

CO/WY Optimist District 2nd Quarter Newsletter 2013-2014

December 2013

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District Officers

- ◆ Governor: Bob Hartwig
Loveland Breakfast
- ◆ Governor-Elect: Abigail Nicholas
Tamarac
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Michener
Greeley
- ◆ Immediate Past Gov.: Phil Perington
Monaco South
- Lt. Governors**
- ◆ Zone 1: Steve Armfield
Loveland Breakfast
- ◆ Zone 2: Rob Kelley
Ft Morgan Sunrise
- ◆ Zone 3: Charlie Pease
Loveland Breakfast
- ◆ Zone 4: Dennis Hutton
Buena Vista
- ◆ Zone 5 & 6: Unassigned
TBD
- ◆ Zone 7: Paul Simon
Monaco South
- ◆ Zone 8: Curt Merrill
Denver Tech Center
- ◆ Zone 9: Michael Chavez
Monaco South
- ◆ Zone 10: Shannon Richter
Pueblo
- ◆ Zone 11: Sherman Phillips, Dakota
Ridge

Governor's Corner



Gov. Bob Hartwig

AN-TI-CI-PA-TION

All of us have anticipations of where we'd like to be at various stages of our lives. But not all of us really have a clear idea of how to get there. Thinking about our goals is necessary to form a picture of what the end result will be like. Thinking about them is a key to making them happen. And the best way to do that is to use words: action words.

Once in a while it is fun to play around with some of the bigger words, especially those with alliterative sounds. Here are a few as they especially pertain to Optimism.

ATTITUDE: Optimists are generally the most positive people in the world. Their optimistic spirit brings out the best attitudes among themselves and others and that results in great things being accomplished. Even one of our Optimist mottos talks about bringing out the best in kids. Having an upbeat, optimistic attitude gives a person that feeling that whatever happens, it will come out all right. That's

seeking the best for both others and for you.

EXPECTATION: The optimistic feeling and confidence that your efforts will result in good things can be a bit altruistic at times, but generally is tempered with a dose of realism. The more, and longer, that one is alive, one can see that it takes goal setting and hard work to achieve those goals. But, nevertheless, one needs to keep setting goals, especially when one seeks to help others, which is the Optimistic way.

ACTION: The setting of clear goals can give one a better expectation of where one seeks to go. But, the only way to achieve those goals is to have an action plan. Without an action plan, one cannot reach out to work your plan. Nor, to take the many steps to achieve that plan. All of us talk about what we'd like to achieve, but not all of us get there. Too many distractions along the way.

ASSOCIATION: We as members of a district of Optimist International have formed an association of like-minded people who set out to achieve the goal of helping others, especially

See Governor's Corner page 2

Second Quarter Conference

Official Notice of Meeting

The Optimists will be meeting again at the famous Stanley Hotel, filled with madcap adventures and camaraderie extraordinaire. We are planning some interactive and growth oriented Sessions along with a couple of hands on crowd participation events throughout the day.

**Stanley Hotel - Estes Park, CO
333 East Wonderview Avenue
Estes Park, CO 80517**



February 14th – 16th, 2014

Please call the hotel at 970-577-4040 for reservations. Ask for the group rate for standard rooms of \$115 under CO-WY Optimist District Conference. Deadline is January 15, 2014.

See Conference Agenda & Registration Form page 10 & 11



Governor's Corner Continued

the youth of our communities throughout Wyoming and Colorado. Our association needs us to be strong and to work together in many ways to achieve our common goal. It is only when we do that with a single purpose in mind that we are able to find success. Many times, that success is simply having put a smile on the face of a child or young person.

In the latter stages of one's life, we can seek two phases: generativity and legacy. With a tip of my hat to the psychologist, Erik Erikson, these latter phases can be described as:

1) generativity — bringing to the next generation many of the skills and experiences that we ourselves have learned or experienced so that succeeding generations are able to use the collective wisdom that has been learned by us and our ancestors to their benefit; and 2) legacy — this is the “fun” part—seeking to find out what we ourselves will leave to others. Some seek to have monuments to their lives; many just wish to leave the world a better place for us having been here. Choose which one you'd like to leave. For most of us, helping the youth of our neighborhoods is what we want to have done.

APPRECIATION: We have much to be thankful for: meeting new people, sharing our experiences, inviting them to join with us as Optimists, and encouraging them to work with us for our kids. Yes, they are our kids in the greater sense of the word. We also have many good times together, especially at the off-site conferences and the annual convention.

Fun and fellowship abounds at these meetings, where we renew old friendships, greet acquaintances, and exchange ideas and experiences. Yes, there are opportunities to gain leadership skills, find new and better ways of running our local clubs and being motivated by others to continue our hard work.

Please join us at our next conference: February 14-16, 2014 at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park. (Registration form attached.) You will see and experience for yourselves the fellowship, appreciation, and thanks from fellow Optimists.

REMUNERATION: A funny term to many it means only financial compensation. But, there are many, many other ways to be rewarded—the regard of your fellow Optimists, the aforementioned “putting a smile on the face of a child,” the respect of peers in your communities—both local and district-wide, and the feeling of a job well done, regardless of the cost (time, effort, or funds).

Periodically, our district runs into a rough patch where our expenses push our limited revenues to a time of tightness. We are now once again in one of those times. We have sufficient funds for our customary operations, but are not able to fully reimburse many officers, chairs and other leaders for all of their expenses, in particular for attendance at the quarterly conferences and the convention. We appreciate your willingness to understand where we now are. We do need your attendance and support of these activities for without that participation, they could not happen. There are few venues where meetings of this type can be held and they are becoming even more expensive to conduct. Only if the district is able to gather together quarterly are we able to develop stronger ties among our members.

Through the efforts of several people over the past year, we are now able to start a “Club Scholarship Fund” which will provide scholarship funds from fundraising projects at the conferences and convention to worthy club officers and leaders to help offset the cost of their attendance and participation at these events. More details will be available soon.

As always, your continuing support of the District and its leadership team is greatly appreciated. It is a never-ending challenge (thankfully) to be able to work together for our kids. They are our future and deserve to have the best help they can receive from us.

Sis Boom Bah! Go Team! Yea Teammates!

Thanks, Gov. Bob Hartwig

Please note the Change in Newsletter Delivery, see article on page 8.

Learning is Great!! Let's Go! By Donna Priester

It seems almost impossible to see that another December has rolled around and another year is almost upon us!! 2014 should be a great year and one that will ask us what we want to accomplish and where we want to go as Optimists. I would love to come talk to your club about the “Personal Growth and Involvement Program” (PGI) and how it can develop Leadership in your club and in your community.

This is a program that does more than develop Optimism — it develops your personal self-confidence. My Club dedicates one meeting a month on topics found in the PGI Program and we have seen people accept new challenges as leaders in all areas of their lives. Not only does our club reap the benefits,

but also we hear stories of how this “personal growth” carries over into work, family, church, and other areas of involvement. Our members are not afraid to share new ideas and step up to make things happen. I hope that you will consider looking at this program as a club, but if you personally would like to become involved, I would love to help you get started and cheer you along.

Please contact me for more information and the “how to's”! Can't wait to see what 2014 will bring in the area of opportunities!

Donnapriester@hotmail.com or phone 719-590-1217.

The Brain Bowl is Coming! The Brain Bowl is Coming! By Paul Simon

It's that time again – to sign up as a volunteer for the Colorado-Wyoming Optimist Brain Bowl and for clubs to contribute to this great event for middle-grade students. Our theme this year is “The Big Brain Theory.”

It takes your volunteer participation from so many clubs in our district as well as club financial contributions to make such a large project successful. In 2013 for instance, nearly 400 volunteers from about 35 Optimist clubs supported 1250+ 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from



Central Region Optimist Brain Bowl, at Overland High School.

Photo Don StJohn

some 250 teams who competed in the three regional events and our first-ever championship event. Two dozen Optimist clubs in our district wrote checks to the Brain Bowl.

The dates for the 2014 events (all Saturdays):

- North Region, Jan. 11, Standley Lake High School, Westminster
- Central Region, Feb. 1, Heritage High School, Littleton
- South Region, Feb. 8, Carson Middle School, Colorado Springs
- Championship, Feb. 22, Hamilton Middle School, Denver

Visit www.optimistbrainbowl.org to see what it's all about and for more details!

These events run smoother when we know how many and which volunteers to expect, so please make sure to let us know if you are coming. The best way is for clubs to circulate signup sheets at their meetings (be sure to specify

which events you will be attending) with name, phone numbers and email addresses. We need readers, timekeepers, scorekeepers, runners and others. Please don't just show up. Family members and friends are welcome to volunteer as well.

Please send non-reader volunteer information to me, Paul Simon, at paul4123@comcast.net. Checks made out to the Optimist Brain Bowl should be mailed to me at 4123 S. Newport Way, Denver, CO 80237.

Please send reader information to Karl Geil at karl_geil@prodigy.net. He previously email past readers; dates for reader training are listed under the Volunteers > Readers tab on www.optimistbrainbowl.org. All readers regardless of experience are required to attend a reader training.

Gear Up for Tri-Star Basketball in 2014 By Jack Rife

For the past 20 years the Colorado/Wyoming District has sponsored the Tri-Star Basketball Competition (TSBB) - and 2014 will be no exception. Tri-Star is a competition for boys and girls age 8 to 13 and consists of shooting, passing, and dribbling skills. Kids are given a score based on their expertise and the top 3 winners in each age/gender class are given winner recognition.

Starting in January of each year, individual clubs sponsor local competitions and their 36 winners are invited to compete in a Regional Competition. In 2013 - only 14 clubs in the District held local competitions. This number is down from 20 clubs in previous years. This year the TSBB committee members (see below) want to increase the number of clubs participating because if the decline continues, our 20+ year competition will be in jeopardy!

Please join us to give kids in your area the thrill of competing and having a chance to be invited to a Regional and then on to our Finals Competition, which is held in conjunction with a Nuggets Game! This year's Regional Competitions will be held in mid-March - probably the weekends of March 15 and 22. The Finals will be on April 12 and our winning kids will be introduced to the crowd at the Nuggets game that night.

Dribbling Competition on the floor of the Pepsi Center before hundreds of parents and friends.

All Club Presidents will receive a mailing in December detailing this coming year's competition. If your club has sponsored a local competition before, you know the system and we encourage your participation again. If your club has sponsored a competition before but quit for some reason, we sincerely

invite you back and are prepared to assist you in any way. And if your club has never sponsored TSBB but feel your club might have interest, call one of the coordinators listed below. We would be happy to come to your club and talk about how you could get involved in this worthwhile sporting event for kids.

⇒ **Phil White** – Greeley Optimist Club - (970) 330-4016 - phil955@frii.net

⇒ **Jack Rife** – Monaco South Optimist Club – (303) 756-8042 - rifedvm@msn.com

⇒ **Ron Benson** – Wheatridge Optimist Club - (303) 423-2249 - ronbenson777@q.com

⇒ **Kevin Keilbach** – Pueblo Optimist Club - (719) 429-7965 - kevin.keilbach@hubinternational.com

⇒ **Michael Chavez** - Monaco South Optimist Club - (303) 960-5304 - mikeart9@gmail.com



Dribbling Competition on the floor of the Pepsi Center before hundreds of parents and friends.

Sunrise Optimist Club of Fort Morgan by Debby Gachne

The Sunrise Optimist Club of Fort Morgan will hold their Eighth Annual Brain Bowl on February 1, 2014 at Fort Morgan high School in Fort Morgan, Colorado. An invitation to participate has been sent to schools in northeastern Colorado. There are two divisions of team competition; a combined third and fourth grade team and a combined fifth and sixth grade team. Teams consist of up to five members. All teams compete in a written round and four rounds of oral competition.

All rounds consist of 30 questions per round. Scores from the preliminary rounds are totaled to determine the top two teams at each grade level. The number of total points is the key element, not head to head competition. These teams advance to the final round in the afternoon. Teams compete for the traveling trophy and individual medals.

We hope to have at least 18 teams in each division compete in the 2014 Brain Bowl. Our club relies upon volunteers from the community and Sunrise Optimist Club members to help with the success of the event. These volunteers include the Optimist Club of Fort Morgan (Evening Optimists), Morgan Community College, spouses, co-workers, and friends. The Brain Bowl is always an exciting, challenging, and fun event for the students and adults. For more information, **Debby Gachne**, dgachne@kci.net, or Susan Clough, Susan.Clough@MorganCC.edu.

Fort Lupton Christmas Angel Tree Project By Sherrie O'Neil

Every year at this time of year the Fort Lupton Optimist Breakfast Club has their Christmas Angel Tree Project. Trees filled with Angels can be found at the Library, Recreations Center and Fort Lupton Pack and Ship. Our Angels are taken off the tree by our wonderful citizens, and a gift is purchased for that child and then returned to the place they got the Angel.

We have been doing this project for a number of years and have had anywhere from 145 children to over 200 that we provide gifts and clothes for. We sort all the

gifts and get them in family bags on a Friday and then on Saturday we shop for the Angels that were not taken. We also make sure that the gifts are even for each family. We then return to the school and finish the bags which means adding wrapping paper and tape to each bag in addition to the gifts that have been included for each child. The parent will pick them up the last week of school and wrap the gifts. We are small in number but mighty in the projects we tackle.

Golden Optimist Club

The Golden Optimist Club has an on going bicycle recycle program for 11 months per year.

In December we sell Christmas trees for fundraising. We accept used bicycles to be reconditioned and given to whoever wants them. For further information contact Howard Bagdad, President, Golden Optimists Club, Home 303-278-0541 Cell 720-206-6427



Colorado – Wyoming District #25 Club Scholarship Program & Fund

Attached is the description and guidelines for the new CLUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. It is funded through fundraising activities from last year's conferences & the convention. The program is to provide scholarships to be used to defray attendance costs for deserving and upcoming future club and district leaders. An application form will be available shortly. Please let your clubs know of this exciting program. It is effective immediately, and will put in place for the 2nd Quarter Conference in Estes Park in February.

Thanks to all who have helped create this program, and especially to Charlie Neumann who originated the concept.

Gov. Bob Hartwig

Inception & Purpose

In 2012-13, there were fund raising activities held at the District's quarterly conferences and the annual convention to raise funds for two purposes: a.) to help defray the costs of the conferences/convention so they could be more affordable to members; and b.) to generate funds for the award of scholarships for current and upcoming district leaders who should attend the district meetings, but may have chosen not to attend because they had limited funds and/or their clubs could not provide financial support for their attendance.

There were several events held in the 2012-2103 Optimist year and commitments were made that one-half of the funds raised would go toward the Club Scholarship Fund with the other half to be re-

tained in the District Operating Budget. In that year, there was a total of \$2,603 raised of which \$1,300 will be committed to the Club Scholarship Fund.

The Club Scholarship Fund

The Club Scholarship Fund (CSF) will be set up as an independent fund, separate from the District Operating Budget accounts. However, monies may be co-mingled to facilitate cash flow, though separate accounting is required. This Fund will be a permanent, revolving fund, and, to the extent possible, will be invested in the Optimist International Foundation as a "Pass Thru Account" with any interest earned be credited to the CSF.

In accordance with district policies, the CSF will be under the control of the District Officers, the Board of Directors and the Finance and Budget Committee, with the primary direction and responsibility for accounting being that of the District Secretary/Treasurer. Periodic reporting for the CSF activities and balances will be required.

Fund balances will be included on the District's Statement of Accountability (balance sheet).

Fund Raising Activities

It is anticipated that fund raising activities will be held at the various quarterly conferences and the convention, under the direction of the Fun and Fellowship Chair. Nothing may preclude this program from participation in any other District or club fund raising activities.

Each year the Fun and Fellowship Committee will prepare a schedule of proposed activities, which will be coordinated with the Convention and Conferences Chair.

In the past such activities have been:

- ◇ Gift baskets & silent auction
- ◇ Wine pull
- ◇ Purse auction
- ◇ Taping the Governor to a wall

For the current year, we are asking for your ideas.

Grants (2013-2014)

For the 2013-2014 district year, the following grant schedule is anticipated:

- ◇ First Quarter (October, 2013): this conference has been completed,
- ◇ Second Quarter (February, 2014): 3 grants @ \$100 each,
- ◇ Third Quarter Conference (May, 2014): 3 grants @ \$100 each,
- ◇ Annual Convention (August, 2014): 3 grants @ \$150 each.

If sufficient funds are available, upon the recommendation of the selection committee, the District Officers may choose to increase the number or the amount of the scholarships.

Eligibility

The primary focus of this program is to provide scholarship funds for worthy candidates to assist in their development as future district leaders by their attendance and participation in district conferences and the annual convention. That said the rules for eligibility of candidates are as follows:

- ◇ The candidate must be an active member of their club and the district, including current with their dues and other payments;
- ◇ The candidate should be a club officer (president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer) or the chair of a major club activity
- ◇ The candidate should have exhibited leadership potential and have an interest in participating in higher club and/or district leadership roles.
- ◇ The candidate's club has limited resources that could prevent it from providing support funds to send participants to district events.
- ◇ Members such as district officers, Lt. Governors, district chairs, and Optimist Friends are not eligible for this program's fund awards.

The selection committee will prepare a form, or other promotional materials to be distributed to all club presidents to encourage participation in the Club Scholarship Program.

All nominations for scholarship candidates will be made through

club presidents to the District Governor with a copy to the Fun and Fellowship Chair at least 40 days prior to a conference.

Selection Committee

The District Governor will annually appoint the selection committee to promote this program, elicit participation, and determine scholarship awardees. At the initiation of this program, the following will be appointed to the selection committee:

- ◇ Fun & Fellowship Chair (Charlie Neumann)
- ◇ Leadership Development Chair (Donna Priester)
- ◇ Governor-Elect (Abigail Nicholas)
- ◇ District Secretary/Treasurer (Bill Michener)

The current district governor is an ex-officio member of this committee and will serve as an appellate to serve or mediate any concerns, issues, or disputes.

Awards & Schedule

In order to provide adequate time for the selection committee to review and approve club nominations, the following timetable is established:

- ◇ Publicize the CSF program and timetable: 60 days prior;
- ◇ Submittal deadline: 40 days prior;
- ◇ Selection and awards: 35 days prior;
- ◇ Reservations for conference/convention: 30 days prior;
- ◇ Conference/convention: as scheduled.

Awards will be announced by e-mail to the awardee, their club and to other district members through the district newsletters and other media as appropriate and timely. Awards will be credited to the awardee upon receipt of their reservation for the conference/convention for which they have been selected. There will be limited transferability for awards. The awards will expire within 90 days if not used. If the award expires, the funds will remain in the CSF account for use in the scholarship program.

Other

The selection committee shall prepare and adopt any other practices that will enable the efficient and orderly operation of this program. This operation shall be reviewed periodically to assure that it functions effectively. Any recommended changes will be reviewed and approved by the District officers.

Policies

This program will be adopted as a District Procedure, with approval of the Governor; until such time that, the program is deemed permanent at which time it will be included in the district policies and subject to approval by the administration and the Board of Directors.

FRACSOckers Cook Off By Patty Hasty

Save the Date! January 26th, 2014 for the 2nd Annual "Super Chili Bowl" Cook Off (not to be confused with the NFL Super Bowl the following week on Feb. 2nd!) The event was a huge success last year, hosted by the FRACSOckers (Front Range American Cancer Society Optimist Club). This event will benefit the OI Childhood Cancer Campaign, the American Cancer Society and other cancer supporting programs of the FRACSOC Optimist Club.

We are expecting chili entries both Red and Green from some of the best chili makers in Colorado! Prizes will be awarded (by popular vote) to the top three in each category and the best overall red OR green chili!

This is also a special opportunity for your club to purchase discounted admission tickets for your members and/or to sell to raise money for your own club.

We need your help to make this event successful and help kids

with cancer! To Volunteer to help, purchase tickets or just find out more about the Cook Off or FRACSOC club, email FRACSOC@gmail.com or call 303-522-6525.

News from the OI Foundation By Phil Perington

Hello all you hard working Optimists. The New 2014 Year looks like another banner year for the 60 CO/WY District Clubs.

Our Essay and Oratorical Contests are on full throttle once again. As most of us know, the Scholarships we award at these important programs are funded by the contributions we contribute to the O.I. Foundation. A total of \$12,500 was distributed to all of last year's winners because of our generosity to the Foundation.

There are many ways to make a tax deductible donation. The easiest and maybe the most effective is the Dime-A-Day plan. For \$36.50 a year a member can play an important and vital role in making sure our kids are rewarded for their hard work and involvement in the Essay and Oratorical contests. To honor your gift a very snazzy pin will be presented to you by your District or Club Foundation Representative.

Another easy way to contribute is through the Century Circle program. For \$100, a member can receive recognition by receiving a static-cling window decal and a thank-you letter from O.I. Executive Director, Steve Skodak. You will also be recognized at a District Conference meeting as well.

A \$250 contribution The Presidents Club will be honored by the presentation of a President's Club lapel pin and limited edition collector's plate. Also at the International Convention held this summer in Las Vegas, you will be recognized with a ribbon for your badge and on invitation to a special function for President's Club members.

A Friend of Today making a minimum \$500 contribution will receive a signed and numbered collector print as presented at a District Conference or Convention. A special thank you letter will also be included.



The Christian D. Larsen Partners membership program is also offered for an annual contribution of \$1,000. This program is named after the author of our "Optimist Creed." If you visit the O.I. Foundation website at www.oifoundation.org/, all the additional information regarding this membership is detailed.

It should also be noted that this year's Club BANNER PATCH can be earned by your Club contributing \$345 to the "Get Fired Up For The Kids" program. All Clubs giving \$345 can cast one vote in the OIF Board election at the Annual Convention as well.

As you can see, there are many opportunities to help our kids with your kind and generous donations. It is also important for every Club to have a CFR, Club Foundation Representative. By working together we can continue to assure a lot of dreams come true for our kids. As your District Foundation Representative, I will be dropping by your Club over the next year and hope to carry on the tradition of supporting the CO/WY Districts commitment to our many Youth programs.

Working for Our Kids, DFR, Phil Perington

Far Northeast Optimist Club By Joan Cordo

As part of Optimist International, the Far Northeast Optimist Club's mission is to provide hope and positive vision, bringing out the best in kids! Our local chapter is doing just that right here in the Green Valley Ranch and Montbello neighborhoods with our Annual School Supply Drive.

In just two years, hundreds of school children in our community have been provided the tools they need in order to receive the best education possible. Many thanks to generous donations from community, which allowed for six Far Northeast schools to each receive over \$500 worth of books and school supplies this year alone! John Amesse Elementary,



Noel Elementary, Monarch Montessori, High Point Academy, Green Valley Elementary, and Marrama Elementary Schools were selected from online submissions that told of each school's need and sometimes of admirable and creative ways of overcoming supply shortages in the past.

Our club is also proud to be able to Adopt over 50 children in need this Christmas. We will be shopping from children's wish lists as well as wrapping and delivering to the families. Our club loves being a part of this amazing project and can't wait to see the joy on the children's faces when we deliver the gifts.

Cheyenne Optimist Club By Connie Lester-Hein

We've had a productive year with our Cheyenne Community. We were able to raise over \$7,500 at our big fundraiser on March 16th, 2013. The funds were split between Youth Alternatives/Special Friends, Friday Food Bag Foundation, and Childhood Cancer in Wyoming.

We are active monthly with the Friday Food Bag Foundation. This group spends \$90,000 each year (by donations alone) filling food bags for children in need to be able to have something to eat on the weekends. We volunteer; donate money and anything else that is needed from us to help this wonderful organization.

We fill our Free Little Libraries with assorted books monthly. This program is going well and we're able to provide free reading books to those without means of getting to the library. Cheyenne Optimist Club Plaque is on each Little Library.

We sponsored a skating-pizza party with our kids from Special Friends. Expecting around 50 kids, we had 70! This was the night before Thanksgiving, so very pleased that the kids came. Not only did we have skating and pizza, but also we had enough prizes for every child attending to go home with a prize. This was one of our most fun events. Watching these kids from the Youth Alternatives programs we couldn't believe the determination of those that had

never skated. They gave us such inspiration to see them continue skating even though they fell down a lot—smiling all the way! We were able to meet each child and they personally thanked us. The newspaper came and interviewed the counselors, kids, and the Cheyenne Optimist Club. A great evening!

We also sponsored a small portion to the Women's Civic League Christmas House on December 6th and 7th. We will be well represented at the event where 2,500-3,000 people are expected. This organization works all year for their fundraiser, bringing in over \$80,000 that will then go to scholarships for various organizations in our community.

We're looking forward to our next large fundraiser, which is on April 26, 2014. Please join us at the Historic Terry Bison Ranch for a night of "Country Cool Concert," Presented by "Stars Alive." Lot's Western Food and Dancing. Special rooms (bunkhouse) have been saved for you at the Ranch and Parlor's at the Historic Plains Hotel with special rates for all. So save the date. Have questions email me @ connielesterhein@yahoo.com.



Your Optimist Club Can Help the Kids By Ron Gustas

The Type 1 Diabetes Optimist Club (T1DOC) is assisting JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) in introducing their "JDRF Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes" program to Colorado/Wyoming Optimist Clubs and school communities.

If your "Club" is looking for a new youth oriented service project helping a large number of special need kids this program is easy to implement and will benefit the schools you already work with.

The "JDRF Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes" is an educational school fundraising program that raises money to find a cure for type 1 diabetes. While raising money for JDRF, students learn about diabetes and the importance of making healthy choices. The money raised through this program helps fund type 1 diabetes research and provides additional dollars for participating school to use on equipment, field trips, books or whatever the school needs! The program is a "win - win" for Optimist Club, schools and type 1 research.

Individual "Optimist Clubs" are encouraged to introduce these programs to the schools they support. The program is a natural fit for Clubs that already support a JOOI Club. These JOOI Clubs can participate in their own community service project benefiting their school and classmates with type 1 diabetes.

Here's how the program works:

- JDRF provides a kid-friendly presentation about diabetes,

healthy living and helping others for use at a school assembly. Program leaders introduce the Kids Walk program and give students ideas on how to collect donations.

- Students have the opportunity to fundraise for JDRF and their school.
- JDRF has set up a special website for students to register, send emails to friends and family, and collect donations.
- JDRF takes care of collecting, counting and keeping track of all money raised.

- A celebratory Walk is held right on school grounds.

Benefits to each school:

- School receives 10% of the money raised and a banner to celebrate their achievements.
- Students earn fun prizes for fundraising.
- This program creates a sense of community spirit and teaches each student a lesson on team building and creative thinking. Most importantly, students learn the value of helping others.

The T1DOC can work with your "Optimist Club" to do everything necessary to have a successful service project in the schools you already help. For more information about the "Walk Program" and how to get started please contact either Ron Gustas at rgustas@earthlink.net or Dick Cohen at rmcohen234@gmail.com.

Optimist Club of Pueblo By Kisi Thompson

TEEN 180: The Pueblo Optimist Club is honoring local students through the Teen 180 Program. All the middle schools are contacted early in the year and their school counselors choose two students who have turned their lives around 180 degrees. Whether it's overcoming attitude, peer-groups, learning skills, trauma, loss or health issues - these kids go the extra mile. Each week two students come to lunch, tell about themselves, introduce their families and receive a plaque in recognition of their hard work. We are continually amazed at the strength and determination of these kids as they deal with diabetes, loss of eyesight, parental deaths, Colorado tragedies and the normal teenage pressures. These kids are true Optimists!

2014 Wine and Beer Tasting Fundraiser: Join us this Spring for the annual Wine and Beer Tasting Fundraiser. Last year was filled with great entertainment, delicious food and tasty beverages from all over the region. The silent auction brought in everything from quilts to ball game tickets. Keep your eye on Facebook as all the wonderful details unfold. Join the fun and appreciation of all our sponsors!



Tamarac Optimist Ladies By Nancy DeNiro

The Tamarac Optimist ladies had a very busy November. Fall has always been a very active time of year at the schools and for fundraising to support our projects. Members supported the Scholastic Book Fair at Holly Hills EM by helping to set up the fair, and working shifts during the time parents came for conferences and then brought the kids to treat them with new books.

Our first Super Citizen Program was held at Bishop EM in Englewood. Two Super Citizens were chosen from each class, K-6, and received a T-shirt, certificate, and book of their choice to keep. The second Super Citizen Program was at Cheltenham EM in DPS. Super Citizens from grades 1-5 were chosen for aligning to every level of the school's new P.R.I.D.E behaviors.

Our Homespun Holiday Market, our main fundraiser, was very, very successful this year in our new location, and the sale of Butter Braid before Thanksgiving also exceeded expectations.

We cordially invite any District member or leader to one of our meetings on Thursday mornings from 7-8 am, at Harvard Square, 10200 E Harvard Avenue, one-half block west of Parker Road between E. Iliff and S Havana. Please contact Nancy DeNiro, President of Tamarac Optimists at 303-617-3913.

Northeast Denver Optimist Club By Shelia Hughes

This month we were in a Wrapping Mode at Barnes and Noble located at 960 S. Colorado Blvd. Wrapping books, books, books, and an umbrella or two. A Kindle, a Nook, a play station 3, and anything else Barnes and Noble sells. Wrapping gifts, tape stuck to our nose, we take our time and do it right for only Santa knows. Around this time every year, you will find us here, optimistic as we are spreading Christmas cheer. Happy Holidays!

Longmont Breakfast By Don Lewis

The Longmont Breakfast Optimist Club this year again sold Christmas Wreathes. These wreathes were made in Fort Collins using foliage out of Montana. Sometimes Colorado foliage can be used but the last several years they have been drier than the Montana foliage. All told the number of items sold was just over 800 netting the club over \$2,000 for use in the youth programs. Later this month the club will again sponsor the Shop With A Cop. This program, which is a joint program with Wal-Mart, is one of the highlights of the year for the club. Look for this article next time.

District Awards & Achievements Form

The District Awards & Achievements Form can be downloaded from the CO/WY Newsletter distribution email or from Awards & Achievements Chair. The categories are:

- ◇ Optimist of the Quarter
- ◇ Optimist Rookie of the Quarter
- ◇ Optimist Program of the Quarter
- ◇ Club Foundation Award
- ◇ Club Publicity Award

For your Club or Honoree to be nominated the "Nomination Form" must be sent by email or mail. Winners will be contacted a week before the conference or convention.

- ◆ The 1st Quarter honorees will be honored at the 2nd Quarter Conference in Estes Park at the Stanley Hotel at the luncheon on February 15. Deadline for nominations is February 5.
- ◆ The 2nd Quarter honorees will be honored at the 3rd Quarter Conference in Golden at the Marriott West Hotel at the luncheon on May 3. Deadline for nominations is April 23.
- ◆ The 3rd Quarter honorees will be honored at the 4th Quarter Convention in Cheyenne, WY at the Little America Resort at the luncheon on August 23. Deadline for nomination is August 13. For questions, contact:
Lois Gallaway
Tamarac Optimist Club
Awards & Achievements Chair

In Memoriam: Robert Dale Keathley

Recently, Dale Keathley, a longtime member of the Mile Hi Optimist Club of Denver died. He was a past Governor of the Colorado-Wyoming District (1984-1985) and was a very active Optimist, working hard on many projects for the kids.

At his funeral service, each of his very large family, from his daughters to his great- grand children , wore one of his many Optimist pins that he collected over the years as a tribute to Dale and his optimism.

He will be missed. Go in peace, Dale.



District Newsletter Delivery Changes By Bob Hartwig

Over the years, the District has been embracing technology. We have a district and some club web pages and conduct a lot of our communication over the Internet. Others of us use instant contact media via Facebook, Twitter, Constant Contact, Skype, and other means. As technology changes so must we. At the next district conference in Estes Park, Steve Skodak, of the OI Foundation, will have an informative session on the use of these media and how they can help us and our clubs stay in contact.



Not only is this timely and efficient, it is very cost effective. Along those lines, we are in the process of revising the snail mail procedure of distributing the District quarterly newsletters. Effective with this newsletter, the newsletters will be distributed to all members via the Internet to your email address of record. Please open them and read up on all of the current information and the activities of many Colorado and Wyoming Opti-

mist clubs.

Additionally, each club president will be receiving a hard copy in the US mail. We are requesting that upon receipt of the newsletter our presidents make available the current newsletter at a club meeting for members to read and/or announce its arrival in the club newsletter. That way, more members will be aware of the vast amount of new information from the district.

Thanks to all for understanding this new procedure. The net result will be lower cost to the district, almost two thousand dollars per year, less environmental waste (unless you recycle), and more availability of our current news. Thank you for helping us to communicate better. We appreciate it.

NOTE: If you are not receiving the District Newsletter via email and wish to, please send an email to Greg Young at gndyoung@comcast.net to get your name and email address on the Constant Contact distribution system.



News from Zone 4 By Lt. Gov. Dennis Hutton

Steamboat Springs Optimist club had a Halloween Pumpkin painting morning, with winners between 5 and 8 year old just prior to Halloween. It was very well attended by both kids, parents and Optimists.

Summit/Lake Dillon Optimist club had a Christmas/Installation party on the fourth of December. It was a fun evening for all in attendance.

Buena Vista Optimist club had their bi-annual road clean up on Saturday, November 16th. Additionally, their annual bell ringing around town to support the Salvation Army kicked off on Sunday, December 1st and they held their Optimist Christmas party December 5th.

The 285 Optimist Club had their Platte Canyon High School on board for its first Essay and Oratorical contest with the Conifer High school coming on board December 2nd.

Monaco South Christmas Tree Lot

Monaco South reports that they had another successful year selling Christmas Trees, wreaths, garland, and boughs this holiday season. Joe Marci, the coordinator for this fundraiser said, "we sold over 1,117 trees were this season, which is 85 fewer than last year, though we had five fewer selling days to work with." Joe also mentioned that 90 different members worked helping our many customers. Additionally, they had assistance from the Tamarac Optimist Club and George Washington H.S. girls soccer team, and a few other volunteers.

Another attraction to the MSOC's Christmas



Monaco South Bill Walters Thanksgiving Dinner

Monaco South President Jon Wachter gave a big thank you to Donlie Smith and Don St. John for their hard work in organizing the Thanksgiving dinner at the Boys and Girls Club of Denver and Girls, Inc. on Tuesday evening of November 26th. The annual event brought 45 members together at the Boys and Girls Club and another 9 at Girls, Inc., along with spouse and friends. A special guest was Todd Helton and his wife, Christy and daughter, Tierney. They posed for pictures with the kids, signed autographs, and even served on the food line.

The Helton family did not just make an appearance and leave; they stayed the entire evening.



Todd and his wife, Christy.



Todd Hilton with his daughter Tierney on the serving line.

Photos John Oss

Tree Lot was the Santa Haus. Craig Eley, the coordinator for this part of the fundraising activities, said the Santa Haus was open on weekends, and over nine members played the Santa role along with bringing their spouse to play as Mrs. Claus.



Wishes for the New Year, Author Unknown

- ◇ *May you look back on the past with as much pleasure as you look forward to the future.*
- ◇ *May you never forget what is worth remembering or remember what is best forgotten.*
- ◇ *May the good you wish for others shine on you today.*
- ◇ *May the most you wish for be the least you get.*
- ◇ *May the best of this year be the worst of the next.*
- ◇ *May you live as long as you want, and may you never want as long as you live.*
- ◇ *May your troubles all be small ones, and your fortune ten times ten.*
- ◇ *My hope for you is that all your wishes in the New Year come true.*

Notice of Call Second Quarter Colorado – Wyoming District Conference

The Second Quarter Conferenced will be held at the **Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, CO**
333 East Wonderview Avenue
Estes Park, CO 80517

Starting Friday evening, February 14 thru Sunday morning, February 16, 2014.

Please book your hotel reservations at 970-577-4040 and mention the CO-WY Optimist District Conference.

Deadline for the discount group rate of \$115 per night is Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

See Registration Form on Page 10

Mail your check with the registration form & meal choices to:

Colorado-Wyoming Optimists:

c/o Linda Chasson, Registrar

1515 E. 21st St. Cheyenne, WY 82001

Ph.: 307-631-7029 email: lchasson@msn.com

Meal Reservations Due No Later than Monday, February 3, 2014

NOTE: All Club Presidents and District Officers are members of the District Board of Directors. As such, you are kept informed, from time to time, of District information and activities via these e-mails. Please distribute this information to your club members.

Each member of the District Board of Directors should attend each District Conference, and if unable, should appoint another club officer to attend in his/her stead. It is important for your club to stay informed about District and Optimist International information and to participate in District governance.

More information, including the conference agenda, will be forthcoming before the conference. Stay tuned! Thank you.

WORKING TOGETHER . . . for Our Kids!

Governor Bob Hartwig

2nd Quarter Tentative Agenda

Colorado – Wyoming District Second Quarter Conference Agenda

February 14-15-16, 2014

Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, CO 80517

Friday, February 14, 2014:

4:30pm Executive Committee Meeting (agenda items)

- Special Guest: Steve Skodak, Exec Dir. OI Foundation
- Minutes & financials (Bill M.);
- policy/procedure items
- LtGov reports

6:30pm Dutch Treat/No Host Dinner @ The Other Side Restaurant

8:30pm Hospitality Suite (open)

Saturday, February 15, 2014:

7:00 am Registration

7:30 am "Tell Our Story Room" Coffee & Activity Announcements

9:00am Board of Directors Meeting (agenda items)

- Special Guest: Steve Skodak, Exec Dir. OI Foundation
- minutes & financials (Bill M.)
- policy/procedure items

10:30am Morning Sessions (10:30-11:30am)

- **A** (1hr): Using Social Media (Skodak)
- **B** (1hr): TBD
- **C** (1hr): Lt Goves Council: SZ planning, policy & protocol development, mid-term?, successors,

11:45am Lunch

- Achievement & Awards: Lois Galloway
- OIFdn Awards: Donna, Phil, DFR (15min ea.)
- Club Scholarship Program recipients (Charlie N.)
- fund raiser: "Colorado Wines & Products Baskets"

2:00pm Afternoon Sessions (2:00-2:50pm, 3:00-4:00pm)

- **D** (2hr): Leadership development/PGI/mentorship (Donna P.)
- **E1** (1hr): NCB Follow-up: programs & projects:T1DOC & FRACSOB
- **E2** (1hr): Anatomy of a Conference (Connie, Bill & Bob)
- **F** (2-3hr): Partner Activities: off-site (Kathy Sullivan) TBD

4:15pm- "Tell Our Story Room": Activity Announcements: Oratorical, Essay, CCC, Jr. Golf, CCDHH, Brain Bowl, Tri-star BB, others:

- **Committee Meetings:**
 - Organizing a district JOOI program
 - New Club Building
 - June Super Zone mtg

5:30pm Refreshment Time w/ Cash Bar (greet first timers)

6:15pm Dinner

- Speaker: Steve Skodak, Exec Dir. OI Foundation
- Program/Entertainment: ___ T B D _____

8:30pm Hospitality Suite (open)

Sunday, February 16, 2014

8:15am Church Service

9:00am Breakfast & Closing Remarks

- Farewells & Check-out

Reminder: **BANNERS UP!** (all presidents are requested to bring them for display @ conf.)

Upcoming: **May 2nd & 3rd** Third Quarter Conference @ Marriott, Golden:
Scholarship Saturday (Oratorical finals, Essay, CCDHH)
ff. by

May 4th OI-STL: Regional Leadership Summit (@ Marriott Golden)
w/ OI President Ron Huxley & faculty

2nd Quarter Conference Registration Form

Colorado - Wyoming District, 2nd Quarter Conference
 Stanley Hotel - Estes Park, CO
 333 East Wonderview Avenue, Estes Park, CO 80517

February 14 – 16, 2014

Please call the hotel at 1-970-577-4040 for reservations. Ask for the group rate for standard rooms of \$115 under CO-WY Optimist District Conference. Deadline is January 15, 2014 in order to receive discounted group rate. Other rooms available: Suites in main hotel - \$179, Pet Friendly rooms in the Lodge - \$115, one bedroom Condo's - \$189. EARLY BIRDS that send in registration by January 15th will receive \$5.00 off the next Conference. In addition, EARLY BIRDS will have a chance to win \$25 cash during luncheon drawing.

Friday, February 14th

Dutch Treat Dinner – The Other Side Restaurant
 900 Moraine Ave, 970-586-2171

Attending # _____

Saturday, February 15th

Registration Fee \$25

_____ \$ _____

First Timers – FREE

Breakfast on own

Lunch \$25 Inclusive per person

Choice of: Smoked Turkey Breast Sandwich on Focaccia Bread
 OR Grilled Portobello Wrap on Sundried Tomato Tortilla

_____ \$ _____
 # _____ \$ _____

Dinner \$45 Inclusive per person

Organic Baby Greens with English Cucumber, Grape Tomato, Carrots and Dressing

Choice of: Grilled Kurobuta Pork Chop with Apple Brandy Cream # _____ \$ _____

OR Coriander Crusted Roasted Salmon with Lemon Caper Butter # _____ \$ _____

Roasted Fingerling Potatoes Rolls and Butter

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Macadamia Nut Salt Caramel

Coffee, Decaf & Tea

Sunday, February 16th

Breakfast \$29 Inclusive per person

_____ \$ _____

Meal reservations are due **NO LATER** than **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 2014** please. TOTAL Due: \$ _____

*Note: If you have any special dietary needs please indicate it on the form so that we can accommodate them.

Name: - Optimist 1 _____ Optimist 2 _____

Guest _____

Mailing Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____ Email Address _____

First Timer? _____

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

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

Mail check, payable to Colorado/Wyoming Optimists and send with this form to:

Linda Chasson Phone -307- 631-7029 email: lchasson@msn.com

1515 East 21st, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 CO/WYO DISTRICT 25

**CO/WY District 25 of
Optimist International**



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.
- ◆ 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.

WORKING TOGETHER . . . FOR OUR KIDS