, please e-mail me at [judyjames@socal.rr.com](mailto:judyjames@socal.rr.com) !

Hope to see you all at the Casino Night! Have a great February!!

## ***United Way***

Thanks to member Karl Hill for his recent donation to OCO through the 2001-2002 Orange County United Way General Campaign. He has informed us that many workplaces do United Way fund raising and our membership may not be aware that you can designate OCO as a recipient of all or part of your contribution! Most people may be under the impression that their donations only go to those organizations listed on the pamphlets that United Way distributes for donors to fill out and turn in with their contribution. Thanks, Karl, for your donation and for bringing this to our attention!!!

## **Casino Night** **Aloha, OCO Style!**

Looking for that perfect  
Valentine's Gift?

Bring your valentine to  
Casino Night, "Aloha, OCO Style"!  
You and your special someone will  
enjoy an evening of  
fun and excitement!  
You don't even have to wear a tux,  
just throw on that  
old Hawaiian shirt!

February 16, 2002  
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
Orange County Buddhist Church

\$25 advance purchase,  
\$30 at the door

For questions contact  
Ellen Natsume at  
[natsumechan@msn.com](mailto:natsumechan@msn.com)  
or (949) 367-0757

## **General Meeting Update**

Our first general meeting for 2002 was held on January 26 in the Rancho Alamitos High School cafeteria! After two exciting OCO games held in both gyms, dinner was served in the cafeteria and then we had two informative guest speakers. Hazel Ando spoke on the prevention of sports injuries and demonstrated the proper ankle wrapping procedures. Chris Prather measured and sized everyone interested in purchasing ankle supports at a great cost! We will be organizing the ordering of those ankle braces soon.

Many thanks to Chairperson Clay Sakurao for organizing this event. We had a little trouble with more people showing up for the dinner than had originally signed up. For future reference, please ensure that you let us know your family count if you do plan to attend the event. We want to avoid ordering too little or too much food. Let's make it enjoyable for all who are attending, as well as for those who are volunteering their time to coordinate the event.

We had 160 people show up for the General Meeting. . . which was great! However, we stressed Clay out that night, because our response count wasn't that high. In the end, everything worked out. Thanks, Clay, for reacting to our situation.

## **Mahalo**

A special "mahalo" to  
Melissa Koga, Stefanie Kato,  
Whitney Itano, Kasey Matsumoto,  
and Marci Asao.  
These girls created  
the spectacular posters  
advertising  
our Casino Night event.

## **Basketball Awards**

February 23  
Tinkos  
PeeWees

March 2  
Midgets  
Juniors

See you team parent  
for more information on these events.

# ***Tri-Star Results***

Individuals who ranked in the top three of the skills competition that took place on Saturday, February 2:

## **Five-Year-Old Girls**

Jade Santos  
Mackenzie Shimokaji  
Katie Lee

## **Six-Year-Old Girls (teeny)**

Amy Yoshinaga  
Caroline Austria  
Emily Nakamoto

## **Six-Year-Old Girls (slamit)**

Kendall Ota  
Jaime Dang  
Meagan Otsuka

## **Seven-Year-Old Girls**

Kelani Namahoe  
Erica Sugimoto  
Emily Yoshinaga

## **Seven-Year-Old Girls**

Alyssa Asao  
Nicole Sakamoto  
Megan Hsiao

## **Eight-Year-Old PWL Girls**

Shannon Brown

## **Eight-Year-Old PWM Girls**

Jennifer Quan  
Tess Soper  
Evin Ozawa

## **Nine-Year-Old PWM Girls**

Dale Matsumoto  
Jennica Castillo  
Chelsea Howell

## **Nine-Year-Old PWU Girls**

Kristin Nakashioya  
Kayla Shimasaki  
Chelsea Braesch  
Christina Pham

## **Ten-Year-Old PWU Girls**

Cortney Wladyka  
Ashley Omura  
Michelle Joyce

## **Ten-Year-Old Girls**

Alysa Ito  
Jenna Shimokaji  
Michelle Yamasaki

## **Eleven-Year-Old Girls**

Allyson Oishi  
Jacquelyn Chew  
Mallory Romero

## **Twelve-Year-Old Girls**

Sarah Kearney  
Kimberly Goss  
Julianne Siu

## **Thirteen-Year-Old Girls**

Tritia Truong  
Stefanie Kato  
Kasey Mastumoto

## **Fourteen-Year-Old Girls**

Cress Matayoshi  
Briana Shimada  
Alissa Kinjo

## **Four-Year-Old Boys**

Matthew Sun  
Michael Sun

## **Five-Year-Old Boys**

Connor Kubo  
Nathaniel Nuguid  
Jeffrey Kawai

## **Six-Year-Old Boys**

Kevin Oshiro  
Corey Tsushio  
Justin Kamo

## **Seven-Year-Old PWL Boys**

Justin Kamiya  
Michael Chan  
Andrew Evans

## **Eight-Year-Old PWL Boys**

Max Patton  
Robert Goya

## **Eight-Year-Old PWM Boys**

Taylor Hamasaki  
Ethan Nakano  
Jordan Koga

## **Nine-Year Old PWM Boys**

Bryan Tanabe  
Scott Nakamoto  
Nicholas Sugimoto

## **Ten-Year-Old PWM Boys**

Robert Shimozana

## **Nine-Year-Old Boys**

Cody Sakurao  
Joshua Dang  
Skylar Jinkawa

## **Ten-Year-Old Boys**

Dane Okuda  
Stevie Shimoda  
Michael Wong  
Jordan Hamamoto

## **Eleven-Year-Old Boys**

(women's ball)  
Eric Fujimori  
Michael Kimura  
Kevin Tsuruta

## **Eleven-Year-Old Boys**

(men's ball)  
Matthew Kato  
Andrew Quan  
Ryan Itano

## **Twelve-Year-Old Boys**

Garrett James  
Garrett Yamasaki  
Jeffrey Dang

## **Thirteen-Year-Old Boys**

Casey Connors  
Michael Hoida  
Wesley Koga

## **Fourteen-Year-Old Boys**

Jonathan Harada  
Nicholas Harrison

**ORANGECOASTOPTIMISTCLUB**  
Newsletter  
P.O. Box 28802  
Santa Ana, CA 92799

## ***Upcoming Events***

**February 16 -**  
Casino Night

**March -**  
General Meeting (Tri-Star, Visions,  
and Essay awards)

**May -**  
Senior Scholarship Awards  
Baseball/Softball begins

**June -**  
Steak Dinner

**July -**  
Volleyball begins  
Jr. Golf begins

**August -**  
Basketball camp  
Nikkei Games

OCO is affiliated with Optimist International, a world-renowned organization. Optimist clubs throughout the world are dedicated to the scholastic, physical, moral, and civic development of the youths in every community.