



**Southwold Township Optimist Club**  
**SWONT District, Zone 10 #45177**  
**St. Thomas, ON**

online at <http://stoc.tbhcf.com>

## **MEMBERSHIP - Question & Answer Time**

**How much time is required by me?** From as little as an hour every month to attend a club meeting or help with a project, to as much as 10 hours or more a week if you're holding an office or running a project. You can gear your time commitment to your individual needs.

**How much does it cost?** Very little beyond your member dues and the possible cost of meals at a dinner meeting. You probably will want to buy any of the fund raising items our club sells. Initiation is set now at only \$30CDN to join. Annual dues are only \$7CDN a month. With that, one of our Club's goals, and already in the works, is to offset this small member dues amount (\$80CDN/year) with fun inner club fund raising. So ideally we'd like to say it costs almost nothing to make such a wonderful and worthwhile contribution to community and self.

But...know now we have a fun Sargent at Arms who's job it is to rob you of your loonies and toonies all for the sake of the kids and for silly good clean fines just for fun.

**What do I do as a member?** An Optimist member attends club meetings and volunteers for service programs, which are carried out away from meeting times.

**Is attendance at meetings required?** No, but it is encouraged! It is the best way to stay abreast of what is happening in the club and your community. We schedule ONLY one meeting a month, making that commitment easy to attend.

**Am I expected to recruit members?** Not required, but encouraged to keep a continued flow of new ideas into the organization. Hopefully, others will become interested in joining as you share with them your positive experience in the club.

## **How to be an Effective Member**

**Attend meetings.** The best way to know what is happening in your club is to attend meetings. This is where announcements are made about upcoming programs, board decisions etc. It is also a time to meet your fellow members and get to socialize and know them and their business.

**Volunteer for projects.** Sign up when your club needs help with a community or youth service program, fund raising booth, etc. Working on our Optimist Club's programs is how YOU will make an impact.

**Join a committee.** Get involved with a project from start to finish.

**Wear your pin.** The Optimist lapel pin shows pride in being a member.

**Read "The Optimist"** Sent to every Optimist member, the magazine communicates what other clubs are doing, gives valuable advice on fund raising and membership recruitment, and provides general interest information.

**Pay your dues on time.** Your club's operation depends on its member dues.

**Ask questions.** Don't be shy. You just might stimulate discussion that will produce some fresh ideas.

**Tell others.** Let your friends, family, neighbours and business colleagues know the difference you are making as a member of our club. Invite them to a meeting, a club program, or a special event