

Teamwork Tribune

Governor's Corner - Paul Simon 2016-2017



What a great time to be an Optimist!

No, really. With all the nastiness of the presidential election it's been so rewarding – and reassuring – to join with my extended Optimist family to do so much good for youth, ourselves and our communities. I hope you agree.

District Optimist leaders are stewards of all things positive. We are club members just like you who are giving back and reaping the rewards of personal growth and ever-more friendships.

Our district is composed of nine active zones, with a lieutenant governor in each zone to support you. We have committees and chairs for our various programs and district activities. The point is that everyone is a volunteer, just like you. Get to know those in the district who have stepped up. Reach out to them. When they reach out to you, give them your respect by responding.

Besides personal contact, we're informing you in multiple ways. In addition to this newsletter, we have a new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cowyoptimist where we're posting pictures, news, fundraisers, you name it. You can post and comment there, and I hope you will do so.

The district website at www.optimistcowy.org is another touchpoint. Both are great sources of information to help you, and we also encourage you to contribute club news, as you are seeing in this newsletter.

Finally, a word about district get-togethers. These are not your father's Optimist conferences and you owe it to yourself to participate. At the Oct. 11 1st Quarter Conference we heard from district Optimist Oratorical winner Mark Spangler and packed food bags for families in need here and abroad. District program leaders staffing tables at Information Central explained one-on-one how the programs work and passed along valuable tips for your clubs. Junior Optimists from several clubs joined us for the day; They had a great time and so did we.

We provide breakfast and lunch at a low cost and get you out mid-afternoon. The 2nd Quarter conference May 13 at the new Shiloh Resource Pavilion in Centennial will be built around helping you grow your club membership. We expect more participation from youth as well. The agenda and registration will be available early in 2017 and I hope you will join us.



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District Officers

- ☐ Governor: Paul Simon, Monaco South FRACSOC, TIDOC
- ☐ Governor-Elect: John Swanborg, Westminster OC
- ☐ Secretary/Treasurer: Craig Baldwin, Heather Gardens OC
- ☐ Immediate Past Gov.: Curt Merrill, Difference Makers of Aurora OC

Lt. Governors

- ☐ Zone 1: Andrew Stanger, Windsor
- ☐ Zone 2: Steve Armfield, Loveland
- ☐ Zone 3: Donna & Joe Priester, Academy
- ☐ Zone 4: Michael Chavez, Monaco South
- ☐ Zone 5: Nancy DeNiro, Tamarac
- ☐ Zone 6: Jon Wachter, Monaco South
- ☐ Zone 7: Mike McMahon, Monaco South
- ☐ Zone 8: Sharon Foster, Academy
- ☐ Zone 9: Terri Kearney, Arvada Lake Arbor

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: <https://sites.google.com/site/cowyoptimistgolf/home>

One Member, One Child Award - Carlos... by Nancy Stevens, Tamarac OC



After retiring I joined the Tamarac Optimist Club and started volunteering at a primary school half a day a week to help children who were struggling with their reading. After several months of working with children on an individual basis I began working in the classroom.

The next school year (2007-2008) I began volunteering eight hours

a day, five days a week. I was asked to work with the children who did not speak English. I had no idea how I would communicate with these children when they did not speak English, and I did not speak their language, but we figured it out and through the course of the year I got very close to these children. I attempted to stay in their lives when they moved on, but it didn't happen until the 2009-2010 school year. That was when I met and was assigned to Carlos who had just moved from Mexico. As that school year was coming to a close, I asked his mother if I could stay in Carlos' life to which she agreed.

Our first outing was the last day of that school year, and I took Carlos and his mother to lunch and then to the

Butterfly Pavilion. To this day I see Carlos two to four times a month depending on my travel schedule and his parent's schedules. I have been able to take him to so many places that he would not have been able to go had I not taken him. He has told me how much he loves the experiences (and me), and has told me and others that might question our relationship, that I am his adopted grandmother.

We go to the Museum of Nature and Science every time they have a new exhibit or IMAX. We have been to the Denver Zoo, Buffalo Bill's grave, a 5K walk/run (I walked – he ran), Cinco de Mayo, craft fairs, the Colorado History Museum, the Denver Zoo, Taste of Colorado, many movies, and many, many more activities and sights. We make lots of trips to his favorite store – Barnes and Noble.

When his little brother was born five years ago, Carlos stayed with me for four days and I picked him up from and took him to school and cared for him at night. I am included in all the family birthday parties, and enjoy times with the family at dinners.

Carlos and I have had many conversations on important subjects including education, the availability of scholarships, sex, politics, and religion. My relationship with Carlos has brought me so much joy and pride as I have watched him grow from a frightened child who spoke no English to a young man with goals and a 3.99 Grade Point Average.

Windsor Gardens Breakfast Club Celebrates a New Tradition

A year ago, our past president, **Carol Brooks** discovered that a child at Place Bridge Academy was wearing wet socks to school in the cold weather. Carol made it our club's mission to collect new and gently used winter coats, hats, mittens, socks and boots for all the children in need at Place Bridge.

The club members decided we'd rather donate clothing at the holidays than bring gifts for each other at our December meeting. This is such a worthy cause that we're going to make it an annual tradition. Next month we will once again bring clothing for those in need.



Optimist Club of Monaco South Sells Christmas Trees

Kids visit with Santa

The Optimist Club of Monaco South will once again be offering Christmas trees for sale at the northwest corner of Monaco & Iliff (2223 S. Monaco) at the Villa Monaco Shopping Center.

The funds raised through tree sales allow Monaco South to continue its 40-year history of serving youth and the community. On week-ends Santa Claus is in residence at the Tree Lot's heated Santa Haus to visit with the young and not so young at no charge or purchase obligation.

Besides six varieties of trees, wreaths, fresh garland and tree accessories are available for holiday decorating.

This annual fundraiser is a local 30-year tradition and supports over 35 youth and community programs, including Super Citizenship Awards at Bradley International, Hamilton Middle, Highline Academy, Holm Elementary, Lowry Elementary, McMeen Elementary, Most Precious Blood, Samuels Elementary, Slavons Elementary, and University Park Elementary schools. Additionally, the club provides Thanksgiving and Christmas Day Food Baskets, Thanksgiving dinner to over 900 kids at the Boys and Girls Clubs/Girls Inc, and programs such as Respect for Law and Brain Bowl. Assistance is given to the Thomas Jefferson High School Art Fest, March of Dimes Mudd Volleyball Tournament, Multiple Sclerosis Society BikeMS event, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, ADA Camp Colorado, and many other community projects.

The Monaco South Tree Lot opens on November 25 through Christmas Eve. Anyone wanting to volunteer some community service time can contact Greg Young at 303-759-3921 or at gndyoung@comcast.net and sign up for a 3 hour shift....it's fun and rewarding!



Difference Makers of Aurora OC Tahirah Champion, President

We want to congratulate and thank our club member Tanya Pemberton for the outstanding job she is doing through the Salvation Army. She was recently recognized by KDVR Fox News for her tireless efforts. Christine Bixman and her family were moving to Colorado when a horrible accident left them with nothing. While she, her husband and their five kids are rich in what really counts, love, they've got a long road ahead of them before getting back on track and the Salvation Army is lending a helping hand. Bixman said even though it is difficult to ask for help, her children's well-being is her first priority. "Their health, their happiness is everything I live for," she said. Lt.

Tanya Pemberton of the Salvation Army Center in Aurora is guiding the way. "They need a warm meal and toys under the tree just like anybody else," she said. Pemberton said her experience with the Salvation Army left her knowing that she could play a role in helping others. <http://kdvr.com/2016/11/09/salvation-army-helps-mom-5-kids-left-with-nothing-after-accident/>

Greeley Luncheon (Nooner News)

Joint Meeting With Kiwanis Club

The Annual Joint Meeting with the Greeley Kiwanis Club will be held Tuesday, November 22nd at the Greeley Recreation Center downtown. This annual observance celebrates the Thanksgiving Holiday and offers Optimists and Kiwanians to gather as both clubs are focused on youth development in our Community. Both clubs look forward to this meeting each year, and have a great community program presented that informs both clubs. Let's have a great turnout again this year. Mark your calendars so you won't go to the wrong meeting place.

District Roster Available Online

The most updated and correct emails of District members is available on the website.

This includes corrections to the District Directory.

Any corrections to your information throughout the year must be reported to OI, the CO/WY District so you will receive important messages regarding your membership.

Also, See the FORMS page on the district website at www.optimistcowy.org to review the minutes from the 1st Quarter Executive Committee and the 1st Quarter Board meeting. You'll also find the district budget, the year-end financial statement from the 2015-2016 Optimist year and an updated District Policies.



Gateway OC Club News by Fran Krech

On September 17th, we organized and with cooperation of the Colorado Division of Wildlife had our annual fishing excursion to a private stocked lake.

The boys and girls from Vaughn Elementary School in Aurora attended along with some school staff, parents and club members. A briefing on how to fish and fishing pole and tackle are provided by CDW and then off to the lake.

Brad Martin, "our Santa Claus", was instrumental in obtaining bus transportation, as unfortunately, we were not able to obtain it through the school district as we had in the past. He saved the day! He also obtained our delicious lunches through Atlanta Bread Company who graciously donated them. Santa is helping at various times of the year.

Several creative notes and pictures from the thankful children who attended, relayed, "how much fun", "what a blast", and "I learned how to fish".

On Nov 30, our club will meet at Grandview High School to recognize the AVID program winners of the Optimist Essay

Contest.

As the holidays approach, we continue to support our two long time organizations of the Denver Children's Home and the Sewell Children's Development School. Santa once again is key in obtaining some of our toys and candy.

The Denver Children's Home is a residential treatment center and shelter for those 6-18. We will host a Christmas party for the children as Santa distributes gifts and clothing we provide to each child along with a cash donation to the home.

Sewell School offers services for underprivileged and challenged children. We will also include a party along with gifts we have bought that Santa distributes.

A number of our members will help the Salvation Army with bell ringing one Saturday.

We enjoy these activities and gain reward in noting the reactions of the children

We are a smaller club but "mighty".

Children see magic because they look for it.

LUMC Optimist Club submitted by Lou Jacquay



LUMC Optimist Club's First New Member for 2016/2017 Year is Nancy Crow, who was inducted by Vice-President Bev Lowrimore.



East Elementary School
TriStar Football
Oct. 24, 2016

The LUMC Optimist Club TriStar Football event was conducted at East Elementary School, Littleton, CO October 24, 2016, with personnel supported by members from Littleton OC.

Team NOW Updates

Your District membership committee would like to bring all of you up to date as to ongoing efforts to increase the membership of the District.

Presently, we have the following "irons in the fire".

- Ft. Collins: Potential NOW program.
- Colorado Springs: New club building in South C.O.S.
- Ft. Morgan Evening/Sunrise clubs: Potential NOW program (combined)
- Englewood: New Club building in progress.
- Classic Car Club: in process of re-building.

Our **"Team"** is always available to assist clubs with either a NOW event or building a NEW club or both. Please call on us for help. Our team consists of high quality, experienced and proved leaders who can provide assistance, guidance & positive results. They are as follows:

Charles Pease (Chair): former Distinguished Club President (2 different clubs), Distinguished Lt. Governor, Outstanding/Distinguished Governor (2011-2012), Builder of Excellence (New club buildings), numerous NOW events.

Ron Benson: Former Club President, Lt. Governor & District Governor. OI V.P 2017-2018.

Abigail Nicholas: Former Club President, Former District Governor, current Club President.

Phil Perrington: Former Club President, Former District Governor, Builder of Excellent (Classic Car Club).

Tony Carpenter: Former Club President, Former Lt. Governor.

Frank Middleton: Creator of awards program for 3+ membership drive.

FRACSOC Teams Up With Pancakes!

Teamwork in action was displayed when FRACSOC And South Monaco Optimist clubs came together to make and serve pancakes to the participants of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. The walk was held to raise money in the fight against breast cancer. What does this



have to do with kids you ask? The people fighting breast cancer are the mothers, sisters, grandmas, (and including some men) of the children we deal with. There is an impact on them we can't know.

The two clubs came together to make and served over 1000 participants pancakes. What wonderful **TEAMWORK**. Everybody had a job and performed it well. There were many accolades and thanks for all the hard work. Now that is **TEAMWORK**!

COMING IN DECEMBER at Brent's Place:



Brain Bowl 2017 by Nancy DeNiro

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.



Last year we served over 1,000 students at this event, and we are expecting about the same this year.

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. We do need to know who is coming.

The four tournaments this year are:

North: Saturday, January 7, 2017 at Standley Lake High School in Westminster

Central: Saturday, January 21, 2017 at Heritage High School in Littleton

South: Saturday, February 4, 2017 at Horizon Middle School in Colorado Springs

The Championship Tournament: Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Hamilton Middle School in Denver.



Kids are ready to hit the buzzer to give an answer!

Anyone who would like to work one or more tournaments as a Reader needs to attend a Reader Training seminar before the tournament. Because Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Saturdays this year, we had some trouble scheduling those, but the Denver/Boulder area Reader

Trainings will be:

Saturday, December 17, 2016 from 9am to Noon at the Valmont Presbyterian Church, 3262 61st St, Boulder CO 80301

Tuesday, January 3, 2017 from 6pm-8:30pm at Hamilton Middle School, 8600 E Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO 80231

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 from 6 pm to 9 pm at Heritage High School, 1401 W. Geddes Ave, Littleton, CO 80120.

There will be two **Reader Training sessions in Colorado Springs** this year, one of them occurring prior to the North Tournament. They are:

Thursday, January 5, 2017 from 6pm – 9:00pm at Library 21C, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Thursday, February 2, 2017 from 6pm – 8:30pm at Library 21C, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Go to www.optimistbrainbowl.org and click on "Optimists and Volunteers"

Other volunteers, who receive training the day of each event, must let Nancy DeNiro know at ndenro4@gmail.com

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 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.

COLORADO WYOMING OPTIMISTS 2016-2017 Quarterly Award Categories

Individual Awards:

Two winners will be chosen per quarter (one for each category)

#1) Rookie Of The quarter

Awarded to ONE new member who, during their first quarter as an Optimist member, best demonstrated dedication, leadership and commitment to their club and community during their joining quarter.

#2) Hit The Ground running:

Awarded to a member who embraces the Optimist Creed along with their volunteerism during their first year of joining.

Each club is encouraged to submit a nominee for each of the individual categories. The winner will be selected by the awards team and will be presented their award at the District Quarterly Conference pertaining to the award quarter:

October through December: Nomination must be postmarked by January 15th 2017. Award will be presented at the 2nd Quarter Conference on February 11, 2017.

January through March: Nomination must be postmarked by April 15th 2017. Award will be presented at the 3rd Quarter Conference on May 13, 2017.

April through June: Nomination must be postmarked by July 15th, 2017. Award will be presented at the District Convention August 17-20, 2017.

July through September: Nomination must be postmarked by October 10th, 2017. Award will be presented at the First District Conference

NOTE: If your club nominee wins one of the individual awards, PLEASE have a representative and your member receiving the award at the conference. We would also encourage the club to cover the registration cost for the winning member.

Club Awards:

\$25 check to club to be used for future projects

One winner for each category each quarter

Club Project of the Quarter

Awarded to a club that conducted a project that has "Brought out the Best" for the youth in our communities. The project must be completed within the current year.

Groundbreaker Award:

Awarded to a club that has promoted Optimist International to increase membership and public knowledge of our principals. The promotion can be in the form of brochures, press releases, website, social media, or media recognition.

When submitting, clubs attach an example with the nomination form.

Each club is encouraged to submit a summary of the project. The winner will be selected by the awards team and will be presented their award at the District Quarterly Conference pertaining to the award quarter:

October through December: Nomination must be postmarked by January 15th 2017. Award will be presented at the 2nd Quarter Conference on February 11, 2017.

January through March: Nomination must be postmarked by April 15th 2017. Award will be presented at the 3rd Quarter Conference on May 13, 2017.

April through June: Nomination must be postmarked by July 15th, 2017. Award will be presented at the District Convention August 17-20, 2017.

July through September: Nomination must be postmarked by October 10th, 2017. Award will be presented at the First District Conference 2017-2018.

NOTE: If your club wins either of the above awards, PLEASE have a representative at the conference to accept the award in person.

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.

District Awards cont..

OPTIMIST OF THE YEAR: Each club can submit one nomination, postmarked January 15, 2018. The nominee can be either an old or new Optimist Member who has demonstrated an exemplary example of Optimism in the club and the community, the award presented at the First Quarter Conference, 2017-2018.

Nominations should be mailed to:

Trish Merrill
P.O. Box 440327
Aurora, CO 80044
Cell: 303-885-4288
Call if you have any questions!



CO/WY District, OI

Nancy DeNiro
14740 E Chenango Pl
Aurora, CO 80015

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE