



The Colorado Wyoming Optimist District Newsletter SEPTEMBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011

-October 28-30, 2011: **1st Qtr Conference**
Marriott Hotel, Colo Spgs
-November, (dates TBD); Super Zone Meetings will be held. Registration form attached to this newsletter.

2012

-February 10-12, 2012: **2nd Qtr Conference**
Stanley Hotel, Estes Park
-April (dates TBD) Super Zone Meetings
-May 4-6, 2012 **3rd Qtr Conference**
Hyatt Regency Hotel, DTC Denver
-July 12-14, 2012 **OI Convention**
Milwaukee, WI
-August 23-26, 2012 **CO/WYO District Convention**, Copper Mountain Resort

Note: Newsletter Deadlines for 2012 will be announced soon.

Optimist Web Addresses

Optimist International:
www.optimist.org

Colorado/Wyoming District:
www.optimistcowy.org

Optimist Leaders:
www.optimistleaders.org

Optimist Club Email:
www.optimistmail.org

2011-2012 Optimist Leadership Instructions:
http://www.optimist.org/recognition/recog_2012.cfm

OPTIMIST MAGAZINE and HOTLINE:
<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/documents2.cfm>

**COLORADO/WYOMING DISTRICT
Of Optimist International
First Quarter Conference
October 28-30, 2011**



"SAY YES FOR THE KIDS"
FROM THE DESK OF YOUR 2010-2011
GOVERNOR, RON BENSON

I am GRATEFUL!!!!

You may wonder what I am so grateful for....Well, let me begin:

Since my July Newsletter Governor's column, the Colo/Wyo District has built two additional NEW Optimist Clubs. The 285 Optimist Club was certified on August 22nd with 19 new Optimist members.

The 285 Club consists of folks from the Conifer and Bailey communities along State Highway 285. The charter celebration will be held on Monday, September 19.

The Far Northeast Optimist Club of Denver will certify as a club on September 13th with a charter celebration of at least 18 new Optimists. This club consists of residents of Montbello, Green Valley Ranch and Fairfield areas.

Currently, our Colo/Wyo District is ranked **#4** in membership growth out of 49 Optimist Districts. This is the highest ranking that our District has attained in many years.

Our District is also ranked **#1** in recruitment of Friends of Optimists (FOO) members. Currently we have 87 new Friend of Optimists members and are on our way to reach the 100 FOO member goal that I set October 1, 2010!!

I am further grateful for the well attended and exciting Optimist Annual Convention that was held August 26-28 in Breckenridge. The attendance of Optimists, partners and guests was the largest that our District has experienced in recent years.

And, finally, I am grateful for being your District Governor during the past year and for each and every Optimist in the Colo/Wyo District. This banner year has helped many kids with all of your successful fundraisers and youth programs. Our successful year is ultimately

The First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting and Conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel, 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs 80919. Please book your room NOW for Friday and Saturday night directly with the hotel by calling (719)260-1800 and mention that you are with the Colorado/Wyoming Optimists or click on this link: www.marriott.com/cosmc (group code: cwocwoa). We have arranged a special rate of \$89/night for a King-Non Smoking Room. (The Special AAA rate with no advance deposit is \$104) Room reservations made after October 12th may incur an additional charge. Directions: Take I-25 to the Rockrimmon Blvd. (Exit#148), drive up the hill about 1/2 mile to Tech Center Drive and turn left, proceed to the first driveway on the right.

DONNA'S MUSINGS



DONNA PREISTER
Governor-Elect

Well, here we are ending one Optimist year and beginning another! However, these are just dates on the calendar, as we never finish and we never just begin (unless we are a new Optimist member). Our communities, our kids, our clubs continue to need us! Governor Ron has done a fantastic job of keeping up the work that Optimists have chosen to do and has led with excitement and dedication. He has laid the groundwork and set the momentum for all of us to follow in 2011-2012! I thank him for that and for continuing to support and care for those who continue this wonderful Optimist Service.

My thoughts, as I begin the 2011-2012 Optimist year, are "thank you" to all Optimists who help our Optimist organization to do the work of "Bringing Out the Best in Kids". I am so pleased to be associated with the wonderful people in Optimism! We look for ways to help the children in our community to grow and become the best they can be! We offer scholarship programs, competitions that allow kids to use their gifts and talents and therefore, develop a self-concept that allows them to succeed in life, and we recognize citizens in our communities that have helped keep our community safe and those who help us keep our kids safe! We work with kids who have cancer or other challenges to overcome in their lives! My challenge to you this year is this; look outside the projects you have been doing and see if there are kids we are missing! Do we need to expand a project? Do we need to add a new project? I will be asking all of you to look carefully and let me know of the additional kids you are helping!

My second thought is to look at your Club. Are we truly Optimists? Are our members coming to receive a

about "Saying Yes to Kids" and the wonderful business of TOUCHING MORE KIDS LIVES!

On October 1, 2011, I will hand over the Governor reins to Donna Priester from the Academy Optimist Club in Colorado Springs. Donna is a dedicated and dynamic Optimist who will fan the fire we've worked to build this and I wholeheartedly support her efforts.

I AM GRATEFUL!

Community Development - Everyone's Responsibility

By Ralph Dergance

District Community Development Chair



We all know that the future of our organization will depend upon expansion of the number of clubs and increasing the membership in existing clubs. We face quite a challenge given the current economic climate and the demands upon persons' time and resources

To date, we have had considerable success in building new clubs in the District. In fact, we achieved a hat trick in new club building in the Colorado/Wyoming District!

Thanks to the hard work of a team of members of the Tamarac Club and citizens of Cheyenne, Wyoming, we formally organized our **FIRST** new club, the Cheyenne Optimist Club on July 13, 2011. The chartering celebration was conducted on September 7, 2011. Two members of the Tamarac Club joined this club, and the benefits of having the "corporate memory" have been obvious in all meetings to date. Congratulations to all who have and will continue to put in considerable effort into this activity!

Lakewood Luncheon Club and the Breakfast Club of Littleton have teamed to form our **SECOND** new club, the 285 Optimist Club, Colorado. This unique club has members from Conifer, Bailey, and other communities in the area and may reach as far as Fairplay in the future. The club is positioned to help kids from two or three school districts. The club was organized on August 22, 2011 and will enjoy its chartering celebration on September 19, 2011. The rather rapid formation of this club is most certainly due to the heroic efforts of George Ofiesh, along with the rest of the Optimist team. George was deservedly recognized as "Rookie of the Quarter" at the District convention in Breckenridge on August 26, 2011.

Many thanks from all to George Ofiesh for his very energetic and innovative leadership in this task.

Our **THIRD** new club, the Far Northeast Optimist Club of Denver, co-sponsored by the Park Hill Optimist Club and the Northeast Denver Optimist Club, will be formally organized on September 13, 2011. This success is attributed to the very hard and dedicated work of Lt. Governor Renee Blanchard and former Governor George Mills with the assistance of several club and District members. This club will serve Green Valley Ranch, Montbello, and Fairfield. These vibrant, unique, and very diverse communities represent nearly limitless opportunities for Optimist to help the kids!

Governor-designate Donna Priester, Lieutenant Governor Sharon Foster, and Colorado Springs Academy President Larry Brown are still diligently working to form

wonderful dose of Optimism that can be carried out to our families, work relationships, and the kids we help? I have created a new Chair position this year, "Optimism for Optimists"! Past Governor Les Sitter has asked to Chair this position, so lookout – there's more to come from all the Team!! I look forward to seeing you at the 1st Quarter Conference in Colorado Springs at the Marriott Hotel on Oct. 28-30th! A special heads up for Club Presidents as we will be incorporating the Club Administrative Conference at that same time!
Thanks for all you do!

Donna

From the desk of **Greg Young,**
Secretary/Treasurer



This has been an exciting and dynamic year for the Optimists in Colorado and Wyoming! New clubs, new members, new Friends (of Optimists!) all have come together with our great membership of over 1750 Optimists to make this a memorable year. And we still have time and opportunities to go to make this an even more special year. Just a few easy

things need to happen from the perspective of your Secretary and Treasurer:

- Make sure all your invoices are paid to suppliers and to District and Optimist International. If you need to double check your status on dues, just send me an email (gndyoung@comcast.net) or call 303-759-3921 and I will check for you. Your club needs to be fully paid up on dues by 9/30/11 in order to achieve honor or distinguished club!!
- One final, very important report to go: The annual PRESIDENT'S PRIDE Report. Your president or secretary can fill this out on line at the Optimist Leaders web page for your club, or you can print it, fill it out and mail it in. It only takes a few minutes to fill out and it is your time to SHINE! Do this no later than September 30th.
- Special important note for Treasurers: Don't forget to file your 990EZ or 990N postcard report no later than February 15, 2012. You must do this filing to the IRS or you will lose your tax exempt status. If your club has income (receipts) of less than \$25,000, you can do the simple post card at: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

File online for free at: <http://efile.form990.org>. Watch the video to learn more. Thanks for all your support during the year, and remember: It's for the KIDS!!

new clubs in Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

Much was learned this year with respect to building new Optimist clubs.

To be successful, we all must "think out of the box" relative to the Optimist Club norm. No longer will we have the luxury of building new clubs that follow the paradigms of the past. We have to consider different club structures such as independent living facilities, corporate organizations, military installations, youth associates, law enforcement, fire departments, sports leagues and associations, automobile and/or motorcycle clubs, etc.

Above all, patience and persistence are essential in successful club building. Set a plan and stick to it will guarantee satisfactory results. Two specific suggestions to future club builders are:

1. Have the new club join the Chamber of Commerce in their area. The networking and visibility are invaluable;
2. Have at least two members from each sponsoring club join the new club. The experience in all facets of club operation must be brought to the new club to ensure success.

We know that Donna Priester and her team will capitalize on the momentum provided by our very successful year of new club building in the Colorado/Wyoming District.

It is the responsibility of all of us to guarantee the future of our organization and, more importantly, our mission to help the kids. You may check the OI web site for club building ideas, tools, kits, etc.

<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/newclub1.cf>

Greetings Fellow Optimists – I just had to take this opportunity to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for the very warm greetings, fellowship, and hospitality at your CO-WY District Convention in Breckenridge. I also have to mention the fun, fun, fun we all had.

As I said when I was there, I sensed, your District is "on fire" with Optimism! Your enthusiasm, excitement and dedication are very evident. You are doing a tremendous job for the Kids of Colorado-Wyoming. Keep it up – you have about a month left to finish the 2010-2011 Optimist year, and leave your District much stronger than when you began this year.

Congratulations for that The Kids of the Great Colorado-Wyoming are the real winners – thanks to all your hard work! But it is fun when you see the positive results too. I see your District as being one of the TOP ones in all of Optimist International this year and beyond. Governor Ron has set the bar for your Great District – more communities to serve more kids, serve – that's Optimism, that's what we are all about.



Your

"Cheesehead" Visitor

from Wisconsin,

Jim Kondrasuk, Optimist International Board Member

Jim Kondrasuk

Ps: Please come to Wisconsin next July for the 2012 Optimist International Convention, Jul 12-14, 2012. We do not have beautiful mountains, but we do have a GREAT LAKE – Milwaukee is on the shores of Lake Michigan! Come visit next summer

PERSONAL GROWTH & INVOLVEMENT (PGI)

As the 2010-2011 year comes to an end take time to reflect on those many accomplishments your club completed with your numerous

programs/projects. Understandably some of those programs/projects may not have gone as well as expected. As Optimists it's time to look at those programs/projects and decide which may be a thing of the past and bring new programs/projects into your club that will increase membership.

For those of you that were not able to attend the convention you missed out on great training for the Lt. Governor's and President's. This training was meant to energize incoming Lt. Governor's and President's to continue success in their respective clubs. It is important that all Lt. Governor's and President's that were unable to attend the convention to visit

www.optimistleaders.org and review their training requirements under Leadership Training. Most importantly let's bring optimism back to clubs. I will be continuing as the District Director of Personal Growth for 2011-2012, I look forward to assisting you to better understand Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI). My message is easy. If you don't have a PGI Passport contact your Lt. Governor or President and they will provide you with one. Now what do you do with it? I will continue to tell all Optimists that they are already doing PGI so why not help yourself to help your club. Take a few minutes, look at your Passport and you will notice you have completed many of the Levels. Involvement is important and with the many programs/projects you have in your club I can honestly say you are at least Level VI or V.

Talk with your Lt. Governor or President if you have completed Levels in your Passport and have one of



Larry Brown

them sign off on the Level. Remember Levels I thru VII can be signed off by the President or Secretary and Levels VIII thru X can be signed off by the Governor or Lt. Governor. The President will need to complete a Recognition Form and send it to the District Director of Personal Growth to process and send to Optimist International (OI). OI will return the approved level completed to the District Director who will mail to the President or present it to the recipient at a club meeting.

If you have any questions please contact me at slvrfox1940@comcast.net or call me at (719) 502-0752. If you would like me to visit your club in 2011-2012 please contact me so I can include you on my calendar.

OPTIMISTS ROCK WITH THE ATTENTION HOMES

Youth homelessness is a major problem in Boulder. This population is increasingly being recognized as a lost society. New shelter services at Attention Homes are helping troubled homeless teens move from the dangerous street life to a safe and permanent home.

Chairperson Madge Wright and member Dana Pakaimis from Central and East Optimist Clubs have stepped up to the plate to help where needed. The immediate demand was for warm clothes for the newly homeless kids. Most of the East and Central Optimist Club members have been daily clearing out their closets of warm jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves and boots to help Boulder's street kids from ages 13-18. These homeless teenagers were out living on the icy, cold, snow-covered streets with only jeans and sweatshirts.

In late December of 2010 a newly remodeled Attention Home was opened to the homeless kids enabling them to spend a night, shower and to sit down to a nourishing meal. It's heart-rending to actually witness homeless young kids out on the streets either by choice or thrown out to fend for themselves. Our motto - 'Optimists will rock with Attention Homes' continues to apply wherever we're needed.

MORE NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

The **Tamarac Optimist Club** is happy to announce their fourth annual "**Homespun Holiday Market**". This is the major fundraiser for the Tamarac Club. *All proceeds will benefit our club's local children's projects.*

Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 8 Cherry Hills Drive in Englewood, CO.

For more information or directions call Marilyn at 303-761-6983.

Items for sale will include holiday decorations, centerpieces, table runners, pillows, placemats, baked goods, food and drink mixes, photos, paintings and many, many other wonderful items to treasure or give as gifts! Cash or checks only....sorry no credit cards.

Hope to see you at our Homespun Holiday Market with your family and friends!

ESSAY CONTEST A SUCCESS!

"Inspiring!" "Not a dry eye in the house!" "Wow!" These were comments made after a long standing ovation upon hearing Co-Wy District Optimist Essay winner Thomas Price at the Third Quarter Conference dinner. Thomas was sponsored by the Colorado Springs Westside Optimist Club and is a junior at William J. Palmer High School. He competed against twenty-six clubs' entries, which represented a couple hundred essays initially submitted to local Colorado clubs.

The International official topic this year was "How my Education is the Key to a Successful Future." Unlike many entries,

Thomas' was extremely personal. He related how when he was seven he was identified with Asperger's Syndrome, and his parents were told that he'd be un-teachable...then how in fourth grade a teacher realized he was also gifted and extremely intelligent. With the "twice exceptional" designation and the help of his committed parents and educational team at school, he has a 3.9 gpa, has achieved Eagle Scout, started a film history club at school, will be next year's student body president, sits on a non-profit's board of directors, earned an internship at the Walt Disney museum in California, and many other achievements. "All this from a kid who wouldn't finish high school!"

Thomas will receive a \$2500 college scholarship from the Optimist International Foundation. He intends to study film history and museumology and at the minimum achieve a master's degree.

District Essay Chair Jean Shelton hopes that more clubs will participate next year. "Truly, you may get more out of reading some of these essays than the students get writing them! It is worth every bit of effort!

2011-2012 ESSAY

This year's essay topic is "How my Positive Outlook Benefits my whole Community." Please email District Chair Jean Shelton with Club Essay Chair information and information will be sent.

jshelto2010@yahoo.com<<mailto:jshelto2010@yahoo.com>>

“How my Optimism Helps me Overcome Obstacles”

.....is the topic for the **2011-2012 Oratorical Contest**. **Now** is the time for all Clubs to start to plan for this contest. How exciting it would be for your Club to have a District winner! I know that feeling, for the Optimist Club I belonged to before moving to Colorado had a District winner. Of course, I happened to be the Club's Chairman!!!! ☺

Today the District awards a \$2,500 scholarship to both the boy and girl winners. Go to Optimist International's website and download the rules. The maximum age of any contestant is that they must be under the age of 19 as of December 31, 2011.

All Club contests must be completed no later than March 31, 2012. Per District Policy an entry fee of \$20.00, per entrant, shall be paid to the District by all Clubs sponsoring a contestant to the Zone Contest.

NOW is the time to contact schools in your area both public and charter.

Help a student in your community have a chance to earn a \$2,500 scholarship.

If you have any questions, contact your Lt Governor or me:

Steve Gorrell
District Chairman
303-920-2366
sgorrell1@yahoo.com

Annual Convention ROCKS in Breckenridge!

By Abigail Nicholas

It is a pleasure to report on this Optimist year's annual convention. A great time was had by almost 120 people in the historic town of Breckenridge starting on Friday, August 26th. If you were one of the folks that arrived on Thursday, the 25th then you were welcomed by me and my husband, Kent, at our Breckenridge home just east of town. Tasty appetizers were brought by those in attendance and wine and other beverages warmed our tummies. We then carpooled down to Main Street for dinner at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurant (remember the movie "Forrest Gump?"). Yum!

Friday was the first official day of registration for the convention. Training for incoming Lt. Governors was held in the afternoon. Then the Executive Board Meeting convened later in the afternoon. During the day the Exhibits Room was open with lots of great info on display from various clubs.

Put on your poodle skirt and roll up the hem on your jeans, girls and boys! And that is just what we did on Friday evening as we all met up at "The Legends Diner" for the evening. The Spruce room at the hotel was transformed into the "Diner" and we munched on good old-fashioned diner food – hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, fries and milkshakes. Double yum! After dinner the bobbysoxers in attendance were wowed by the talents of none other than ELVIS, PATSY CLINE, ROY ORBISON, and MARILYN MONROE! There was a lot of shakin' goin' on at the dance floor as Optimists were entertained with 50's and 60's tunes by the performers.

Tip jars that had been set out by the tribute artists raised \$338.00 to be split between the OI Foundation and the Childhood Cancer Campaign.

Saturday morning began with the annual Governor's Roast breakfast. Although this Optimist was not in attendance I heard many stories about how much fun this event was for everyone. There was much laughter, surprises and, yes, some tears of joy as well. Governor Ron was properly roasted, toasted and felt the love from all in attendance!

The general board meeting and convention session followed the Roast. Then training sessions began for President-Elects, Secretary /Treasurer-Elects and continued for incoming Lt. Governors.

Saturday's lunch event included our Keynote speaker, Jim Kondrasuk, one of our OI Directors.

We also saw awards presented to deserving individuals and clubs in many categories. The MC for the lunch flavored the event with info on Colorado's and Wyoming's state symbols and songs. Once again the food was great...the soup and salad bar were perfect with brownies and cookies the size of Frisbees to top it off.

Program Ideas to Jump Start Your Year". Also, a well-attended discussion took place in the afternoon called "How to Keep Optimism Alive (when pessimism tries to sneak in!!)". I know this "reporter" came away with some good, useful ideas so I am sure those that were there did as well.

Spouses, guests, and some Optimists were treated to a fun afternoon with First Lady Linda McDonald as they took a guided walking tour of Breckenridge. They enjoyed a High Tea to round out their afternoon adventure.

Saturday evening had everyone dressing in their finery for the annual Installation Banquet. Beautiful dresses, tasteful tuxedos and good looking suits could be seen as we gathered for the cocktail hour at 5:30 pm. The processional of outgoing and incoming officers and Lt. Governors was followed with a very tasty dinner. Our OI Director, Jim Kondrasuk, spoke to us again and handled the installation of the new officers and Lt. Governors. There were speeches from the new Governor Elect, Phil Perington and Governor Designate, Donna Priester. Our current leader, Ron Benson, had several presentations to make. With his lovely First Lady Linda these were taken care of amidst lots of applause for the many hard-working volunteers that had worked so hard over the past year. Special awards were given to Warren Fair for his many years of being the conference/convention Registrar and to Don and Charlene St. John for their years of service as the Sergeant of Arms.

Saturday evening wrapped up in the Hospitality Suite which was under careful direction of our Hospitality Chair, Kathy Sullivan and her committee. There were lots of good munchies, drinks and, most importantly, great camaraderie.

On the last morning of the convention we were served up pancakes baked on the griddle by former district governors. They're not bad as short order cooks! Governor Ron led the final Business Session and convention wrap-up. Governor Designate, Donna Priester, hosted a team building event including lunch in the afternoon. Attendees were back home safe and sound by Sunday evening.

The 2010-2011 Convention was a first class success!

\$500 DONATED FOR ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Kohl's through **Heather Garden's Luncheon Optimist Club**: This project was to empower five Kohl's employees from one store to donate five hours of their time for children in the community. Elizabeth Larsen, empowered the five to help judge the **Oratorical Contest at Prairie Middle School**. This was fun for them and we were to receive \$500.00 from **Kohl's Department Store** for a community project. It took 5 months to complete the deal after the assistance of Sherman Phillips, and Shenita Taylor from **OI Foundation** to close the deal.

The funds were sent to **Heather Gardens Luncheon Optimist Club** and the treasure wrote a check to Colorado Wyoming District for the amount of \$500 for Scholarships for the District Oratorical Contest which also was over by the dead line, therefore the funds will be used for 2012 District Oratorical Scholarships.

After receiving the money from **OI Foundation**, **OIF** expected a final accounting of where the funds went and who received them, and were they used for the purpose which was stated in the Pass Through application. Follow up paper work was received and the Treasurer of the

Colorado Wyoming District now has the money in special fund marked for **Oratorical Scholarships**.

After the follow up paper work was completed, I called Shenita and made sure all was in order on what we asked for and what we received to finalized the deal for just enough. **Thanks for such generosity from Kohl's and the Assistant Manager, Jennifer, for their assistance.**

Elizabeth Larsen, President
Heather Gardens Luncheon Optimist Club.

COLORADO/WYOMING FOURTH QUARTER CONFERENCE HONOREES August 26, 2011

PROGRAM OF THE QUARTER:

Lake Arbor Optimist Club-Refurbished bicycles program

President: Neal Blythe

Promoting and assisting with the CCDHH program

Al Shea & Theresa Null, Westside Optimist Club

PROJECT OF THE QUARTER:

Tamarac Club "Pen Pal Project" President: Jeannette Thompson

CLUB OF THE QUARTER:

Westminster Optimist Club President: Sue Hartman

Tamarac Optimist Club President: Jeanette Thompson

ROOKIE OF THE QUARTER:

George Olfiesh Lakewood Luncheon Optimist Club

Gerry Murphy Westside Optimist Club

MEMBER OF THE QUARTER:

Ralph Dergance Littleton Breakfast Optimist Club

Steve Selle Lake Arbor Optimist Club

CPA Book Update: Clubs need to get their CPA book in by Sept 30, 2011 to our Chairperson:
Charlie Neumann 4473 S. Granby Ct/Aurora CO 80015 Questions: 303 766-9649 email:
neumann-charlie@comcast.net

Winner's will be notified at 1st Quarter Conference Oct 27-30

Winning book will be sent on to OI for judging at the International level

Greg Young has 3 ring binders available. CPA binders are no longer required by OI

Scrapbooks: Please have your book at the 1st Quarter Conference on Oct 27 for judging

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS CO/WY DISTRICT 2011-2012

Gov. Donna Priester and the Recognition Team have created the following categories to recognize and honor our fellow members and clubs. One winner will be selected from each category and recognized at the District meetings and Convention. We suggest that the club pay for their lunch and dinner for their honoree if selected.

The honoree will receive the following:

- Optimist Pen
- Two movie tickets for a fun evening out

The Club being honored will receive the following:

- A \$25.00 Donation will be sent to the OI Foundation in their name

Deadline Dates & Criteria

For your Club or Honoree to be nominated the "Nomination Form," available on the District website, must be sent to Charlie Neumann by mail or email. 4473 S. Granby Ct/Aurora, CO 80015

Email: neumann-charlie@comcast.net

1 st Quarter Conference	Oct 27- 30 2011	Deadline: Oct 17, 2011
2 nd Quarter Conference	Feb 10- 12 2012	Deadline: Jan 23, 2012
3 rd Quarter Conference	May 4- 6 2012	Deadline: Apr 23, 2012
Convention	Aug 23- 26 2012	Deadline: Aug 13, 2012

Optimist of the Quarter-A member who has shown their dedication and commitment to their Club and their community

Optimist Rookie of the Quarter-A new member of one year or less that embraced Optimism and exhibited outstanding volunteerism

Optimist Club of the Quarter-A Club that has completed an outstanding project, added new members or completed a successful fundraising project

Optimist Program of the Quarter-A Club project that has benefited the kid's in their community must be completed in the quarter

Optimist FOO of the Quarter-A FOO member that has stepped up their commitment and is dedicated to the success of their club

Any questions regarding the categories please contact Mrs. Charlie Neumann at:

303 766-9649 neumann-charlie@comcast.net

4473 S. Granby Ct/Aurora CO 80015

Thank you!

Charlie Neumann/Chairperson

ALSO: DON'T FORGET TO STRIVE TO MEET YOUR HONOR CLUB REQUIEMENTS AS POSTED BY OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL AT THIS LINK: http://www.optimist.org/recognition/recog_2012.cfm

JUST ENOUGH

The Heather Gardens Luncheon Optimist Club did **JUST ENOUGH** to close the 20 year old Optimist Club. For several years we have present four schools with Optimist International Pocket Dictionaries. This year alone we presented three schools 236 dictionaries to third graders, Yale, Century and Jewell Elementary Schools. After many years we are still being appreciated for our generosity. Century Elementary School for many years has received our Citizenship and Responsibility certificates. This year we presented 65 such awards and the smiles were just enough for us to appreciate what our Club sponsored. Aspen Crossing Elementary School appreciated our volunteering to help with their Scholastics Book Fair. Ten years of reading to Kindergarten students at Summit Elementary School started when our grandson, who is now in college, was only a 3rd grader and he would come to find Charles & Elizabeth Larsen just to see if he could help read to them. This was enough for us be appreciated, as well as all of the hugs and "Thank you's" from the staff during volunteer appreciation recognition, which was just enough for us.

Elizabeth Larsen, President
Heather Garden's Luncheon Optimist Club

The Club Penny Jar money and other money will go for Childhood Cancer.

The Colorado-Wyoming Optimist Brain Bowl

.....will be bigger and better than ever in 2012 and we need your help – particularly as club budget time approaches for the new Optimist year.

It takes tremendous volunteer participation from so many clubs in our district as well as their financial contributions to make such a large project so successful. In 2011 for instance, nearly 400 volunteers supported 1250+ 6th, 7th and 8th graders from 249 teams who competed in the three regional events. Twenty-two Optimist clubs in our district wrote checks to the Brain Bowl and at least another dozen other clubs also participated.

In 2012, we intend to debut a much-requested championship event in which the top teams from each of the North, Central and South region events will compete for statewide honors. This will require more volunteers and funds, of course, so please be generous in both. Our projected expenses are a little over \$25,000 against projected income of about \$23,500.

The dates for the 2012 events:

- **North Region, Jan. 21, Monarch High School, Louisville**
- **Central Region, Feb. 4, Heritage High School, Littleton**
- **South Region, Feb. 25, site TBA**
- **Championship, March 3, site TBA**

Details will be available later. Meanwhile, visit www.optimistbrainbowl.org to see what it's all about and keep an eye on that website as 2012 information is loaded there this fall.

Please watch also for a newsletter from me in the fall seeking volunteer sign-ups. As the event grows, it is essential that we know who to expect for each Brain Bowl event so we can plan accordingly to fill the reader, timekeeper, scorekeeper, runner and other positions that are so vital to our success. Please don't just show up.

On behalf of co-chairs Connie Ackerman and Rich Urbanowski and the other members of the organizing committee, thanks for your support for the Brain Bowl over the years. Here's to a wonderful Brain Bowl in 2012. Send donation checks to me:

Paul Simon, Optimist Brain Bowl
4123 S. Newport Way, Denver 80237.
Email me at paul4123@comcast.net.

HOPE for CHILDREN

The children with cancer and their families send a huge thank you to the Optimist Club of Wheat Ridge. Under the leadership of President Charles Ault, Wheat Ridge Club contributed a most generous donation of \$1,000 to OI Childhood Cancer. 75% of childhood cancer is curable, using molecularly targeted therapies with virtually no side effects.

The children and families at Brent's Place send a huge thank you to the Optimist Club of Lakewood Breakfast. Under the leadership of the Honorable President Sherman Phillips, Lakewood Breakfast contributed a generous gift of \$300 to Brent's Place. Brent's Place, near Children's Hospital is A Haven of Hope. Brent's Place is a Home for our kids with cancer and their families enabling children and families to stay for free in a place full of rainbows. www.brentsplace.org.

Thank you to the 68 Optimists of the Optimist CO Wyoming District who contributed to the Ducky Derby held in Breckenridge at the Convention. Thank you from the kids to the Optimists who donated \$596.00 for the Optimist Research Fellowship in Pediatric Oncology. Many thank to contributions from Boulder Central of \$200; Denver Tech\$200; Monaco South \$700; Windsor Gardens \$300. Thank you to other clubs who are still fund raising to contribute to CCC.

CO Wyoming contributions to **OIF CCC** as of August 28, 2011, grand total **=\$3755**
We set a goal to continue to bring awareness and hope through the OI CCC program.
Submitted by Dottie Jefferies, District Chair of the Childhood Cancer Campaign



Get Ready to Celebrate!

The Cheyenne Optimist Club was declared an official "Pilot Club" by Ronald Cisco, Field Representative for OI at the Formal Organizational Meeting on July 13th, 2011. Ron moderated the induction and pledge for 19 charter members. The meeting took place at the Historical Plains Hotel in downtown Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The Co/Wy District was well represented by Gov. Ron Benson and Community Development Chair, Ralph Dergance. The sponsoring club was represented by Jeanette Thompson, Pres. Of Tamarac Optimist, Abigail Nicholas, Tamarac Board member & District Advisor to the Gov., Kathy Sullivan, Tamarac Club & District Hospitality Chair, and Dottie Jefferies, Tamarac Club & District CCC Chair.

The slate of officers was presented and approved by unanimous vote.

Connie Lester-President

Susan Barney-Treasurer

Phil McGovern- VP

Bradley Frey-Secretary

Dominic Latham-VP

Sharon Roberts Meyers-Program & Fundraising

The Charter/Installation Celebration will be held Sept. 7th at the Plains Hotel.

Ron Benson planted the seed for the new club in February and many Wyoming residences have been instrumental in bringing this club to fruition. Thanks to the mayor Rick Kaysen, Ruby Hernandez, Chamber of Commerce Representative, Kristen Skovira KGWN TV, Dr. Terry Kinney, Assistant Superintendent for Laramie School District 1 for their help and insight in forming the new club. A special thank you to Connie Lester. She not only provided the location, cookies and drinks, but mostly she brought her enthusiasm and energy so that the Cheyenne Optimist Club can "Bring out the Best in Kids"!

Submitted by Jeanette Thompson

Sponsor President, Tamarac Optimist Club

SOAR TO THE TOP

The Academy Optimist Club celebrated the second anniversary of its youth recognition and fund raiser program on Friday August 26th. The event was directed at the youngsters in our community who have been involved in significant volunteer activity in their neighborhoods. Thanks to the **Pikes Peak Cog Railway**, we have been provided with an entire passenger train that goes all the way to the top of Pike Peak and affords these kids with an experience that many just dream about. During the trip members of the Academy Optimist Club take time to honor each young person with a Certificate and a gift and publicly express appreciation for their efforts.

Funds are raised by members of the club to pay for the seats on the train. This year we sold 5 seat packages for \$100 and the buyer either came along for the ride or contributed the paid ticket to the club to give to the youth. We also took some of the tickets that were paid for and gave them to the local Childhood Cancer Clinic and to the Ronald McDonald House for their use. All in all, most of the tickets were paid for and the train was expected to be full for the trip. A unique method of selling the tickets evolved due to a suggestion from our Public Relations Chair, **Liz Shaw**, who came up with the idea that our members contact their friends and families to make a contribution. Using this idea we had contributions from far and wide, Alaska to Florida and Virginia to California, even Canada got involved in the opportunity to help honor these young people. Comments like, "such a wonderful way to support our youth" and "I wish we could be there to see their expressions when the train leaves the station" were common.

Submitted by: **Joe Priester**, AOC Board Member and Past CO/WY Governor

Optimist Club Fundraiser!!!

Spread the Word!

Fellow Optimists... the club is please to offer a fund raising trip to Blackhawk, specifically to the Isle Casino, on Sunday, September 25th! If you have an Isle or Lady Luck club card, please include that number with your check/Optimist account. If you do not have an Isle or Lady Luck club care, the casino will need your full legal name, mailing address, and full date of birth to make sure you are at least 21 years old!!! Right on!!! The deadline is September 16 so don't wait until the last minute!!!!

Optimistically Yours,

Harvey Nakayama

Mile-Hi Optimist of Denver

Thanks to All the Great Optimists of the Colorado/Wyoming District. If you would like to submit articles &/or photographs for future District Newsletters, email me at LizCSprings@gmail.com or ALS02@Comcast.net

Sincerely;

Liz Shaw

Newsletter Editor, The Colorado Wyoming Optimist District

COLORADO/WYOMING DISTRICT of OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
1st Quarter Conference, OCTOBER 28-30, 2011 – COLORADO SPRINGS MARRIOTT HOTEL
OFFICIAL NOTICE AND CALL FOR MEETING

The First Quarter Meeting is being held in the Governor's home city of Colorado Springs to give everyone a chance to get the necessary training/inspiration they need and want for the coming year. Club Presidents will be inspired by our Regional Vice President Patsy Garner and her husband Ken, who are Certified International Trainers.

We will begin on Friday afternoon at 4:30 with the Executive Board meeting for the Lt. Governors and other officers and interested members. Our Dutch-Treat dinner on Friday night is at the Hogan (6:30 PM) and will feature the Governor and our Official Optimist International Representatives, Ken and Patsy Garner.

On Saturday morning at 7:30 AM Registration will continue and there will be coffee and pastries available in the "Brag Room". At 8:30 AM the District Board meeting commences for Presidents, Lt. Governors, and other members of the Board. All Optimists are welcome. See the Agenda for other wonderful events happening on Saturday.

Entertainment at dinner on Saturday night will be provided by a group of young people. We will also be inspired by our OI Vice President, Patsy Garner, as she cheers us on for Optimism and kids.

Be sure to attend the Hospitality Suite for "story telling" and camaraderie later that evening.

Attendance at the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday and Sunday morning is vital. **The voting members of the Board include all club Presidents (or their delegate) and the members of the District Executive Committee.** This venue is where the business of the District takes place and votes are taken. All Optimists are invited to attend and provide active discussion so that the Board will know where you stand on vital issues.

Without your input the District may end up going in a direction that the members do not support. Be there to be part of the solution.

Sunday breakfast will have a special young student who will give his thoughts on "How Optimists Help Youth!"

The Optimist International President's theme is, "100% and Then Some", and the Colorado/Wyoming District theme is "Fly to the Top". We will begin our "flight" at this conference and all the year's activities will incorporate the hearty enthusiasm that these themes provide. See you there!!

Yours in Optimism,

Donna Priester

2011-12 Governor Designate

AGENDA

Friday, Oct. 28th

4:30 PM Executive Board Meeting – (District Officers, Lt. Governors, and other interested Optimist members.)

6:30 PM Dutch Treat Dinner (The Hogan) Meet at 6:15 in the Lobby to carpool.

Saturday, Oct. 29th

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM Registration (no charge)

7:30 AM - Coffee and Pastries will be available in the "Brag" Room.

Bring project or fundraising ideas to share on tables in the "Brag Room".

Scrapbooks should also be dropped off for judging and sharing in that room

8:30AM District Board Meeting (District Officers, Lt. Governors, Presidents, and other interested members should attend.) Presidents, Lt. Governors, and other District board members are the only voting members, but all are welcome.

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM:

-Club Administrative Conference – Presidents and OI Trainers

-Governor and Lt. Governors Planning Time

-First Dude Joe leads interested teammates and members to the Colorado Springs Fines Arts Center Tour. A Special price of \$3.50 has been negotiated, payable on Saturday. **Please contact Joe at joepriester@hotmail.com if attending.**

-Meet and greet with Committee Chairs and other members in the "Brag Room".

11:45 AM Luncheon – Optimism for Optimists!!

-Goals presented by Governor Donna and Team

-Brief talk by Ken Garner (OI Trainer)

1:00 PM – 4:30PM: Club Administrative Conference Continues for Presidents with OI Trainers.

1:00PM-2:00 PM "Let People See Who We Are": A time to learn how to bring out the best in Optimist events through Photography!! Our presenter is Holly Garlow, an art educator and photography artist. Her photographs have been in shows throughout the Colorado art scene. We will talk about presenting Optimists to our communities in an exciting and positive light.

1:00PM-2:00PM "Computer Basics" and how to utilize technology for Optimism. Nicole Powell will be discussing and working with those who would like to become more computer savvy! If you have a computer that will travel, bring it. If not we will have a few that we can share.

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15PM – 3:15 PM "What Kids are We Missing?" A time to look at our communities and see how we can expand projects that we are working on now, create new ones to involve more/new kids, or help start new clubs to meet the needs of kids in our areas that we can't help! Let's Explore!!

2:15PM-3:15PM "Extreme Optimism without Getting Hurt"! Here we will explore what is happening in our Clubs, Communities, Kids Groups/Schools, and District in the area of Optimism! We will have some specifics to help clubs develop Optimism to the "extreme"!! Come have some fun!!

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30-4:00 Roundup (Hit Me With Your Best Shot) Wrap up with Governor Donna, VP Patsy Garner, and Past OI Board member, Ken Garner

As you can see in our offerings this weekend, you need to bring club members to cover all the areas that will enhance your Club's growth and excitement! Think about it and encourage members to attend!

5:30PM-6:30PM - Social hour: Cash Bar

6:30PM- Dinner with Special entertainment by: Students of Irish Dance and a special message of Optimism from Vice President Patsy Garner.

The Hospitality Suite will be open after dinner for camaraderie and "storytelling" and a chance to meet new people!

Sunday, October 30th

8:15 AM – 8:45AM Ecumenical Reflection and Prayer – Chaplain Charles Larson

9:00 AM-10:30 AM Breakfast

Wrap up of Conference and any Board Business

Speakers: Sean Weller – Junior at Air Academy High School: "Optimism: How it has affected my life through HOBY, Oratorical Contests, and Essay Contests."

Patsy and Ken Garner – Remarks **Presidents:** This is a special time for you!! Ken and Patsy are wonderful leaders and inspire all Presidents to create Clubs that will bring Optimism, Hope, and Vision to their members and to their community.



**CO/WYO DISTRICT 25
1st Quarter Conference
Marriott, Colo. Sprgs.
October 28-30, 2011**

The First Quarter Board Meeting and Conference will be held at the **Marriott Hotel**, 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO. Please book your room for Friday and Saturday nights directly at: www.marriott.com/cosmc (group code: cwocwoa) or by calling: **1-719-260-1800** **Deadline for discount is Oct 12th to get the great \$89.00 rate for a standard room.**

Friday, October 28

Dutch Treat Dinner – Johnny’s Navajo Hogan, 2817 N. Nevada Ave.

If you would like to carpool, meet in the hotel lobby at 6:15 p.m.

Attending # _____

Saturday, October 29

Breakfast (*on your own* – Coffee & Pastries in the “Brag” Room)

Lunch \$18.00 + \$1.33 tax + \$3.96 service charge = \$23.29 (The District will pay \$2.29 of the service charge, You pay only \$21)

Attending # _____ **\$** _____

Chicken Club: succulent breast of chicken with bacon, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato & lemon aioli on a Kaiser roll with fresh fruit cup and cookie.

OR

Attending # _____ **\$** _____

Asian Wonton Chicken Salad: field greens, grilled chicken breast, mandarin oranges, toasted almonds, water chestnuts and Thai dressing.

Dinner \$38.00 + \$2.81 tax + \$8.36 service charge = \$49.17 (The District will pay \$4.17 of the service charge, You pay only \$45)

Fresh Herb Crusted Chicken Breast with a Pinot Noir-Glace, **or** **Attending #** _____ **\$** _____

Fresh Salmon filet with Horseradish & Bread Crumb Lemon Sauce **Attending #** _____ **\$** _____

Each Entre’ served with : Boston salad of Bibb lettuce, arugula, a poached pear, bleu cheese and candied walnuts with red wine vinaigrette, chef’s choice of starch and vegetable, artisan rolls and butter, freshly brewed coffee or iced tea plus a carrot cake dessert.

Partner Event with First Dude Joe Priester: Tour of the C.S. Fine Arts Center \$3.50 **Attending #** _____ **\$** _____

Sunday, October 30

Breakfast \$17.00 + \$1.26 tax + \$3.74 Service Charge = \$22.00 (The District will pay \$2.00 of the Service charge, you pay only \$20)

Attending # _____ **\$** _____

Frittata; baked soufflé with smoked bacon and Swiss cheese plus seasoned breakfast potatoes, Coffee, Tea and Juice

Meal reservations are due no later than October 14th, please.

TOTAL Due: \$ _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

FIRST TIMER? _____

Optimist Club: _____

Position (i.e., President, LT Gov. if applicable): _____

Mail check, payable to **Colo/Wyo Optimists** and send with this form to:

Carol Brown, AOC Treasurer

4748 Splendid Circle North, Colorado Springs, CO 80917 (719)380-1485