



## McCook Optimist Club

Matt Tiller President  
Ron Smith, Mark Graff Treasurer

December 19, 2008

McCook Junior and Senior High English Departments

Educator,

The McCook Optimist Club has served the area's youth and community since its inception in 1977. In that time we have striven to empower the areas youth, their families and community through a multitude of academic, athletic, and community-service projects.

In a continuing project for 2008-2009, the McCook Optimist Club announces that it will be holding a local essay contest open to any student under the age of 19 as of December 31, 2008. The winner of our local competition will be qualified to compete in District and International level contests through Optimists International and be eligible for scholarship awards.

The official topic of this year's international essay contest is **"The Power of Youth"**.

Please find included with this letter an official application form, from Optimist International, detailing the contest rules. Essayists are encouraged to be aware of the rules Section I, II & II. The McCook Optimist Club will administer rules regarding judging and scoring (Section IV, V & VI) during our judging process.

For the local portion of our contest, the McCook Optimist Club will be presenting awards in 2 separate divisions: K-8<sup>th</sup> grade, and also 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We will present 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place medallions in each division.

From the 6 local winners, one entrant will be judged to be the overall local winner, and their essay (along with a copy of their birth certificate) will be submitted to the district/state competition to compete for a \$650 college scholarship and plaque. District winners will then be entered into the international competition that features a \$6,000 college scholarship for 1<sup>st</sup> place.

The McCook Optimist Club is asking for the participation of educators in the area's 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade English departments. Teachers are asked to display the information enclosed in this packet, and submit contestants' essays for the local contest. Teachers that choose to participate in our contest are at their own discretion to present this activity as a part of normal classroom curriculum or by their own recruitment of prospective essayists within their student population.

Participating educators are asked to submit at most 3 essays per educator, for the final local contest. Deadline for entries to the local competition is February 16, 2009. To submit essays or for more information please feel free to contact me at 345-5656 (day) or 345-7419 (evening) for more information.

We THANK YOU for any support that you are able to afford us.

Respectfully,

*The McCook Optimist Club*

Trevor D. Premer  
Essay Contest Chair

