

# A Speaker's Guide To Civic Organizations

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The following information was compiled verbatim from numerous sources.  
Visit the actual organization's website to learn more about their Mission and History and updates on their programs.

# **Altrusa International, Inc. – Leading to Better Community**

[www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org)

Altrusa is an international, volunteer service organization of business and professional leaders, classified by occupation, dedicated to improving their communities by personal service. Through their local Altrusa Clubs, members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone. Altrusa Clubs develop and fund specific service projects to meet community needs.

Altrusa was founded in April, 1917, in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A, as the "Altrusa Institute" for business and professional women. Under the leadership of Mamie L. Bass, later to be the association's first president, Altrusa became the "first" national service organization for women committed to a philosophy of service and personal achievement. With extension into Mexico in 1935, Altrusa achieved an international scope. Growth has continued, and today, clubs can be found in countries throughout the world. In 1987, Altrusa opened its membership to men. Altrusa took an early leadership position by developing innovative programs in vocational guidance and public education. The organization continues to adapt its programs and projects to meet current community needs.

Each club has its own board of directors, a strong committee system and regular meetings, allowing every member to become personally involved in club projects and decisions. Altrusa Clubs are organized into geographic Districts, each with its own governing body and offering annual conferences, workshops, and leadership training seminars for all members. Altrusa International unites its more than 500 clubs in a common goal of community service. The International Program sets the theme for Altrusa, world-wide, and the organization provides clubs with program guides and materials to assist them in fulfilling their objectives. Every member receives the international publications, and a wide variety of literature, manuals and materials to support club activities is available from the International Office. A full line of official Altrusa supplies is also offered, designed for public relations activities and to build pride in membership. An International Convention is held every two years. Members from throughout the world conduct the business of the organization, elect officers, recognize individual and club achievement and participate in workshops on community service, club administration and leadership development.

Altrusa offers members numerous benefits:

- An opportunity to use your time and talent to enrich the lives of others.
- Lasting friendships and a spirit of fellowship.
- Personal leadership development as you assume positions of responsibility in your club, or serve at the district and international levels.
- A unique opportunity to work with local civic and volunteer groups on service projects.
- Stimulating programs and speakers that broaden your knowledge on many subjects.
- Personal contacts that evolve when business and professional people meet and work together toward common goals.
- A forum for exchanging ideas about your community and the world.

The satisfaction that comes from being involved in activities that will make your community a better place to live.

Source: Altrusa International brochure.

# Civitan International

[www.civitan.org](http://www.civitan.org)

Civitan is a worldwide community service organization open to all men and women of good character. Local clubs participate in a variety of programs and projects aimed at meeting the needs of the community. There is a Civitan Club for you. There are different types of Civitan clubs tailored to suit Civitan's diverse membership. There are breakfast clubs, luncheon clubs, dinner clubs, and evening social clubs (no meal). There are clubs made up of mostly young adults, business men and women, singles, all women, and all men. Club meetings are educational and fun. Clubs meet weekly or bimonthly. Guest speakers, such as community and business leaders, media representatives politicians, and educators, address a variety of topics of interest to club members. Club meetings are also an opportunity for members to develop friendships and establish business contacts. Civitan clubs are best known for their hands-on work in the community. From projects to help people who are mentally and physically disabled to building youth recreation centers, Civitans are actively involved in bettering their communities, and enjoy the feeling of knowing they are helping others. Civitan offers leadership opportunities which can enhance your organizational and communication skills. Leadership opportunities exist on the club, district and international levels of the organization. Civitan also offers valuable personal development programs for members. Here are some facts about Civitan:

- "Builders of Good Citizenship" is Civitan's motto.
- There are approximately 55,000 men, women and teenagers in nearly 1,800 Civitan and Junior Civitan clubs worldwide.
- Founded in 1917, Civitan has provided members opportunities for personal and professional development while improving the community through community service for more than 75 years.
- In 1974, Civitan became the first previously all-male service organization to welcome women as equal members.
- On the international level Civitan's major emphasis is toward helping people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.
- Civitan's most widely recognized fund raising programs are the Civitan Candy Box Project and Claxton Christmas Cake Sales. Serviced by volunteers, 100 percent of the project's net proceeds go to help people with MR/DD.
- Civitan funds the Civitan International Research Center, a research and treatment facility for MR/DD located at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

"A working force for civic betterment such as this is a thing more valuable to mankind than great riches."

- Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire, Founder, Civitan International

For more information about becoming a member call (800) CIVITAN (248-4826).

or Email: [civitan@civitan.org](mailto:civitan@civitan.org). Source: Civitan International Information

# **Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks**

**[www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org)**

Founded February 16, 1868, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, is a nonprofit fraternal organization dedicated to charitable works. From its meager beginnings, it has grown to be the largest fraternal organization in our nation, boasting over 2,000 Lodges made up of well over one and a quarter million members. The B.P.O. Elks is comprised of patriotic Americans who believe in God, want to be an active force for good in their community, be better citizens, and enjoy the good fellowship of enthusiastic, successful men. The Order of Elks questions no man's religion, nor bars him because of race or creed. It is not concerned with political affiliations. It is nondenominational.

Elks stage year-round shows and entertainments for disabled veterans in every V.A. hospital in the country. Elks donated the first V.A. hospital to the U.S. Government in Boston. In 1907, the Elks pioneered the observance of June 14 as Flag Day, the anniversary of Old Glory's birth of 1777. Since its' inception, Elks have contributed more than \$333 million dollars for charitable, welfare and patriotic programs.

The Elks are second only to the U.S. Government in the amount of money it provides for scholarships each year. Elks scholarships are measured in the millions of dollars annually. They sponsor many youth groups such as youth sports, scouting and 4-H Clubs, D.A.R.E. programs, summer camps, adopt-a-school, Hoop Shoot, etc. The B.P.O.E. does not compete with other civic organizations. To the contrary, the Elks recognize the philanthropic efforts of many other civic and community organizations, assisting those organizations when and where possible. The B.P.O.E. has its' own national magazine and almost every lodge publishes a monthly news bulletin for its' members.

The Grand Lodge national headquarters of the B.P.O.E. are located at 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889, phone (213)477-2750. A book entitled History of the Elks can be purchased from the Grand Lodge. Check your local phone book for a lodge near you to obtain further information or e-mail [ElksOnline@aol.com](mailto:ElksOnline@aol.com).

The principles of the B.P.O.E. are: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

The motto of the B.P.O.E. is:

The faults of our brothers we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.

The B.P.O.E. is based upon the Golden Rule:

To do unto others as you would they should do unto you.

[Source: [ElksOnline@aol.com](mailto:ElksOnline@aol.com) (Joe Orawczyk)]

# **Fraternal Order of the Eagles**

**[www.foe.com](http://www.foe.com)**

## **Our Mission Statement**

The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope.

The F.O.E. donates more than \$10 million a year to local communities, fundraisers, charities and more. As part of its philosophy, the F.O.E. gives back 100 percent of monies raised in the form of grants. Fundraisers are conducted for eight major charities, including kidney, heart, diabetes, cancer and spinal cord injury funds, a children's fund, memorial foundation and the Golden Eagle Fund.

## **Our History**

The F.O.E. was founded in February, 1898 by six theatre owners gathered in a Seattle shipyard to discuss a musician's strike. After addressing the matter, they agreed to "bury the hatchet" and form "The Order of Good Things." As numbers grew, members selected the Bald Eagle as the official emblem and changed the name to "The Fraternal Order of Eagles." The women's auxiliary traces its roots to 1927. The Fraternal Order of Eagles includes nearly 800,000 members and more than 1,500 locations across the United States and Canada. Stop by one of our locations and see why we're known as People Helping People.

# United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees)

[www.usjayceefoundation.org](http://www.usjayceefoundation.org)

The Junior Chamber (Jaycees) organization, now in its seventh decade of service, continues providing direction and leadership to communities, states and nations world-wide.

Jaycees is a constructive action organization of men and women, ages 21-39. Members develop personally and professionally as leaders in their communities by investing time and energy in civic affairs.

Membership in the Junior Chamber begins in a local chapter. Chapter size ranges from 20 to more than 1,000 members. Each member also belongs to a state Junior Chamber organization, as well as The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce and Junior Chamber International.

Junior Chamber International (JCI) includes more than 400,000 members of 10,000 communities in more than 100 countries and territories. JCI's Major Emphasis Theme for 1992-96 is "The Age of Global Citizenship." Under this theme, JCI encourages local and national chapters to conduct activities based on the three pressing issues facing the earth and its habitants: the environment, economic development and the future of children. The U.S. Jaycees account for 200,000 members in 4,300 chapters nationwide. Two priority areas for the 90s include the environment and governmental affairs. The 'Wake Up America; program encourages political involvement on the local level. 'Greenworks!' encourages community involvement in environmental issues.

Call 1-918-584-2481 for info on joining.

--- The Jaycee Creed ---

"We believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;  
That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;  
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;  
That government should be of laws rather than of men;  
That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;  
And that service to humanity is the best work of life."

[Source: system@hair.cts.com, Henderson-Audubon (Kentucky) Area Jaycees]

# Association of Junior Leagues International

[www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org)

## Junior League

We are mothers and daughters, lawyers and retailers, 291 Junior Leagues and 150,000 members strong. We are The Junior League.

Since its founding in 1901 by social activist Mary Harriman, The Junior League has evolved into one of the oldest, largest and most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world, encompassing 150,000 women in 291 Leagues in four countries. Our mandate has not wavered: to develop exceptionally qualified civic leaders who collaborate with community partners to identify a community's most urgent needs and address them with meaningful and relevant programs and initiatives that not only improve lives, but also change the way people think. This important work has won us dedicated community and corporate partners and loyal supporters for more than 114 years as well as an enduring legacy as the foremost provider of civic leadership training for women. They don't call us the Volunteer Powerhouse for nothing.

### OUR MISSION

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

### OUR VISION

The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

### OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. is to add value to its member Leagues in their fulfillment of The Junior League Mission.

### THE POWER OF ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1901 by New Yorker and social activism pioneer Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable nonprofit organizations of women, developed as civic leaders, making a demonstrable impact on their communities. In 1921 the Leagues joined forces as an association, which is today known as The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., in order to bolster their power and amplify their voice through shared knowledge and common causes.

True to their mission, today's League members work at the forefront of social reform, tackling the toughest and most critical issues of the day—including childhood nutrition and obesity, human trafficking, foster care, juvenile justice, teen self-esteem, cybercrimes, literacy and the environment, among others—for the purpose of enhancing the social, cultural and political fabric of civil society. As a result of this work, The Junior League—and the more than 150,000 women in 292 communities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Mexico who comprise its ranks—has amassed an archive of tangible results and a reputation as thoughtful and influential change agents dedicated to the public good.

Today AJLI is a charitable nonprofit organization that provides continuity and support, guidance, and leadership development opportunities to its member Leagues. Through regional, national and international meetings, comprehensive resources, customized consultations, and League and member benefits, it supports its member Leagues in the fulfillment of The Junior League's Mission. AJLI is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors, which is accountable to the Leagues and comprised of women who are members of the Junior Leagues in their communities. The Association's New York City-based staff, under the leadership of the Executive Director, provides services to Leagues that support the established goals.

# Kiwanis International

[www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)

Kiwanis International is a worldwide club for community leaders founded in 1915. Kiwanis offers an opportunity for personal involvement in the leadership and improvement of the community, the nation and the world. While service is what Kiwanians are known for, their club offers much more. Meetings and projects provide fellowship -- fellowship that is sincere and lasting.

Since its founding in 1915, the organization has grown to about 9,000 clubs in more than 80 nations. Nearly a third of a million Kiwanians are helping to improve people's lives on every continent -- from Canada to Colombia; from Austria to Australia; from Tunisia to the Republic of China.

Kiwanians are engaged in education, government, banking, marketing, agriculture, international trade, non-profit organizations, and many other fields. They are corporate officers, managers, small-business owners, and self-employed professionals. They are young individuals embarking on careers, successful executives and active retirees.

"Young Children: Priority One" is the Kiwanis program that places continuing focus on projects addressing the needs of children in pediatric trauma, safety, child care, early development, infant health, nutrition and parenting skills. The typical Kiwanis club plans numerous projects each year that focus on the special needs of the community. They include fighting substance abuse, helping the elderly, promoting literacy, supporting youth sports and other projects involving children or persons in need.

Kiwanis also provides leadership opportunities in community service for youth. Local clubs sponsor Builders Clubs in middle schools. In high schools and colleges, Key Club and Circle K are the largest service organizations of their kind in the world today.

The headquarters of Kiwanis International is 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268. They may be contacted at 1-800-KIWANIS. [Source: membership brochure of Kiwanis International.] Key Club is the high-school level of the K-Family (a level shared by Keywannettes in certain states in the USA) and has an extensive International Structure that parallels that of Kiwanis International with presence in around a dozen to a score countries. Builders Club is the Junior High School/Middle School branch of the K-Family. It is the newest and has a fairly limited structure above the club level, as far as I know.

[Source: [viertel@cheshire.oxy.edu](mailto:viertel@cheshire.oxy.edu) (Andrew Viertel).]



# Knights of Columbus

[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

## Knights of Columbus

From the moment of our founding in 1882, charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. We are Catholic men of faith and men of charitable action. In 2016, the Knights of Columbus set a record in charitable giving for the 18th consecutive year. Our charitable donations increased from \$175 million in 2015 to a new total of \$177,500,673 in 2016. In addition, we achieved our highest level of charitable service in 2016, volunteering more than 75 million hours of service. The number of service hours contributed by Knights rose in 2016 by more than a million over the previous year's total.

Our charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects. Our own unique charities include the [Christian Refugee Relief Fund](#), [Disaster Relief](#), [Ultrasound Initiative](#), and [Coats for Kids](#). We also partner with international charities including [Special Olympics](#), the [Global Wheelchair Mission](#) and [Habitat for Humanity](#).

Through our [Building the Domestic Church initiative](#), Knights and their families have greater opportunities to participate in a variety of activities that deepen their faith, promote the New Evangelization, and strengthen our parishes. These activities include the [Family Fully Alive Devotional Program](#), [Father's Day Affirmation of Wedding Vows](#), [Food for Families](#) and the [Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign](#).

"We are answering Pope Francis' call to go to the peripheries," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said. "We can reach half way around the globe to help those in need and we can reach to our neighbor next door. And we do that every day. That makes us witnesses to the faith."

If you'd like to be a part of an international organization of nearly 2 million Catholic men whose principal work involves helping others in need, we'd like to meet you and invite you to [join us](#).

All the good works we do are informed by our four core principles:

**Charity** – Our Catholic faith teaches us to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Members of the Knights of Columbus show [love for their neighbors](#) by conducting food drives and donating the food to local soup kitchens and food pantries, by volunteering at [Special Olympics](#), and by supporting, both spiritually and materially, mothers who [choose life](#) for their babies. Knights recognize that our mission, and our faith in God, compels us to action. There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need, a call we answer every day.

**Unity** – None of us is as good as all of us. Members of the Knights of Columbus all know that – together – we can accomplish far more than any of us could individually. So we stick together...we support one another. That doesn't mean that we always agree or that there is never a difference of opinion. It does mean that – as a Knight of Columbus – you can count on the support and encouragement of your brother Knights as you work to make life better in your [parish and community](#).

**Fraternity** – Venerable Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, in large part, to provide assistance to the widows and children left behind when the family breadwinner died – often prematurely. The Order's top-rated [insurance program](#) continues to do this today, as do the good works of individual Knights, who gave more than 73.5 million service hours in 2015, illustrating how Catholics serve each other in fraternity and mercy.

**Patriotism** – Members of the Knights of Columbus, be they Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, Cubans, Filipinos, Poles, or Dominicans, are patriotic citizens. We are proud of our devotion to God and country, and believe in standing up for both. Whether it's in public or private, the Knights remind the world that Catholics support their nations and are amongst the greatest citizens.

[Join Now](#)

# Lions Club International

[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

The International Association of Lions Clubs was created in 1917 by a Chicago businessman named Melvin Jones. The International Association of Lions Clubs is today the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members in more than 42,000 clubs in 178 countries and geographical regions. Lions clubs may also sponsor Leo clubs which are clubs for young people aged 16-28, however, some individuals in their twenties do join Lions Clubs. The objects of Leo clubs are the same as Lions Clubs. Anyone can become a Lion/Leo, the only qualifications are that members be honest and respectable members of the community who are willing to work to achieve the charitable goals of the Association.

Lions clubs are not social clubs, although there are social benefits to membership. Lions clubs members give their time, skills and resources to raise funds for charitable giving both in their communities and internationally. The major focus of Lions fund raising activities is sight conservation, although other projects are pursued such as drug awareness programs in high schools, diabetes awareness programs and other programs that are specific to individual clubs and districts. For example, Massachusetts Lions created an eye research fund that gives research grants to Massachusetts Universities and hospitals and have given over \$12,000,000 in research grants since its inception, the Kentucky Lions have built and financially support an eye hospital. Lions took up sight conservation as their major goal after a speech given by Helen Keller at the Lions International Convention held at Cedar Point, Ohio, in 1925.

Lions work in the area of sight conservation is carried out at many levels. Individual clubs sponsor free eye screening programs using mobile eye clinics. In many countries clubs sponsor eye surgery camps where cataract surgeries are performed at no charge for those those that can't afford medical. Many clubs in the U.S.A. collect old eye glasses for distribution to the needy in other countries. The International Association of Lions Clubs is the largest non-governmental organization associated with the United Nations and was called upon by the United Nations and the world health organization to raise funds for an International program of sight conservation through its Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). It has been estimated that 40 million cases of curable and preventable blindness exist on this planet today, without intervention this is projected to become 80 million by the end of the decade. The International Association of Lions Clubs began a program of fund raising that they called "SightFirst" in order to cure/prevent 40 million cases of blindness worldwide. Over \$130,000,000 has been raised by Lions all over the world for this program. Sight First has already improved the quality of life for millions of people. Through LCIF/Sight First-funded projects, more than 650,000 cataract surgeries have been performed with over 5 million patients screened for eye diseases. Forty-two eye hospitals and clinics with more than 920 new beds have been built or are under construction in areas where there were no eye health care facilities. SightFirst is also addressing the need for more ophthalmic personnel in developing countries by funding the training of 1,150 ophthalmic assistants, nurses and public eye health workers over a five-year period.

Lions services to humanity range from purchasing eyeglass for a child whose parents can't afford them to multimillion dollar programs to cure blindness on a worldwide scale. The Lions International Headquarters is in Oak Brook, Illinois, U.S.A.

You can contact Lions Clubs International as follows:

Lions Clubs International  
300 22nd Street  
Oak Brook, IL 60521-8842

Telex No: 397236 LION UR U.S.A.  
Fax: (708) 571-8890  
Telephone: (708) 571-5466  
Cable: LIONSINTL

# National Exchange Club

[www.nationalexchangeclub.org](http://www.nationalexchangeclub.org)

Exchange is an all-volunteer, national service organization for men and women who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills, and enjoy new friendships. Exchange is made up of some 1,200 clubs and 40,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The first local Exchange Club was formed in Detroit, Michigan in 1911. The second was the Exchange Club of Toledo, Ohio formed in 1913. Subsequently, two others were organized -- in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio. These four were the first to be chartered by The National Exchange Club after it was organized as a nonprofit, educational organization in 1917. Since then, hundreds of Exchange Clubs have been chartered in the United States and Puerto Rico. The National Exchange Club headquarters is located in Toledo, Ohio. Its chief objective is to help Exchange Clubs realize their full potential of community service.

## Exchange's National Program of Service

### Community Service Projects

Crime Prevention  
Fire Prevention  
Service to Seniors  
The Book of Golden Deeds  
Child Abuse Prevention

### Youth Projects

Youth of the Month/Year Award  
Young Citizenship Award  
Youth Talent  
Sunshine Special  
Junior Exchange Clubs

### Americanism Projects

The Freedom Shrine  
GIVEAKIDAFIAGTOWAVE  
"One Nation Under God"  
Proudly We Hail

Exchange's national project is Child Abuse Prevention. This rapidly expanding nationwide effort, administered through the National Exchange Club Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse, addresses this serious affliction of society through a variety of proven projects. Exchange Clubs distribute community awareness materials, sponsor fund-raising efforts, support local child abuse prevention agencies, and engage in numerous activities in an effort to alleviate child abuse. In addition, Exchange Clubs have established a nationwide network of Child Abuse Prevention Centers. The Centers utilize professionally trained volunteer parent aides who work directly with abusing families, teaching them positive parenting techniques.

If you don't know how to reach your local Exchange Club, contact:

The National Exchange Club  
3050 Central Ave  
Toledo, OH  
43606-1700  
(419) 535-3232  
FAX (419) 535-1989

# National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

[www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org)

## Mission

The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

The Grange will accomplish this mission through:

### *FELLOWSHIP*

- We give our members the opportunity to meet with and get to know their neighbors in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere
- We provide a place where children, youth, and adults can grow, develop their talents and social skills, and learn leadership techniques

## The Founders

On December 4, 1867 in a small Washington, D.C., building that housed the office of William Saunders, Superintendent of Propagating Gardens in the Department of Agriculture, the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, more commonly known as the Grange, was born. Here, sitting around a plain wooden table, a group of seven earnest men, planned what was destined to become a vital force in preserving and expanding American democracy. They were all men of vision-they had faith in God, in their fellow man and the future. The Seven Founders of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry were:

Oliver H. Kelley	•	William Saunders
Aaron B. Grosh	•	William M. Ireland
John R. Thompson	•	Francis McDowell

John Trimble, assisted by Caroline Hall, who was later named an honorary 8th founder of the Grange.

Their names are inscribed on a Birthplace Marker located near the site of the original building on the south side of 4th Street SW, near Madison Street on the mall in Washington DC The marker was officially dedicated on Sept. 9, 1951, and is the only private monument on the mall.

# Optimist International

[www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)

Optimist International is an organization which is dedicated to meeting the needs of the local community with special emphasis on youth. Members of the Optimist organization are unpaid volunteers, with the exception of a handful of professional people at District and International level necessary to maintain organizational integrity. Optimist International is one of the worlds largest and most active service club organizations, with over 175,000 members in more than 4,300 Optimist Clubs across North America. Optimist Clubs directly serve over five million young people each year.

A major focus of Optimist International today is in the area of drug abuse prevention. Optimist Clubs sponsor "Just Say No" clubs and many other types of activities which educate youth about drugs and support a drug-free lifestyle. Since 1928, Optimist International has sponsored an annual Oratorical Contest for youth. Today, over \$150,000 in scholarships is awarded to Oratorical Contest winners each year. Optimist International also sponsors the largest international golf tournament for young people, the Optimist Junior World Championships. Other-major Optimist programs include the Optimist Essay Contest, Optimist Youth Appreciation, Optimist Bike Safety Week and Optimist Respect for Law Week. Optimist International is divided up into districts. The Governor of the district coordinates the zones within each district, each of which is usually facilitated by a Lieutenant Governor.

Individual clubs within the local area, each led by a President, make up the zones. In addition to providing the framework and infrastructure of the entire organization, Optimist International oversees the Optimist International Foundation (OIF). The OIF has many functions, not the least of which is to raise money in order to defray the costs of the multitude of materials used in the myriad of club projects and programs perfomed in local communities.

## 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 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.

The Optimist Creed was authored in 1912 by Christian D. Larson, an advocate of positive thought.

It was adopted as Optimist International's creed in 1922.

[Source: text from various URL's under <http://www.optimist.org>]

# Rotary International

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

The first Rotary club in the world was organized in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., on 23 February, 1905 by Paul P. Harris, a young lawyer, who gathered together in a spirit of friendship and understanding a group of men, each of whom was engaged in a different form of service to the public. That basis for membership -- one person from each business and profession in the community -- still exists in Rotary. At first, the members of the new club met in rotation at their various places of business, and this suggested the name "Rotary." Since 1905, the ideas of Paul Harris and his friends have become ideals which have been accepted by people of practically all nationalities, and many political and religious beliefs.

Today there are Rotary clubs in 176 countries and geographical regions. The universal acceptance of Rotary principles has been so great that there are now more than 25,000 Rotary clubs, which have a membership of over 1,100,000 men and women. The organization is non-political (non-governmental) and non-sectarian. The general objectives of Rotary clubs in every country are the same -- the development of fellowship and understanding among the business and professional leaders in the community, the promotion of community-betterment endeavors and of high standards of business and professional practices, and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace. Rotary clubs everywhere have one basic ideal - the "Ideal of Service," which is thoughtfulness of and helpfulness to others.

Interact clubs are sponsored by Rotary clubs for secondary school students (age 14-18). In addition to social activities, Interact clubs are to carry out at least one local and one international service project each year. The name Interact is derived from the words "International" and "action". There are 7400 Interact Clubs in 97 countries; clubs may draw membership from a single school, multiple schools, or from the community.

World Headquarters, Rotary International,  
One Rotary Center, 560 Sherman Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60201, USA  
Phone: (708) 866-3000  
FAX: (708) 328-8554 or 328-8281

[Source: Elliot E. Kallen (eektweak@crl.com) provides "A Brief History of Rotary",  
from the Official Rotary Directory (1992-93 edition).]

[Source: "Interact" Fact Sheet from Public Relations, Rotary Int'l.]

# Soroptimist International

[www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) is one of four federations composing the world's largest classified service organization for professional and executive business women. Soroptimists are women of all ages, cultures and ethnic groups who make a difference for women through service projects. Soroptimist International has more than 95,000 members in 3,000 clubs in 112 countries and territories. SIA is the largest of the four federations with nearly 50,000 members in 1,515 clubs in 18 countries and territories.

## What is Soroptimist?

Soroptimist is a global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Soroptimist programs focus on providing disadvantaged women and girls with access to education, which is one of the most effective ways to end social problems disproportionately affecting women and girls.

## What does the word "Soroptimist" mean?

Loosely translated from Latin, Soroptimist is a coined term meaning "best for women."

## When was Soroptimist formed?

The first Soroptimist club was formed in 1921 by a group of 80 women in Oakland, Alameda County, California, USA.

## How can women join Soroptimist?

Women who are interested in joining a Soroptimist club should visit the [Join and Get Involved](#) section and fill out the [Introduction Form](#). For more information, contact Soroptimist headquarters at [siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org).

## Why does Soroptimist focus on women and girls?

Soroptimist was formed because in 1921 women who were interested in volunteering in their communities were not permitted to join male service organizations. Since that time, the organization has worked to help women and girls improve their standing in the world. Despite tremendous strides, women and girls still do not enjoy equal economic or social status with their male counterparts. As an organization of and for women, Soroptimist feels uniquely qualified to tackle the challenges facing today's disadvantaged women and girls.

## What programs does Soroptimist offer?

Soroptimist members belong to local clubs. Clubs participate in the Dream Programs of Soroptimist, [Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women](#) and [Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls](#) to help disadvantaged women and girls achieve social and economic empowerment. The Dream Programs of Soroptimist ensure women and girls have access to the education and training they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams. Soroptimist is committed to investing in programs that have a sustainable, measurable change for disadvantaged women and girls.

Soroptimist also sponsors [LiveYourDream.org](http://LiveYourDream.org), an online community empowering volunteer action and activism. The self-motivated network is made up of people who wish to support women and girls in their quest to lead better lives, while gaining inspiration in their own lives. Members of the free online community work on topics such as women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women, human trafficking, and more. They also have access to inspirational articles, tips, and blogs that can help them live their own personal dreams.

## Headquarters:

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[Source: Catharine McSwegin, Membership Director.]

# Zonta International

[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

Zonta International is the worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions, working to improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women. There are more than 35,000 Zontians in over 1,100 clubs in approx. 60 countries. Founded in 1919 in Buffalo, New York, USA, Zonta takes its name from the Sioux Indian word meaning "honest and trustworthy". Zontians volunteer their time, talents and energy to local and international service projects which promote the status of women. Zonta supports women's education and leadership through its Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards for graduate study in aerospace-related sciences and engineering the Michael J. Freeman Scholarships for women pursuing technical degrees in Ireland, and the Young Women in Public Affairs Awards Program designed to encourage young women to enter public affairs and policy-making fields.

Zonta is committed to women's development. Between 1986-90, Zonta worked with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to fund sustainable, self-help projects for women in 10 developing nations. This successful partnership continued in 1990-92 with projects in Egypt, India and Togo. Zonta has consultative status with international agencies: Category I Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); consultative Status with the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF); the International Labour Organization (ILO); and the Council of Europe. Zonta also maintains representatives at United Nations sites in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna.

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## **ON HUMOR & McFarland Speaks**

ON HUMOR is dedicated to the study of Humor and to Dr. Charles Jarvis who used humor masterfully to entertain members of the Great Generation. He loved the study of humor and sharing his insights with others so inclined. When it came to public speaking, he was a story-teller, weaving his sharp sense of wit with an eye for irony and laughter in the lives of his audience. He taught the best of Americanism, responsibility, duty, God and Country, not to mention many lessons on the art of relationships, living life to its fullest and treating our fellow man with respect. His skills at humor and the art of public speaking provide good lessons for anyone interested in presenting their story in front of an audience. For further information and a look at his approach to public speaking and humor, visit [www.onhumor.net](http://www.onhumor.net).



MCFARLAND SPEAKS is a website dedicated to Dr. Kenneth McFarland, another greatest generation orator and hero. Dr. Jarvis and Dr. McFarland were friends, both sharing interest in teaching important lessons, but first making people laugh. Like Dr. Jarvis, he was a patriot with a strong understanding of the requirements of liberty and the importance of our laws and the Constitution. His many talks are a trove of well-presented lessons on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Any speaker wishing to learn his skills would benefit from hearing his speeches and reading his book, “Eloquence in Public Speaking – How to set your words on fire”.

Both believed that speaking to Civic Organizations was critical to the maintenance and advancement of conservative principles. Those were places where great teachings could be shared and encouraged. Anyone planning to speak to these organizations needs to be well prepared, professional and well aware of why, the organization they are speaking to, is important. They would both say do your homework and be prepared!

To hear both Dr. Charles Jarvis and Dr. Kenneth McFarland free, visit [www.mcfarlandspeaks.info](http://www.mcfarlandspeaks.info).

**“America’s Opportunity” by Dr. Kenneth McFarland**

**and**

**“Prescription for the Happy Life” by Dr. Charles Jarvis**

ON HUMOR [www.onhumor.net](http://www.onhumor.net)

Dedicated to Dr. Charles Jarvis and the study of Humor.

The McFarland Project [www.mcfarlandspeaks.com](http://www.mcfarlandspeaks.com)

Dedicated to Dr. McFarland, his message and his many speeches.

MCFARLAND SPEAKS [www.mcfarlandspeaks.info](http://www.mcfarlandspeaks.info)

Dedicated to both men, sharing free audio and insights into their friendship and beliefs.