



CO/WY Optimist District

1st Quarter Newsletter 2014 - 2015

December 2014

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Important Websites

- ◇ Optimist International: www.optimist.org/
- ◇ OI Foundation: oifoundation.org/
- ◇ CO/WY District: www.optimistcowy.org/
- ◇ CO/WY Brain Bowl: www.optimistbrainbowl.org/
- ◇ CO/WY Junior Golf: sites.google.com/site/cowyoptimistgolf/

District Officers

- ◆ Governor: Abigail Nicholas
Tamarac, DTC
- ◆ Governor-Elect: Curtis Merrill
DTC, Monaco South
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Greg Young
Monaco South
- ◆ Immediate Past Gov.: Bob Hartwig
Loveland Breakfast

Lt. Governors

- ◆ Zone 1: Claire Young, Tamarac
- ◆ Zone 2: Rob Kelley, Ft Morgan Sunrise
- ◆ Zone 3: George Buzick, Monaco South
- ◆ Zone 4: Charlie Neumann, DTC
- ◆ Zone 5: Michael Chavez, Monaco South
- ◆ Zone 6: Tony Carpenter, Wheat Ridge
- ◆ Zone 7: Gunar Neumann, DTC
- ◆ Zone 8: Paul Simon, Monaco South, FRACSOS, TIDOC
- ◆ Zone 9: Michael Chavez, Monaco South
- ◆ Zone 10: Shannon Richter, Pueblo
- ◆ Zone 11: Nancy DeNiro, Tamarac



Governor's Corner

"Follow Our Creed & Other Things"



Abigail Nicholas

Holiday greetings to my fellow Optimists! Now that Thanksgiving is under our belts ... literally ... the busy month of December is in full swing. A new calendar year is close at hand and with that

comes the reflection of things we have done this past year and our hopes for a shiny, new year in 2015.

It has been an amazing Optimist year so far for your Head Coach/Governor! I closed out the previous twelve months of the 2013-2014 Optimist year by attending several annual installation events in September for clubs in our District. I had the pleasure of being at the Academy, DTC, Windsor Gardens Breakfast, Fort Morgan Evening, the Zone Seven Clubs, Monaco South and Buena Vista Optimist Clubs for their installations.

Not letting any grass grow under my Optimist toes I then "rang in the new year" of 2014-2015 by installing members of the Wheatridge Club on October 1st. Then came installations at the Dakota Ridge, Mile High and Cheyenne Optimist Clubs. It was a whirlwind of Optimist events but worth every moment. I highly recommend to you to work in visits to other clubs as well. It can be a learning, re-energizing time for you and your club. You will have the opportunity to make new Optimist friends as well and who can't use a new friend! It is my favorite thing to do as your Head Coach/Governor!

Besides all these wonderful events in October, our District held it's football-themed First Quarter Game/Conference on the 25th. It was quite

an event with Steve Spangler, the Channel 9 News Science Guy, as our keynote speaker and a visit by Miles, the Denver Broncos mascot. We held our District's Quarterly Board Meeting, listened to a presentation by our newly formed NOW Team and heard from a number of our Coaches/Chairs about District contests, events and fundraisers.

We enjoyed a tasty breakfast and a satisfying soup and salad lunch. Then a presentation and the assembling of small, wooden cars for the "Toys for God's Kids" organization rounded out our one-day Game. Although it was a bit noisy in the afternoon with all those little hammers banging away on the wheels and axles we managed to have fun, share great camaraderie and make 2,000 cars! Honestly, it looked a lot like Santa's workshop with Optimist elves busy at work!

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Photo Joe Priester

See Governor's Corner, 2

Governor's Corner Continued

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Here are some quotes from the First Quarter Game by Optimists who attended:

Monaco South Optimist, John Young – *"Thank you for putting on the best quarter board meeting I can ever remember.... I have attended upwards of 100 of them. Everything necessary was done and at the same time being a joy for all of us!"*

Academy Optimist, Sam Bartley – *"Wonderfully refreshing! It was so nice to do something different and meaningful. I think you hit a home run. It has made me look forward to the next one."*

Tamarac Optimist, Carol West – *"The program moved smoothly and never got boring. I strongly support the 1-day type of program as well as it being held at a venue that does not require food and housing. Good Job!"*

Perhaps you will consider joining us for the Second Quarter Game/Conference that will take place on February 28th in Colorado Springs at the Franciscan Retreat Center. More fun, fellowship, good food and a hands-on project to help kids are being planned now!

In the meantime, I encourage you to think of two things: **the power of one and the power of many.**

The power of one ... just one person ... who will change the life of ... one child ... through the giving of their time and talents as an Optimist member.

Now multiply the power of one into the power of many. Our Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District has 60 clubs, 1640 members who can change the lives of almost 50,000 children with their time and talents as they volunteer in their communities.

Is there someone you know that would like to be the power of one and add to the strength of the power of many? Our clubs, your club, needs more Optimists like you!

Till next time, I hope you will take a moment to look at our District's new website at www.optimistcowy.org. Then make a visit to another Optimist club and remember to ask someone you know to join in our Optimism.

CHEERS for the KIDS!

Abigail Nicholas

Head Coach/Governor



COWY Head Coach/
Governor Abigail Nicholas
with Broncos mascot Miles.
Photos Joe Priester



First Quarter Game Pictures by Joe Priester & Phil Perington



Look at the New CO/WY Webpage by Paul Simon



I have important news to share with you here, so please read through to the end. Our long-awaited new Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District website is now up and running.

Please fully examine www.optimistcowy.org, our new website. There you will find listings of all our clubs, descriptions and contacts for district leaders, a calendar of events and new a brand, spanking new blog.

Explore the tabs to the right of the OI and district logos. The **EVENTS & CONFERENCES** tab (see fig. 1) has a pull-down menu to take you to either the Events or Conferences pages. The **ABOUT** (see fig. 1) tab has a dropdown to take you to the **Our Blog**, **Our Mission**, **Our Leadership**, **Our Newsletters**, and an **Optimist International** page with various links. You also can access the Blog and the Calendar from the right side of each page. Your comments on blog items are welcome - just scroll down below the blog to find the comment area - as are contributions to the Blog (see fig. 3). To submit items for the Calendar, please use the format shown in the District Website Events Form on the Forms page.

Check out the nifty video of the **Optimist Creed**, also on the right side of each page, and download the Creed as a PDF if you so choose.

At the very top right of each page, click on the **MEMBERS** tab (see fig. 2) to access **Forms** and **Directory** pages. The password to access those pages is **oratorical25**, which also can be found inside the cover of the printed directory if you forget it. Please note the Directory you can download from the Directory page is in the process of being updated with corrections.

The new website should make it easier for you to find what you need about district programs and activities and to share with prospective new members. Enjoy!

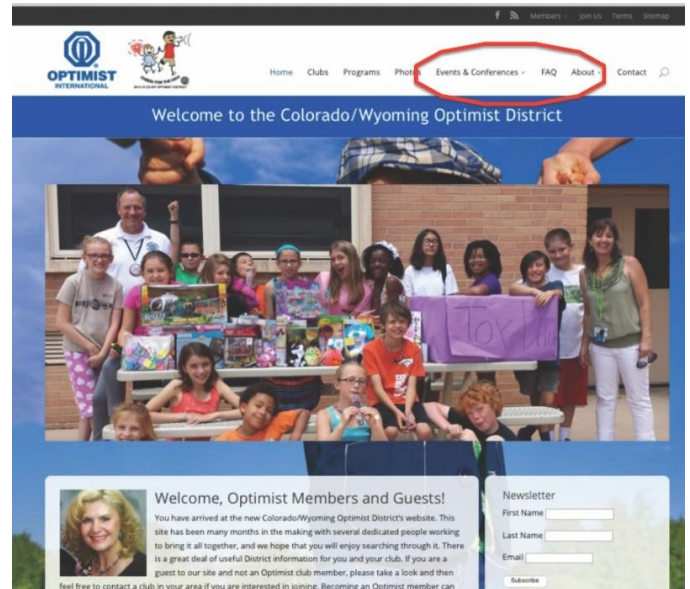


Figure 1



Figure 2

CO/WY Tri-Star Basketball Finals Date Announced by Jack Rife

This year, the Final Competition of the Colorado/Wyoming District Tri-Star Basketball Competition will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2015 in conjunction with the Denver Nuggets game (vs. the LA Clippers). 144 winners of Regional Competitions will be invited to compete in the Finals event that will be held in the afternoon prior to the Nuggets game and will be conducted in the basketball arena of Metro State University (next to the Pepsi Center). At the Nuggets game that night, the 12 - 1st Place winners of the competition will be introduced to the crowd in a pre-game ceremony and the 36 top scorers will participate in the Nuggets Fan Tunnel and in the Flag Ceremony (during the National Anthem).



See Tri-Star Basketball, 4

Quarterly "Games" (Conferences) and Convention Super Game Dates for the 2014-2015 Optimist Year

2015

February 27th – Executive Committee Meeting & Dutch Treat Dinner (restaurant TBD)

February 28th – Second Quarter Game at Franciscan Event Center, Colorado Springs, CO

May 8th – Executive Committee Meeting and Special Event to be announced later (location TBD)

May 9th – Third Quarter Game at Bethany Lutheran Church, Denver, CO

August 27, 28, 29, & 30th – Executive Committee Meeting & Convention SUPER GAME at Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, CO

Tri-Star Basketball Finals Continued

Four Regional Tournaments (North in Greeley, South in Pueblo, East Metro and West Metro Denver) are currently being organized and are expected to occur on the weekends of March 14 or 21. Each Regional event will send the top 3 boys and top 3 girls from each of the 6 age categories (36 winners in all) to the Finals. Winners will also receive a trophy, t-shirt and a free ticket to the Nuggets game that night.

Tri-Star Basketball is a skills competition (shooting, passing and dribbling) for boys and girls age 8 to 13. All clubs are encouraged to sponsor a Local Competition and to send their 36 winners on to one of the Regional Tournaments. These local contests should be finished by March 7 at the latest since the Regionals will be held the following weekends. The cost of trophies at the Regionals and Finals are paid through club registration fees, which will be \$125 this year. Details regarding Regional times and locations along with Club Registration Forms will be mailed to Club Presidents and past Tri-Star Basketball Chairpersons in December.

It is not too early for Clubs to begin planning their Tri-Star Basketball competition for kids in their area. If you need help planning an event, please contact one of the Coordinators listed below! Most years we have approxi-



mately 20 clubs in the District participate with a local competition, but we would like ALL CLUBS to participate! We can help you find a venue, we can help you with volunteers, and we can help you secure equipment - so let us know if we can help!

- ♦ **Jack Rife**, 303-349-1280, rifiedvm@msn.com and **Michael Chavez**, 303-960-5304 - East Metro Region
- ♦ **Ron Benson**, 720-879-3927, ronbenson777@q.com - West Metro Region
- ♦ **Phil White**, 970-534-0360, phil955@frie.net - North Region
- ♦ **Kevin Keilbach**, 719-429-7956, devin.keilbach@hubinternational.com - South Region

District MVP Awards & Achievements Presented by Lois Gallaway

At the First Quarter Game on October 25th several players and teams from the CO/WY District were honored for their field goals and touchdowns during the last quarter.

Touchdown Winner

The Project of the Quarter went to the Tamarac Optimist Club for their LEGO Project. A tennis ball canister of LEGOS goes to older kids to provide comfort and give them a creative and healthy outlet during a difficult time in their life. Joyce Laman, one of the project leaders, accepted the award.

Field Goal Winners

Team Rookie of the Quarter – The first winner was Pat Humpfer from the Optimist Club of Buena Vista. After Pat's husband, a member of the club, passed away, she decided to join and has embraced everything the club does and stands for. As a nurse she is invaluable to the 9 Health Fair and volunteers for every event and project.

Team Rookie of the Quarter – This award also went to Polly Washburn from the Tamarac Optimist Club. She jumped right in and offered her talents in the communication field taking over the newsletter and website.

Team Player of the Quarter – The first winner was Wayne Urbine from the Optimist Club of Buena Vista. He served as chair of both the Oratorical and Essay contests, and was involved with every fundraiser and pro-

ject. He has been on the Board of Directors for two years.

Team Player of the Quarter – The second winner was the duo of Patty Hasty and Judy Poulson from the Front Range American Cancer Society Optimist Club. They were instrumental in the last quarter in moving the club toward creating a framework upon which to build to ensure continued growth and success.

Special Award

A special award was given to Robert Finkelmeier for his outstanding talent and commitment to making the District Newsletter complete and of the highest quality.

Congratulations to all the winners. Thank you to all the teams who submitted nominations. First Quarter honorees will be honored at the Second Quarter Conference luncheon at the Franciscan Event Center in Colorado Springs on February 28th. Deadline for nominations is February 18th. Please honor those who go that extra mile to bring out the best in kids.

Nomination Form is attached to the Newsletter Distribution email or available from Lois Gallaway at kligallaway@gmail.com, 303-771-1551 or 720-413-3830. Information to include: Category, Team, Honoree, Honoree Contact Info., Phone #, Email Address, Name of Person Submitting, Date Submitted, & Reasons for Nomination (Please keep short and concise.)

CO/WY 2015 Brain Bowl by Paul Simon

The Brain Bowl is the CO/WY District's largest activity for kids in the district, divided into three regional tournaments and a championship for 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students in a Jeopardy-like knowledge competition. About 150 volunteers are needed for the largest regional tournaments to be readers, scorekeepers, timers, runners and more. It is absolutely a ton of fun, and you don't have to be an Optimist to help out. So please sign up for yourself, family and friends.

Each year we get volunteers from about 35 clubs. More than 20 clubs contribute financially each year, which helps immensely since the Brain Bowl is funded entirely by club contributions and entry fees.



A brain bowl team gets ready to hit the buzzer and provide an answer.

Photo John Oss

We do need to know who is coming. Reader volunteers need to contact Karl Geil at Karl_Geil@prodigy.net. All readers must take part in one of the training sessions

that are listed by location and date under VOLUNTEERS > READERS at www.optimistbrainbowl.org. Other volunteers, who receive training the day of each event, must let me know at paul.simon@optimistmail.org. Although the best method is for clubs to circulate signup lists and then send me the lists, I do accept emails from individual volunteers. Please don't wait until the last minute because assuring we have enough volunteers at each event is essential.

The tournaments in 2015 are:

- ⇒ North Region, Jan. 10, Standley Lake High School, Westminster
- ⇒ Central Region, Jan. 31, Heritage High School, Littleton
- ⇒ South Region, Feb. 7, Horizon Middle School, Colorado Springs
- ⇒ Championships, Feb. 21, Hamilton Middle School, Denver

We ask volunteers at each tournament to be in place inside the school at 7 a.m. The morning sessions end about 11:30 a.m. after which lunch is on us. We need volunteers for the playoff rounds in the early afternoon, although those who need to leave after the morning rounds certainly can do so. All volunteers must be prepared to participate from 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

We ask that volunteers who sign up include name, club if applicable, email and phone number.

Everything you need to know about the Brain Bowl is available at www.optimistbrainbowl.org.

Paul Simon, paul.simon@optimistmail.org

Brain Bowl Volunteer & Fundraising Chair, Zone 8 Lt. Governor and Website Update Guy

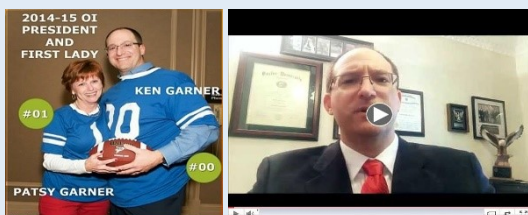
Windsor Gardens Optimist Club Update by Monica McKenzie

The Windsor Gardens Optimist Club has 36 members and will be adding 9 new members in December. The Club is supporting several youth programs, including oratorical contests for middle schools and JROTC, dictionaries for Sable Elementary, Childhood Cancer research, Nunez Foundation, Sewell Child Development, Pickens Tech School, and Tennyson Center for Children, among others. The Windsor Gardens Optimist Breakfast Club accepted an invitation to participate in a Mile High United Way/Denver Public School Power Lunch program. Our role is to recruit volunteers to go into Place Bridge Academy once a week to be a reading buddy to a second grade

student. Each student gets his or her own buddy for the entire school year. We have successfully recruited 26 volunteers and three substitutes. Volunteers bring the joy of reading, along with an opportunity for students to develop a trusting relationship with a stable adult. For 45 minutes the volunteer listens to the student read, provides encouragement and helps where needed. Sixteen Optimist club members along with other members of our community are participating.

Among the Club's fundraisers, our members purchase King Soopers Gift Cards for between \$25 and \$500. When they use these gift cards to purchase groceries at King

Continued on page 6



Optimist International President Ken Garner wishes Optimist Clubs and Members a Happy Holidays and encourages everyone to continue to Bring Out the Best in Kids, the best in their communities, and the best in themselves.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mX5gleY_pBI

Windsor Gardens continued

Soopers Grocery Stores, King Soopers gives the Optimist Club 5 percent of such purchases. These proceeds are used to support the Club's youth programs. The Club also sponsored this year a burrito breakfast and a pancake breakfast. Members contribute dollars at every breakfast to the Happy Basket, telling why they are happy.

The Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays every month for breakfast at the Blossom Restaurant at Windsor Gardens. Its officers are President Carol Brooks, Vice Presidents Marilyn Tyler and Peter Leeds, Secretary Donna Bishop, and Treasurer Betty Peterson. Additional board members are Palma Chambers, Dick Gilmore, Helen Love, David Ordway, Dave Sims, and Phyllis Woodard.

More from Windsor Optimist Club

by Kathy Goering

We are thrilled to report that we raised a record \$6500 taking donations at the door during the Quality Crafters "Christmas in Windsor" Craft Show Nov. 22-23. Keep it in mind for your Christmas shopping next year if you're in the Windsor area the weekend before Thanksgiving. Over 100 great vendors make it one of the best Craft Shows in the area. Our Club plans to increase the amount of our scholarship honoring the "Windsor High School Senior Student of the Year," and will look for other ways to help Windsor's youth with this unanticipated windfall.

Our Santa's Toy Shop gift collection is well underway around town. Christmas trees have been set up in many businesses and the Recreation Center in Windsor with tags showing gift ideas for needy children in the Windsor School District, based on information collected by former Club President Eric Harris and his family. Members of our community buy, wrap, and donate many of these gifts, which will be collected by December 13th.

Then members of the club, led by Eric and his elves, will sort and bag the gifts, and buy and wrap any additional gifts needed, prior to the distribution on December 19th. We usually serve 300-400 children from 125-150 families every year. Cash donations are welcome to help with buying enough gifts to be sure each child has at least one or two. We all derive much satisfaction from this event seeing the parents' gratitude and the delight on the children's faces when they know they'll have a happy Christmas.

Breakfast Optimist Club of Littleton

by Colin Conway

Persistence has paid off. Attached are pictures taken by Steve Beekhuizen of members present at last Friday's meeting, which was held at Panera Bread by improvisation. Also, overlooked this week was the encouragement to bring food for the kids at the ACC Pre-School.

Additionally shown are some of our recent projects with pictures from John Hammer, Ralph Dergance, and Steve Beekhuizen.



BOCL members present at an improvisation meeting in November, which was held at Panera Bread.

Photos Steve Beekhuizen

At right, the BOCL has kept its promise to support kids in the Pre-School at ACC with semi-annual \$\$ donations from Celebration Dollars to the school director, Kimberly Steele, from president Glenn Bruckhart and program chair Hank Wyeno.



November BUG Award winners at Littleton East Elementary School with members Ackerman, Conway, Seuell, Graves, Fischer, and Principal Kelly Card.



BUG Awards at Columbine Hills goes along smoothly with the assistance of members, Bill Wieder, Dave Fisher, Stan Voth, and John Hammer (behind the camera).



Second Quarter Game (Conference) - Saturday, February 28, 2015

The Second Quarter Game (Conference) agenda and registration form will be forthcoming. Just remember to mark your calendar. The executive committee will meet on Friday, February 27, at a site yet to be determined, and the conference will be Saturday, February 28, at the Franciscan Event (Retreat) Center, 7740 Deer Hill Grove, Colorado Springs, CO. For directions go to www.franciscanretreatcenter.org/.



The Franciscan Retreat Center welcomes you!

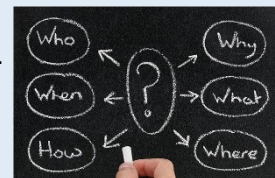
Club Highlights, Event Announcements, & Articles Needed



Help to improve the District's Quarterly Newsletter by submitting articles and pictures. The second quarter newsletter will be going out after the second quarter meeting. Submit your Club's stories and activities by March 6, 2015.

If you have any newsworthy information about your club, your club's upcoming projects, or any pertinent District News, send it to Newsletter Editor Robert Finkelmeier, robert.finkelmeier@monacosouth.org by March 6th.

A Simple, sure-fire way to create great articles is to use the 5 W's and H methodology. Use Word or Publisher format, or text in the body of an email. Photos should be submitted in .jpg format. Based upon size constraints, articles will be inserted into the newsletter on a first come, first serve basis. Be clear and concise. Please share this information to others in your club who would be interested in developing a story.



Special Things About Optimists by John Young

- ◇ Every Optimist feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.
- ◇ Optimists cast the gift of a lovely thought into the hearts of friends.
- ◇ Optimists know that the luxury of doing good surpasses every other personal enjoyment.
- ◇ Optimists do all the good they can; to all the people they can, in every way they can, as often as they can and as long as they can.
- ◇ Optimists not only affirm the brotherhood of man, they live it.
- ◇ Optimists turn their faces to the sun, and the shadows fall behind them.
- ◇ Optimists find themselves refreshed by the presence of cheerful people and they make earnest efforts to confer that pleasure on others. They know that half the battle is gained if they never allow themselves to say anything gloomy.
- ◇ Optimists pull up all the weeds they find to make room for the flowers.
- ◇ Optimists know that children have more need of models than of critics, and that they need lots of love, especially when they do not deserve it.
- ◇ Optimists believe in little children as the most precious gift of Heaven to Earth. They believe that children have immortal souls, created in the image of God, with infinite possibilities for good or evil and that the kind of influence with which they are surrounded in early childhood largely determines whether or not their budding life will bloom in fragrance and beauty with the fruits of a noble Godlike character.
- ◇ Optimists know that they, who wish to secure the good of others, have already secured their own.
- ◇ The goal of every Optimist is to help in some small way to reduce the sum of ignorance, degradation, and misery on the face of this beautiful earth.
- ◇ Optimists know that nothing costs less or pays more than the compliments of civility.
- ◇ I am a little thing with a big meaning ... I help everybody ... I unlock doors, open hearts, do away with prejudices ... I create friendship and good will ... I inspire respect and confidence ... I bore no one ... I cost nothing ... Many have praised me, none have condemned me ... I am pleasing to everyone ... I am useful every moment of the day ... I am OPTIMISM!
- ◇ Optimists know the great end of education is to discipline rather than to furnish the mind: to train it to the use of its own powers, rather than fill it with the accumulation of others.
- ◇ Optimists know that to worry about tomorrow is to fail of devotion to the tasks of today, and thus to spoil both days.
- ◇ To insure good health: eat lightly, breathe deeply, live moderately, cultivate cheerfulness, maintain an interest in life, and become an OPTIMIST!

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.

CHEER FOR THE KIDS

**ATTENTION PRESIDENTS!
PLEASE READ THE CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCEMENT TO YOUR CLUB
MEMBERS, AND CIRCULATE THIS
NEWSLETTER TO ALL YOUR MEM-
BERS WHO DO NOT HAVE EMAIL**

CO/WY District 25, address changes
c/o Greg W. Young
3983 South Olive Street
Denver, Colorado 80237-2037