



# NCOME NEWSLETTER

CREATIVITY IN THE EASTERN REGION SINCE 1982

OCTOBER 2021 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 3

## Welcome!

Welcome to our new Regional Director, Randy Burton! Randy shares his thoughts on his new role along with the challenges and opportunities in front of us on Page 4 of the newsletter.

The Eastern Region of North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind is starting out strong! We continue to add new memberships every day and are looking forward to holding in-person events with our teams, coaches, officials and families this year.

We would also like to thank our former director, Tom Hansen, for his many years of dedication and devotion to OotM and the Eastern Region. Under his leadership, our program and its teams have grown stronger and are well-respected throughout the world. Tom will remain a member of the board and you will see him at our tournaments.

## GREAT NEWS!

***Teams will not see an increase in membership fees this October for the 2021-2022 season! See page 2 for a breakdown of the types of memberships and their prices.***



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# Membership Fees 2021-22

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## In-Person Memberships

### Standard Membership - \$135

*Individual Schools, Homeschools, Community Groups, Etc.*

### Additional Membership - \$100

*More than one team competing in the same problem/division*

### District Membership Gold- \$120

*6-10 Individual Schools - join at the same time*

### District Membership Platinum- \$100

*11+ Individual Schools - join at the same time*

## Virtual Team Memberships

### Virtual Team Membership - \$125

*Individual Team solving a single problem virtually. Team may choose from Problem 2, 3 or the Primary problem*



Visit  
[odysseyofthemind.com](http://odysseyofthemind.com)  
for more details



**CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS**

**Eastern Region Board Mtg.**

*Wednesday, October 13 @7pm*  
Zoom Meeting

**NCOM State Board Mtg.**

*Saturday, October 23, 2021*  
*Cullowhee, NC*

**Coaches' Training**

*Saturday, November 6, 2021*  
*Durham Tech*

**Eastern Region Board Mtg.**

*Wednesday, November 10 @7pm*  
Zoom Meeting

**Spontaneous Practice**

*Pumpkin Spice Latte*

Verbal Problem



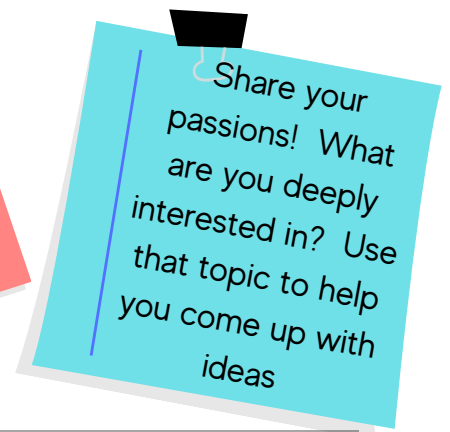
**Problem:**

One of the hallmarks of Autumn in our area is the arrival of all things Pumpkin Spice. There are pumpkin spice cereals, salsas and even dog treats! Visitors to our world from other galaxies would wonder about us!

Imagine you are a visitor to another planet, what seasonal treats would their world be passionate about?



**Spontaneous Tips and Tricks!**



# NOTES FROM OUR DIRECTOR

*Randy Burton*

I've done just about everything in OotM over the last 40 years, including co-regional director in Central Region, so stepping into the RD role for Eastern was a very simple decision for me. OotM has been such a huge part of my life, and my family's life.

Our biggest challenges are continuing to navigate the ever changing pandemic situation, rebuilding the membership base that stopped participating over the last 18 months due to the pandemic, and continuing to evolve how we engage teams and coaches.

A few years ago, we had no social media presence. We had never conducted a board meeting via online conferencing. I can remember when clarifications were submitted and responded via US Mail. Officials had to talk with international teams through translators (and there never was a translator available when you really needed one.) Online events and tournaments simply weren't even contemplated.

Now, we are pushing more and more information to social media, and all our board meetings are virtual. Clarifications are submitted and responded to via email, registrations are all online (and we now have a small committee of people who review responses before they are sent to teams, and all Problem Captains everywhere see all the clarifications.). We pivoted on a dime from in person to virtual tournaments. We now can communicate with international teams using tools like Google Translate.

This year is going to be really challenging as we plan for returning to in person events with the option to pivot back to virtual events as we monitor the pandemic situation. I've talked to some coaches and coordinators who aren't ready to return to in person events. I've talked with others who are very excited about returning to in person events. Of course no one knows what the situation is going to be in a few months so we just have to spontaneously adapt. Meeting the needs of all these teams and coaches is going to be really challenging.

Eastern Region is blessed with having the strongest volunteer base that any organization could even dream of having. The number of board members and their incredible dedication and spirit makes transitioning into the RD role very easy for me. The coaches and coordinators in our region have that same spirit.

I couldn't be more excited about the future of OotM and our region.

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND BOARD MEMBERS

### Regional Director: Randy Burton

Randy.BurtonOotM@gmail.com

### Tournament Director: Lexie Groner

ncometd@gmail.com

*Assistant Tournament Director: Anna Ladd*

### Score Room Captain: Stephen Downhower

### Spontaneous Problem Captain: Ann Ross

*Assistant Problem Captains: Zoe Hansen Burnet,  
Michael Bojanski*

### Problem 1 Captain: Randy Burton

ncomePC1@gmail.com

*Assistant Problem Captain: Tom Bojanski*

### Problem 2 Captain: Barry Groner

ncomePC2@gmail.com

*Assistant Problem Captain: Alison Blake*

### Problem 3 Captain: Marj Moe

ncomePC3@gmail.com

*Assistant Problem Captain: Gretchen Westman*

### Problem 4 Captain: Rita Welsh

ncomePC4@gmail.com

*Assistant Problem Captain: Marc Blake*

### Problem 5 Captain: Suzanne Ladd

ncomePC5@gmail.com

*Assistant Problem Captain: Sean Stickel*

### Primary Captain: Diana White

ncomePC6@gmail.com

## Your 2020-2021 Board!

**Regional Director:** Randy Burton

**Assistant Regional Director:** Zoe Hansen Burnet

**Tournament Director:** Lexie Groner

**Secretary:** Gail Hemedinger

**Treasurer:** Bob Pecaut

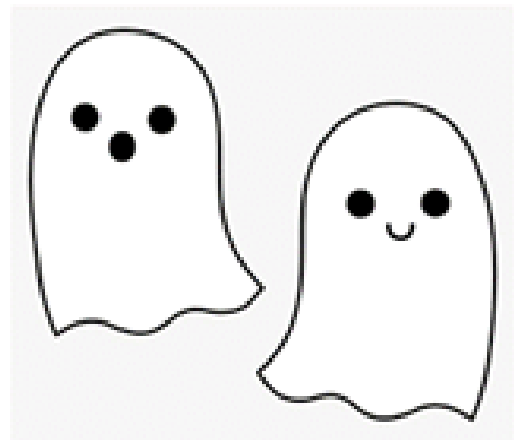
**Web Master:** Andy Cordes

**Web Assistants:** Dawn Imershein

**Sales:** Andy Cordes

**Communications:** Lexie Groner

**Pin Team:** Jackie Burton, Marc Blake

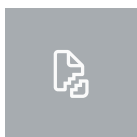


## Questions and Answers

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on social media or feel free to contact our Regional Director, Randy Burton, or our Assistant Regional Director, Zoe Hansen Burnet, at their email addresses provided!



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