

The Colorado Wyoming Optimist District Newsletter

November 2010

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Things "To Do"



Third Annual Homespun Craft Sale!

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010 from 9am to 3pm
8 Cherry Hills Dr., Englewood, CO 80113
For more information 303-761-6983
Presented by the TAMARAC OPTIMIST CLUB
All proceeds benefit local children's projects!
Items will include Holiday decorations
centerpieces, baked goods, food and drink
mixes, photos, paintings and gifts to treasure!
Cash or checks only.

Colorado/Wyoming District 2010-2011 Meetings and Convention

Parallel District Conference
November 12-14, 2010
Sheraton Hotel, Dallas, Texas

2nd Quarter District Meeting
February 18-20, 2011
Hyatt DTC in Greenwood Village

3rd Quarter District Meeting
May 6-8, 2011
Hilton Hotel in Ft. Collins

CO/WY District Annual Convention
August 26-28, 2011
Great Divide Lodge in Breckenridge



Say "Yes" for the Kids - From the Desk of Your 2010-2011 Governor: Ron Benson

I want to enthusiastically invite all of our nearly 1,800 Colo/Wyo District Optimists to get involved and to say **YES for the KIDS!**

I am extremely excited about the 2010-2011 Lt. Governors, District Secretary/Treasurer and Committee Chairs who have stepped up and said YES. My goal this year is to empower each of them to work with, encourage, and provide materials for growth and award clubs and

members in the District.

I encourage each individual club to welcome and get to know your Lt. Governor. The purpose of our Lt. Governors is to truly help each club to grow and succeed. Utilize your Lt. Governors!! They are there to help you.

I want to review my goals for the 2010-2011 Colo/Wyo District:

1. Membership-I am asking each club to finish the year with a net one (1) in membership. Example....if your club loses two members you will need to bring in three members to be at a net one. Please contact our District Membership Chair, Bill Wells, at billwells@comcast.net.

I strongly urge our focus on new membership to be built around serving more kids in our communities than about membership numbers. Please strive to include friends, community members and others to participate in club projects which will naturally lead to increased membership. Remember.....it's about the kids!

2. Friend of Optimists (FOO) membership-My goal is to increase the Friend of Optimists membership by 100 new members. Please contact Optimist International and ask them to send you free FOO membership applications or go online to www.optimistleaders.org.

3. Junior Optimist (JOOI) Clubs-My goal this year is to build a minimum of ten (10) new Junior Optimist clubs. Please contact our District JOOI Chair, Jerry Piffer at jerrypiffer@comcast.net for information about how to organize a JOOI club or clubs in your community.

4. Community Development (New Club Building)-I have set a goal to form a minimum of three (3) new Optimist clubs for 2010-2011. Please remember that a new club needs to be sponsored by an existing Optimist club. The Community Development (New Club Building) chair is Ralph Dergance. Please contact Ralph at rhdergance@msn.com for help with your new club ideas.

Finally, I plan to attend a regular meeting or club activity of each club during the 2010-2011 Optimist year. Please call me at 720-879-8927 or e-mail me at ronbenson777@q.com to schedule my attendance. Also, please add my contact information to all of your electronic or regular mailings.

I am excited about this upcoming Optimist year and consider it my privilege to serve as your Governor. And, as I always say, let's be sure to have fun!

Optimistically,

Ron Benson

CCDHH

The 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 out in January, 2011 or can be 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.

Second Quarter Conference

Hyatt Denver Tech Center Hotel
February 18-20, 2011

The room rate is 89.00 a night. Each room has a 32" Flat Panel TV, home docking station, mini-refrigerator and is beautifully decorated. There is an exercise room and pool/hot tub area.

To make reservations at the Hyatt you may call: 303-779-1234

Or make reservations on the internet at our web link:
<http://resweb.passkey.com/go/CWOC2011>

Free self-parking is available in the parking garage. Have a Winter Get-A-Way Weekend!

We encourage everyone to come "Say Yes to the Kids!" Enjoy the fun and warmth of being with your Optimist friends.

Put a little sparkle in your Winter!

Quick Links...

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 Leadership Instructions:

<http://www.optimist.org/recognition/>

Colorado/Wyoming
District 25
2010-2011 Zones

ZONE 1

Casper Breakfast (25014)

Ft. Collins Breakfast (25020)

DONNA'S MUSINGS by 2010-2100 Governor Elect



For those in the Colorado/Wyoming District that don't know me, I am your Governor-Elect (which is another word for Governor - in - Training). I am so lucky to be in training with Governor Ron Benson and his team this year and with his guidance and sharing, we will move into the 2011-2012 Optimist Year smoothly and easily.

As I was contemplating these musings, I took time out to have a bite of dinner at a local Chinese restaurant. The fortune cookie came and "lo and behold", my "fortune" turned out to be a quote that I have always lived by :

"Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It beats money, power, and influence."

This is a quality that I have always valued and why I became an Optimist! We are a people of great enthusiasm for our community and the kids that are growing up to be future citizens of that community.

As I attend Optimist Club meetings around the District, I am struck with the creative, enthusiastic ways our Optimists have of involving and encouraging children. We can be chatting before a meeting about the weather, family, and various other ideas, but when that meeting is called to order, it's all about the "kids"! I love the way members' eyes light up as they speak of projects that have happened for kids. Their voices get louder and happier, and they emit a joy that permeates the entire room! All members join in their enthusiasm and by the end of the meeting, all leave "letting all our friends feel that there is something in them" that is appreciated. Members find themselves jumping on the "bandwagon" and becoming something more than they might be on their own.

As we begin this wonderful Optimist year, let's have fun and make this a banner year for our kids. Our kids will feel "that there is something in them" that makes them special to us and to the community!

I love Optimism! I'm enthusiastic about this year, and excited to hear of the wonderful projects Optimists will carry out!

From the Desk of:



Greg Young, your District Secretary/Treasurer

I hope every club secretary or president will take a little time to review the club roster on the Optimist Leaders website: www.optimistleaders.org (you must logon using your five digit club number and your password-see information recently sent or contact me for help). Also, there is a ton of great information under the tabs at the top regarding leadership tools, club information and forms, workbooks and information on every program that you would want to know about.

Longmont Breakfast (25033)
Longmont Luncheon (25312)
Loveland Breakfast (25035)
Loveland Luncheon (25154)
Broomfield Luncheon (25141)
Lt. Governor - Ruth Lewis
(home) 720-224-9748
Ruth@MillerLewis.com

ZONE 2

Brighton Evening (25045)
Ft. Lupton (25098)
Ft. Morgan Evening (25100)
Ft. Morgan Sunrise (25197)
Greeley Luncheon (25153)
Windsor (25218)
Golden Breakfast (25023)
Lt. Governor - Bill Michener
(cell) 970-371-2519
Coloradymich@comcast.net

ZONE 3

Boulder Central (25009)
Boulder Breakfast (25013)
Boulder East (25034)
Boulder Evening (25010)
Boulder Luncheon (25150)
Erie (25032)
Lafayette (25137)

Lt. Governor - Lou Medal
(cell) 303-819-6121
loumedal@yahoo.com

ZONE 4

Buena Vista (25047)
Steamboat Springs (25190)
Summit Lake Dillon (25194)

Lt. Governor - Phil Perington
(cell) 303-832- 4578
perington@msn.com

Most importantly this year, we are encouraging every club to review every entry in the OI roster on this web site. Every entry needs a valid mailing address, email address and phone number. You should check the names that are in bold black to make sure your club officers are listed correctly. Any name listed in red means there's a problem with the address or it is a FOO who is due to expire soon and drop off your roster at the end of the month of expiration. Entries in green have been recently added or changed but not submitted. When you make entries, you have to enter them twice, once to add, change or delete, and once to submit the action. Presidents and Treasurers can see any outstanding invoices, print them, and make sure they are paid promptly.

Last but not least: Each club who has not done so must update their Club Bylaws online on the Optimist Leaders website. If you have not updated them yet, you will see a blue button with a video tutorial just above your club roster that explains in detail how to do it. Again, let me know if you need help or further instruction on any of this activity. **Thanks for Saying YES for the Kids!!**

District Director of Personal Growth 2010-2011 Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI)



"I have a story, and it goes like this..."

Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) is recognized by Optimist International as a recognition program. I for one want to look at it as a learning process.

There are sixty-two Optimist clubs in the states of Colorado and Wyoming. I wonder what percentage is involved in the PGI program. I wonder what percentage ought to be involved...100%.

Your PGI Passport is the stepping stone for learning. Level 1 is the easiest to accomplish but I am willing to bet that there are those who have been members of an Optimist club for a few years that have not completed Level 1.

Two years ago when I became the PGI chair for the Academy Optimist club I looked at the Passport and said this is easy. I focused on making PGI training fun. I made up twenty questions about Optimist International and read them to the club. The catch was that I would repeat the same twenty questions at the next PGI training. Their reward was a gift for those answering the question right. Make it fun!

OI Learning Development notified me of changes/revisions to the PGI Passport that became effective on October 1st. The new PGI Passport will be combined into one with Levels I through X and will be available in November. Optimist members that complete certain levels must include the new requirements as of October 1st. In the mean time, record your accomplishments with your existing PGI Passport. Once you receive the new PGI Passport compare them and coordinate with your PGI chair to submit a recognition form. Your PGI chair will complete a recognition form for your President or Secretary/Treasurer signature. The recognition form is submitted to the District Director of Personal Growth who in turn will submit it to the OI Learning Development for processing. I will notify Club Presidents when they can contact OI Development Learning to order the new PGI Passports.

Club Presidents you are responsible for having a sound PGI program. You are the motivator and leader. Your PGI chair is the developer and leader for monthly PGI training for your club. Sit down and talk with your PGI chair and see what

ZONE 5

Downtown Denver (25080)

Mile High Denver (25075)

Montbello Breakfast (25038)

Northeast Denver (25037)

Park Hill (25316)

South Denver (25185)

Northwest Denver (25037)

Lt. Governor - Renee Blanchard

(business) 303-328-7583

Praynow711@juno.com

ZONE 6

Arvada Breakfast (25000)

Arvada Clear Creek (25054)

Arvada Lake Arbor (25134)

Edgewater (25001)

Wheat Ridge (25215)

Westminster (25166)

Lakewood Luncheon (25157)

Lakewood Breakfast (25135)

Lakewood Sunrise (25193)

Lt. Governor - John Swanborg

(home) 303-466-5631

JSwanborg@juno.com

ZONE 7

Castle Rock (25333)

Littleton Breakfast (25030)

LUMC (25326)

Southglenn Breakfast (25191)

Southglenn Luncheon (25144)

Lakewood Green Mountain (25117)

Lt. Governor - Bob Meyer

(home) 303-814-5990

meyerrob@comcast.net

ZONE 8

Denver Civic Center (25062)

Denver Tech Center (25077)

Monaco South (25164)

Rocky Mountain (25052)

Tamarac (25052)

University Hills (25330)

Windsor Gardens Breakfast (25040)

Lt. Governor - Clara Sitter

(home) 303-795-5517

CSitter@du.edu

his/her goals are. You ought to have a PGI chair that is a shaker and visionary. If the PGI chair isn't working for you find another that will.

Old timers don't like to be recognized. Wrong! You are a vessel of knowledge. New members can learn a lot from you. That is where a Mentor program is needed in your club. It gives a mentor a chance to sit down with the new member; at breakfast, over coffee or after a club meeting. This is a good time to discuss the history of Optimist International, your club goals and the new member's interests.

New membership seems to be a bottle neck at times but you as an Optimist ought to have your "elevator greeting" ready at any time. So where do you find new members? Everywhere! Friends, friends of friends, at events, church, schools, bowling, golfing, and the list goes on and on.

I wanted to give you a brief overview of my vision of the PGI program. Involvement and making it fun is the key. If you would like more information or have questions I can be contacted either by telephone: (719) 502-0752 or email: slvrfox1940@comcast.net

Well that's my story and I'm sticking to it. I ask that you press on with the greater achievement of the future. Spread the word and make Personal Growth and Involvement a sound learning stick for your club.

INVOLVEMENT = MAKE IT FUN!

Larry L. Brown

District Director of Personal Growth 2010-2011

A SUPER MORNING AT THE SUPER ZONE MEETING

By Abigail L. Nicholas



Sixty smiling Optimists from Zones six thru ten showed up on Saturday, October 30th, for a few hours of camaraderie, idea sharing, district info and, of course, some fresh donuts and hot coffee. This first of two Super Zone Meetings takes the place of the District's first quarter conference. The Parallel District Conference being held in Dallas in mid-November replaces the District meeting.

The focus of the Super Zone Meeting was three-fold: club projects; fund-raising and membership/club building.

There were also reports from several District Chairpersons bringing the attendees up to date on several issues.

Members were enthusiastic as they explained their particular club's projects for kids. Three large pages from the flip chart were completely filled with ideas that were shared. There's no doubt that the Colorado/Wyoming District Optimists are very busy people!

One suggestion that came out of the many discussions during the day is to combine our volunteer "forces" with other Optimist Clubs or even do projects with several clubs in a Zone. There is power in numbers and this could be a great benefit for smaller clubs who are struggling either financially or from lack of manpower.

ZONE 9

Aurora Rangeview (25005)

Aurora Gateway (25053)

Heather Gardens Breakfast (25022)

Heather Gardens Luncheon (25123)

Lt. Governor - Tim Huntington

(home) 303-745-2743

TimHuntington4@Comcast.net

ZONE 10

Alamosa (25025)

Colorado Springs Academy (25008)

Colorado Springs West Side (25162)

Pueblo (25175)

Pueblo Belmont (25007)

Lt. Governor - Sharon Foster

(cell) 719-355-9421

SVFoster28@gmail.com

The Optimist Creed



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

There were many fundraising ideas shared. Here are some of the ways that Optimist clubs are making money to help the kids: garage sales; grocery cards; wine and beer tastings; golf tournaments; pancake breakfasts; used clothing boutiques; backwards raffle; Christmas tree sales and craft fairs. Wow! We Optimists sure know how to "bring home the bacon"!

Membership and new club building is on the minds of most Optimists these days. As some of our ranks and clubs have started to dwindle we are always on the lookout for ways to bring new members in and start new, successful clubs. Our Governor, Ron Benson, is, shall we say, a fanatic about getting the word out about FOOS - Friends of Optimists. Remember that a FOO doesn't have to pay club dues but will receive OI's magazine, the District and your Club's newsletters plus they are welcome at club meetings and projects. For a yearly \$100 fee a person who believes in what we do can be a part of our organization. Plus your club will get back \$40 of the \$100 initially paid and each year that your FOO renews their membership.

JOOI clubs were also discussed along with making the secret of Optimism no longer a secret by using many different methods. Facebooking, Twittering, church groups; sports groups; ads in local newspapers like the HUB; NOW meetings are all viable methods of telling the world about what Optimists do for kids. Have you practiced your "elevator" speech about Optimism lately?

If you missed this SUPER ZONE MEETING and wish to attend the next one, here are the details: Saturday, November 6th, 8:30 am to 12:00 PM at Valmont Community Presbyterian Church, 3262 N. 61st Street in Boulder. Optional Dutch-treat lunch after the meeting.

Local Club joins the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce to Partner for KidsArticle Headline

By Liz Shaw, Academy Optimist Club

The Academy Optimist Club (AOC) has joined the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce with a goal of building a long-lasting partnership that will benefit local kids. Under the able Leadership and recommendation of President Sharon Foster, the AOC Board of Directors approved the Chamber membership back in August. The Club has several members who were already involved with the Chamber and many who are Chamber members. Additionally, several Chamber people volunteered to assist AOC with projects in the past - now it's just a more formal tie between the organizations.



Harry Dierks, a Charter member of the Club, cut the ceremonial ribbon at the Installation held at Mimi's Restaurant on North Academy Blvd., on Tuesday, September 28th. Harry, a local DJ, is one of the founding members of the Club.

- 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.

BUY YOUR TREE FROM MONACO SOUTH!!



Each year, Monaco South sets up and runs a Christmas tree lot at the corner of Monaco and Evans Streets, near Sears Essentials. This is the club's major fund raiser for the year and provides the funding foundation for most of our 35+ youth and community projects. One dollar from each tree sale is donated to Childhood Cancer, an Optimist International supported endeavor. Monaco South has maintained this lot for over 30 years. We sell up to 1300 trees, as well as tree stands, wreaths and garland. Additionally, there is the Santa Haus, where Santa Claus and his elves delight the kids every weekend. This is the most wonderful time of the year and a great time to get to know your fellow Optimists. The annual club chili cook-off is held on the second Saturday of the December at the lot trailer. We also get help from local high school youth groups (JROTC, Sports teams, etc.), and make a donation to those groups that participate. The lot is open from 9am to 9pm everyday from November 27th through December 24th. Prices are highly competitive and we carry 6 varieties of trees in heights up to 14 feet. We make deliveries and encourage business buyers. Come one, come all to enjoy the Optimist fun and get the best Christmas tree anywhere.

FOCUS ON YOUR FELLOW OPTIMISTS By Abigail L. Nicholas



Betsy Boudreau

Our focus this newsletter is on our District's Colorado/Wyoming newsletter editor, Betsy Boudreau. Betsy joined the optimist ranks in 2007 as a member of the Optimist Club of Tamarac. She chose this club because it is a "great club with wonderful women". She helps in many ways with the club with one of her duties being cashier each Thursday and greeting the members with her great smile. Betsy says her favorite Optimist job is being the editor of the District newsletter.....perhaps said "tongue in cheek" since Governor Ron was sitting across the

table when I asked her about this.

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 17...Happy Birthday, Betsy...she said she is a city girl. She attended Regis High School in Cedar Rapids with her favorite subject being Literature. Betsy was involved with gymnastics and was able to practice her moves on the trampoline at her house. We can only imagine how popular she was with the neighborhood kids with a

trampoline in the back yard. She was also a Cheerleader during high school. Betsy's first job at the tender age of sweet sixteen was a cashier at the Me Too Grocery. So that explains why she is such a good cashier at the Tamarac meetings! Her least favorite job was delivering newspapers which she said was a cold, dark, sometimes wet kind of job.

Betsy attended the University of Colorado and earned a Masters Degree of Humanities.

Her ideal job is her current one as Executive Director in nonprofit management.

She is married to Dennis and has two children - Katie, 17 and Hank - 16. And then there are the pets! Tess and Valentine are the family's two dogs, Keeley and Louie are their cats and to top it all off they have a bird named Sophie. I hear that one of the cats is very interested in Sophie and has been caught hanging out on the top of the bird's cage several times.

Betsy is a fan of the Broncos.....maybe not anymore after the last two games! She enjoys gardening, crochet and reading in her spare time....really now when does Betsy have spare time?

She says her definition of happiness is "her family" and she is most proud of her children.

I asked her if she had any words of wisdom to share with us. Her answer was "Pay it forward as we are all so blessed".

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

The Colorado Wyoming Optimist District

Northwest Denver Optimists have been in the Northwest community for 25 years providing our kids opportunities for expanding their view of the world. Exposing them to ALL their possibilities and teaching them to DREAM bigger than they imagined!

We do this with our consistent volunteerism, our commitment to this community, to our thick headiness of NOT accepting the status quo for our kids, support of families and school staff, our individual participation and our optimistic point of view on life! We are here!

Six years ago, we adopted Remington Elementary, a school in need of support by the community. The Northwest Denver Optimists first order of business was to create an attendance program. With the support of the staff, kids and families, this program rose to unbelievable parameters. A measurable difference not only in the attendance but of the attitude with which our kids were coming to school was realized. Classrooms started earning monthly ice cream and popcorn parties for achieving attendance goals. And at the end of the year, parents, staff, Optimists and kids celebrated at an awards assembly in which kids received backpacks with schools supplies, Mc Donald meal certificates, Dairy Queen ice cream coupons, Target gift cards, a special luncheon of their choice with the principal and the ultimate prize, Elitch summer passes! When Remington and Smiley Elementary schools were unified together at TreVista at Horace Mann three years ago, our participation continued to offer this program. (Last year 423 out of 627 kids earned attendance awards). The Northwest Denver Optimists are very proud of the achievements our kids are making on a daily basis! And the community should be too!



A rodeo for bikes? Saddle up, cowboy!

By Sam Bartley, Academy Optimist Club.

On August 28th, 2010, Kids on Bikes teamed up with the Academy Optimist Club to present a Bike Rodeo at the Pikes Peak EcoFestival. Kids were invited to bring their bikes and helmets to Rock Ledge Ranch to improve their skills and have some fun! After a safety check-in, the first stop was the Bike Decorating Station where lots

of balloons, streamers and decorations were available to make their bike an attention-getter for all of the EcoFestival to see.

Next, the kids got to participate in four activities to improve their bike-riding skills.

- While riding through a small course, adults would shout "LOOK" and the kids would look behind them to see if there was a "car", "truck" or "bus" behind them. Other adults provided the vehicles in the form of cardboard cutouts. This gave the kids practice in being aware of their surroundings while riding.

- Have you ever been in a race to see who could be the slowest? The Slow Ride challenged kids to be the last to cross the finish line by pedaling but not touching their feet to the ground. In doing so, they improved their balance and bike handling skills.

- Remember those paper routes we rode as kids? In keeping with the EcoFestival theme, today's kids rode through a course throwing newspapers into recycle bins.

- A slalom course gave kids a chance to practice their steering and bike control by weaving through a coned course.

A great time was had by all kids and parents who stopped by!

Kids on Bikes is a local nonprofit organization. They give new bikes to children through programs that inspire a healthy lifestyle, independence, and achievement. Kids on Bikes strives to develop healthy, happy, and successful children one bike at a time. Learn more about them at www.kidsonbikes.net.

The Academy Optimist Club is dedicated to "bringing out the best in kids". Part of Optimist International, the club serves the Pikes Peak Region with many projects that serve kids with scholarship, citizenship and just plain fun activities. Read more at www.academyoptimist.org or www.optimist.org.

Future Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

The District Newsletter will be mailed in January 2011, March 2011, May 2011, July 2011 and Sept. 2011. The deadline for articles is the 25th of each month, prior to the month the newsletter is to be mailed, so for example, Dec. 25 for the January newsletter, Feb. 25 for the March newsletter, and so on.

Please email your articles in word format only, to Betsy Boudreau at betsyb@seedsofhopetrust.org

Thank you!

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? TELL YOUR CLUB SECRETARY WHAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS AND REQUEST THAT THE SECRETARY UPDATE YOUR **OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ROSTER** ENTRY. WE CAN THEN AUTOMATICALLY GET YOU ON THE LIST!!

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
COLORADOWYOMING DISTRICT
Greg Young
3983 S. Olive St.
Denver, CO 80237