



The Colorado Wyoming Optimist District Newsletter

March 2011

In This Issue

Upcoming Events

TriStar Basketball - Finals

March 12th at the Pepsi Center combined with Optimist Day at the Nuggets game. Phil White and Jack Rife, District Chairs
<http://www.tristarbasketball.org/Index.php>

Liberty Day

March 16, 2011 - plan a club project with kids to support this important day.
Andy McKean, District Chair

Third Quarter District Meeting

May 6-8, 2011
Hilton Hotel in Ft. Collins
Watch for further info
Sheryl Overton, District Chair

Oratorical Finals

Saturday, May 7th at the Third Quarter District Meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Ft. Collins.
Darrell Schulte, District Chair.

District Finals for the Communication

Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
CCDHH will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday, April 11, 2011 in Lyons Hall at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind in Colorado Springs. Contest details will be sent in January or found at:
<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships2.cfm>
Contact Sam Bartley of the Academy Optimist Club at SamBartOpt@gmail.com for more information.

Optimist Junior Golf

June 10th, Monday, 7:30 AM Shot Gun Start at Flat Irons Golf Course – Girls: 15-18 yrs. &



"Say Yes For the Kids"

From the desk of your 2010-2011 Governor, Ron Benson

I want to begin by congratulating all the 175 Optimists who attended the Second Quarter District Conference meals, events and/or education seminars at the Hyatt DTC last weekend! This was the largest turnout of excited Optimists that many had seen in years. The conference was fun, informative and inspiring!

Now on to our Third Quarter District Conference! It will be held on May 6-8 at the Ft. Collins Hilton. Mark your calendars now! One of the highlights will be the Colorado/Wyoming Oratorical finals. We will have up to 20 boys and girls competing for the \$2,500.00 scholarship. Please look in this newsletter for more details! A separate conference registration form will be sent to each of you soon.

I also want to talk about the Friend of Optimist (FOO) membership program. Last October I set a goal of 100 new FOO members during our current Optimist year which runs through September 30, 2011.

To date the Colorado/Wyoming District has brought in over 30 new FOO

Boys: 14-18 yrs.;
June 13th, Friday, 7:30 AM Shot Gun Start at Fitzsimons
Golf Course – Girls: 10-14 yrs & Boys: 10-13 yrs.;
Bob Meyer(303-814-5990), Ron Cisco and Joe Marci
are the District Chairs.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
July 3rd to the 5th in Baltimore, MD

CO/WY District Annual Convention
August 26-28, 2011
Great Divide Lodge in Breckenridge
Sheryl Overton & Abigail Nicholas, District Chairs

Optimist International: www.optimist.org
Colorado/Wyoming District: www.optimistcowy.org
Optimist Leaders: www.optimistleaders.org
Optimist Club Email: www.optimistmail.org
2010-2011 Optimist Leaders Page Instructions:
<http://www.optimist.org/recognition/>

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE
Starting with the spring issue of *The Optimist*,
Members can choose between the hard-copy and
electronic versions of the magazine. Signups after
March 2 will go into effect for the summer issue
instead. To sign up, go to:
<http://www.optimist.org/onlineforms/MagazineSign>
[up.cfm](http://www.optimist.org/onlineforms/MagazineSign)

Club Happenings

Benefit for The Windsor Gardens Optimist Club
THE KITCHEN WITCHES
BY CAROLINE SMITH

Winner of the 2005 Samuel French Canadian Play
Contest!

Two mature cable-access cooking show hostesses who
have hated each other for the past 30 years are pitted
together on a TV show

Called "The Kitchen Witches". The food flies--
literally! It is like Martha Stewart meets Jerry Springer
in a boxing match. Fun for all.

Thursday, May 12th ~ 2011 at 2:00 pm ~ Tickets are
\$20

For more information and tickets call Wanda Manley at
720.859.7787

The Festival Playhouse is at 5665 Olde Wadsworth
Blvd., Arvada, CO 80001 PHONE - 303.422.4090
IN HISTORIC OLD TOWN ARVADA - RIGHT BY
THE OLD ENGLISH TELEPHONE BOOTH

RON BENSON, Cont

members! Please go online to
optimistleaders.org to get more
information. The FOO program is a great
way to add Optimist members to your
club.....We have a great start and we can
do it!

Remember.....please mark May 6-8 on
your calendar and let's all keep saying
"Yes for the Kids"!

Optimistically,
Ron Benson

In Memoriam

Bill Bower passed away on Monday January
10th. Bill was a charter member of the Boulder
Central Optimist Club. His member number was
25009-0001! He was also a life member. He
was an active member of the Central Club until
last year when his health problems precluded him
from attending meetings.

When you read his obituary and/or personal
history you will realize we have lost another one
of the members of the "Greatest Generation!"

I first Bill a few years ago even before I became
an Optimist. It was at CU where he was giving
the young AF ROTC Cadets a summary about
his experiences in preparing and executing the
Doolittle raid on Japan.

Rest in Peace Bill!
Lou Medal
Zone 3, Lt Gov.

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN
Gateway Optimist Club lost three great
members last year. They are: Doug
Jones, their club president, Cliff Dougal
(known to many as Santa Claus) and
Jerry Meallis who was a Charter
Member of the Downtown Aurora Club
15 years ago. These fine Optimists are
greatly missed by their families and the
Gateway club. Fred Pasternack
submitted this information in honor of
these fine Optimists.

Plan now to attend the next District
Conference and the Annual Convention
Watch for details!!!

Wheatridge Optimist Club Christmas Program

This Christmas the **Wheat Ridge Optimist Club** raised almost \$10,000.00 for the Christmas Program. We partnered with organizations like Medtronics, Banks in the area, City of Wheat Ridge, The Wheat Ridge Fire Dept. and many others. Hundreds of people in the community gave from their hearts. They gave their time, their sweat and gave from their pocketbooks. We were able to serve over 160 families and 250 children. We bought, we gathered, we wrapped and we delivered. At the end of the project we were worn out but there was a warm feeling of love in our hearts.



Santa Claus, this is the name that most people associate with Christmas. Yet in Wheat Ridge, CO there is a very special elf that many might say could be the jolly old man himself. His name is George Langdon and his has been bringing Christmas to those children in Wheat Ridge that might not otherwise get a Christmas.

Over ten years ago George Langdon received a call from a teacher at one of Wheat Ridge's Middle schools' saying she had a family with children who would not be getting any gifts at Christmas time. George rallied the troops from the Optimist Club and not only provided the original family with gifts but a few others as well. Over the years the program has grown to the point that we now serve an average of 75 families a year with about 215 children receiving presents, candy, toothbrushes, gift certificates to Old Navy and McDonald's and a Christmas Dinner.

You might wonder how so many children are helped each year. Well the answer is simple, community. It might take a village to raise a child but it takes a community to make Christmas happen. Each year members of the Wheat Ridge Optimist Club gather donations to help pay for the costs of the Christmas Dinner and Old Navy Gift Cards. Christmas Trees are placed around town with the some basic information about the children for people to buy presents. Frank Sandoval donates gift cards for the McDonald's meals and The Colorado Vending Council continues to donate candy so each child gets some. Dr. Mahoney helps ensure those little teeth don't fall out by donating toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The real magic happens the night before the packages are delivered. The Wheat Ridge Optimist Club along with friends, family and the community gather to wrap presents for the children. Once everything is in place and all bows are just right the Optimists gather in the cold of a Saturday morning. They load up their cars to

DONNA'S MUSINGS



I just returned from the Second Quarter Conference a few hours ago and "WOW" it is great to be a Colorado/Wyoming Optimist! Just imagine, a whole group of people (100+ I've observed), all there to promote "hope and vision" for our kids and our communities!

We had some terrific sessions; of course, took care of District affairs; shared projects and stories about what we are each doing for kids and our community; and hugged!

If you ever feel that you are alone, or not appreciated, you need to attend an Optimist Conference! Governor Ron and his bubbly wife, Linda, made all of us feel wanted, valuable, and a part of something great - Optimism. Our inspirational Vice President of the Southwest Region was with us also, and what a joy it was to hear him talk about people and kids who have made a DIFFERENCE! Thanks to all who worked on this and helped us learn and be inspired!

As we look forward to this quarter, keep up the wonderful projects that you are doing to bring "Hope" to our kids and to our world! Plan on attending the Third Quarter Conference if it is at all possible. We will support the Oratorical Zone winners as they compete for the \$2500 Scholarship (one for the boy winner and one for the girl winner - that's \$5,000 all together)! The finals will be held on Saturday, May 7th and we Optimists will be there to listen and cheer them on! Of course we will eat (Optimists do that well), and find out what is happening in our Colorado/Wyoming District. I hope that many of you will block out this time and be there! We will also hear the winning essay and the winners of our CCDHH (Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) will share their winning ideas!

Do you notice all my exclamation marks at the end of my sentences? That's because I'm always excited when I talk about Kids and Optimism! At this 2nd Quarter Conference, I talked with many of you about stepping out and joining my team both at the District level and the Club level. I am gathering names of Optimists in the Colorado/Wyoming District that would like to serve on my team next year. Lt. Governors, Chairs for District Programs, Advisers, cheerleaders, Club officers, Club chairs,

take the boxes to the homes where Santa needed a little help. Many people young and old make this program a success. It is truly because of the love of the Wheat Ridge Optimist Club that these children get to believe in Santa Claus for one more year.

**Thanks,
Charley Ault
President, Wheat Ridge Optimist Club**

HOBY

HOBY Leadership Seminars are held in every state and provide a three- or four-day leadership skill development opportunity for high school sophomores. We have already received nearly 7,300 sophomore registrations so far this year. While the guaranteed acceptance deadline has passed, most HOBY seminars have space available and are still accepting students. To view a listing of our seminar dates and locations and contact information for your local HOBY Chairperson, please see <http://reg.hoby.org/datesevents/seminarcalendar.asp> or go to our website at www.hoby.org and view the dates and events calendar. Plan to visit the seminar closest to you and see what all the excitement is about!

and anything else that you would like to do to continue to make this the "Best" District for serving our kids, our communities, and having fun doing it!

Please contact me if you are willing to become a part of the 2011-2012 District Team. My e-mail is donnapriester@hotmail.com ; my phone number is (719) 590-1217; and my address is 2692 Marston Hts., Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Thanks for being there with your Optimism for all of us and our Kids!



Ron Graves, SW Region VP of OI

"PUT A LITTLE SPARKLE IN YOUR WINTER"

By Abigail L. Nicholas

If you attended the Colorado/Wyoming District's 2nd Quarter Conference then you went home with a sparkle in your eyes. It was an enthusiastic event with over 130 people in attendance over the two days. The District's special guest, Ron Graves, Southwest Region VP, was in attendance and his passion for optimism and kids showed throughout the conference weekend.

The weekend started with a tasty Dutch dinner at the Elephant Bar with 30 plus Optimists sharing good food, drinks and plenty of laughter. This continued in the Hospitality suite back at the Hyatt Hotel with rock 'n roll dancing and good munchies.

On Saturday Optimists from many clubs got down to business. There were several sessions planned throughout the day including "Catch a Rising Star" for club members who are interested in learning about club and district leadership. Many folks came to the Sharing Sessions and came away with great ideas to share with their club. Youth projects, Fundraising, Membership, Communication Tips, FOOS, and NOW were all part of the topics that were "shared" by rooms packed with eager Optimists.

A special session for all attendees was in the late afternoon. District Chairs had the opportunity to give updates and info about their specific project. Saturday's luncheon was the place to be as 2009-2010 clubs, club presidents, committee chairs and executives received awards for outstanding volunteer work.

The evening truly sparked as we enjoyed each other's company during the cocktail hour. Dinner was elegantly served and then a "bring tears of joy" mini-concert by five very talented musicians ranging in age from six to 13 delighted the audience. Many folks went to the hospitality suite afterwards as the evening was just too nice to end by going home early.

Sunday breakfast was preceded by the Ecumenical service led by Charles Larsen. We had some sharing time led by our Governor, Ron Benson who, like the Southwest Region VP, Ron Graves, wears his love and passion for Optimist clubs, members, and the children they help on his sleeve.



Hope to see you in May in Ft. Collins for the 3rd Quarter Colorado/Wyoming District Conference.

Lots of Additional Photos:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/116731631337370163615/COWY2ndQtrConference?feat=directlink>

Food for Hope - You can help!

By Betsy Boudreau

There are children from Denver inner city schools going home on the weekends with not much food in their family's kitchen cupboards. We would like to help remedy that by giving them food to take home on the weekends.

There are 13 inner city schools where most of the students are on the free and reduced lunch plan and they could use our help.

We are looking for volunteers/a club to "sponsor" a school for the upcoming school year to help with this project.

Volunteers are needed every Tuesday during the school year to pick up the food between noon and 4pm at the Food Bank of the Rockies (FBR) at 10700 E. 45th Avenue, Denver, 80239, and then deliver the food to an inner city school. Picking up the food requires a "good sized vehicle", a van, suburban, pick up truck, large station wagon etc. One volunteer can drive the vehicle to FBR and then FBR folks will load the vehicle. However moving the food from the vehicle to the school is best staffed with three to five additional volunteer workers.

Volunteers are needed every Thursday at the school to put the food in backpacks/bags for the students to take home. Distributing the food into the back pack takes about ten "person hours" so the team of volunteers who go to the school and physically put the food in the bags should be four or five people, expecting to work for two hours or so. The best time to do this is early evening. Each school has its own system of logistics for where the food is stored, how the bags are prepared etc. A packet of written information is provided to the volunteer team to clarify the process.

Would you be interested in sponsoring a school for the next school year? Please let me know the correct procedure for asking for help with this important project.

Thank you so much!

Betsy B.

betsyb@seedsofhopetrust.org

The Certified Trainer Program

Have you ever wondered where the folks that Optimist International sends to our District to train us in the various aspects of Optimism come from? I did, and when I found out that they come from 'us', it made me wonder how I could become more involved. That was a year ago and on January 29th I went to St. Louis, MO to attend the second level of the Optimist International Certified Trainer program and I have already visited several of the clubs in our District to try to help the members become more knowledgeable about the programs being offered by OI. The Certified Club Trainer program teaches us how to take one of the Skills Development Modules or another Optimist Program and condense it into a 20 minute presentation that can be given at an Optimist Club meeting as an overview. The Certified District Trainer program taught me how to do a 2 hour program to Optimists who need to become familiar with doing a particular job for either their club (President, Sec/Treasurer, Club Chair, etc.) or the District (any of the District Chairs, etc.) either at a Zone meeting or at a District function. Each level of training requires that we actually do 20 or 30 hours of presentations before we become Certified at that level. So you see, those of us who are involved need to be invited to a club meeting or other function to complete our required training. The purpose of this article is to be sure that you members know what we have in front of us. We truly appreciate the opportunity to come to your club and give our version of a 'dog-and-pony' show for the benefit and/or amusement of your members. See you soon. At the present time there are three of us in the Colorado/Wyoming District who are involved and we look forward to hearing from you. Please call either Governor-Elect Donna Priester, Club Trainer (in training) (719-590-1217), Sherman Phillips, Club and District Trainer (in training) (303-979-4343), or myself, Club and District Trainer (in training) (719-590-1217).

Thank you.

Joe Priester, Certified Club & District Trainer (in training)

Colorado/Wyoming District Governor 2008-09; cowy_govjoe@live.com

The OPTIMIST CLUB OF TAMARAC is very proud to receive 1st Place for the Community Project Award in the Fundraising and Community Service category for our Homespun Holiday Market. The award-winning project involves raising funds for 750 youth, and Tamarac is proud of the children we have been able to serve because of the project. The Second Annual Homespun Holiday Market was organized, chaired, and hosted by Marilyn Brown. Many members participated by creating the crafty masterpieces that were sold. Tamarac ladies also staffed the market and purchased some of the goodies for the holidays.

Optimists in the Wind by George Ofiesh



Year after year the number increases. When the temperature starts to rise and winter melts into spring, you start to notice them popping up everywhere. Some are green, some red, some yellow, white, orange, purple, as flowers pop up in gardens, motorcycles start rolling down the roads.

More and more men and women are riding motorcycles each year. Solo riders or 2-up (riding with a passenger), riding sports bikes, cruisers, touring bikes and the newest big trend, the adventure bikes... look around you and you might be surprised at who you see riding these marvelous machines. Doctors, Lawyers, Bankers, Teachers, Home-Makers, Computer Techies and, yes, even Optimists, are hopping on 2 wheels and loving it. Some ride to save gas, some ride for recreational activity and some like to ride

in groups as social outings. One thing that all riders have in common is that we love getting out in the wind! There's nothing like a ride up to the top of Mt. Evans, riding the Peak-to-Peak Highway, or a ride over Independence Pass on a warm summer day.

As a new Optimist, I thought it would be fun to get together with other Optimists for a ride and to discuss the potential to start an Optimists Riders Group. Just imagine combining our passion for riding with our passion for supporting our individual Optimist clubs. I bet we can get really creative and put together a few activities and events that would further the OI mission and increase membership! I know that, almost every time I pull along side of a car with children in the back seat, they are usually smiling and waving with that "I wanna go for a ride" look in their eyes. I just know we can use our bikes to help bring out the best in kids and support our clubs!

Together we can:

- Attend safety seminars to increase knowledge and capabilities to ride more safely (avoid crashes and save lives)
- Foster camaraderie among club, zone and district members
- Host group rides and outings for club members and their guests (good recruiting activity)
- Host fundraising events and support various youth activities with motorcycle rides.

Some motorcycle events in Colorado have reached numbers of over 7,000 participants, raising thousands of dollars to benefit various organizations such as the annual Toy Ride to Children's Hospital and the Kid's Ride for Pediatric Brain Tumors. I believe we have a huge potential in this area. Of course, all really great efforts usually start with small steps and I would like to propose that we explore this opportunity.

Please spread the word to any riders throughout the district to join together for an introductory group meeting in April (location, date and time TBD). If you would like to explore being a part of the "Optimists in the Wind" group, please email George Ofiesh at gnaofiesh@aol.com or call 303-522-6525 for more information.

Join us in Ft. Collins at the Hilton Hotel for our Spring Fling: The 3rd Quarter Conference!!



We will be hosting the finals of the Oratorical Contest on Saturday, and would really like to see lots of members there to cheer on the contestants and to honor their achievements. You can start making reservations now by calling 1-970-482-2626 or 1-800-445-8667 and be sure to ask for the Co/Wy Optimists or Group Code: MOC to get the special rate of \$99 per night—By April 14th! The hotel link is http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/F/FNLCOHF-MOC-20110506/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Registration Form will be posted to the District website soon, and mailed out in a couple of weeks

Thanks to All the Great Optimists of the Colorado/Wyoming District. If you would like to submit articles for future District Newsletters, email me at betsyb@seedsofhopetrust.org

Sincerely,

Betsy Boudreau Editor, The Colorado Wyoming Optimist District Newsletter



Photo - George Langdon/Optimist of the Quarter Wheatridge w/Charlie



Photo - Governor Ron Benson and President Bob Bramble, NW Club

At our 2nd Quarter Conference dinner the CO & WY District launched the new "Awards & Achievements Program". We honored our members and clubs who are making a difference in their communities. As a member, Lt. Gov, Club President **you** can nominate a person or club in the following categories:

Optimist of the Quarter: 2nd Qtr: George Langdon, Don Williams, Carolyn Brown

Optimist Rookie of the Quarter: 2nd Qtr: Kathy Teltsch, Craig Vroom, Kim Crumm & Jeanne Fouke

Optimist Club of the Quarter: 2nd Qtr: Academy, DTC, Monaco South, Northwest

Optimist Fundraiser of the Quarter: 2nd Qtr: Wheatridge, Christmas Venue

Optimist FOO of the Quarter: 2nd Qtr: Wheatridge's Roy Jones of Apple Cafe

Go to the website and there is a nomination form you can submit by April 22 for the upcoming 3rd Quarter Conference. Congratulations to all!

Presented by the Awards & Achievement Team:

Charlie Neumann, Pearl Meulemans, Gunar Neumann

PERSONAL GROWTH & INVOLVEMENT (PGI)

It's not surprising that most Optimists within the CO/WY District do not understand Personal Growth & Involvement (PGI).

Why? Most Optimists take it to personal and do not want any recognition. It's a matter of involvement and a chance to help yourself to help your club.

If you can answer "yes" to the following questions you are already involved in the PGI program and on your way to helping your club.

1. Have you attended 6, 9 or up to 20 club meetings?
2. Are you involved in club activities?
3. Have you sponsored a new membership or Friends of Optimist?
4. Are you familiar with Optimist International, District and Club Organization?
5. Have you participated in self-development?
6. Do you communicate within your club?

It's that easy. Take a look at the new Passport and you will be surprised at what you have already accomplished. Check those accomplishments off on your Passport and get credit for Levels that you have completed.

If you answered "no" to any of the questions then you can help yourself to become stronger by becoming more knowledgeable and being involved in club activities.

If you have questions regarding PGI please contact Larry Brown, District Director of Personal Growth, CO/WY District at email slvrfox1940@comcast.net or cell phone (719) 502-0752.

