

# Colorado/Wyoming Optimist Newsletter

December 4, 2015



I hope that your Thanksgiving Holiday was a great one for you and your family and I hope that you are looking forward to the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. I just wanted to take some time to update you with the exciting news in the Colorado/Wyoming District. We now have six clubs in various stages of forming: Aurora, Englewood, Sheridan, Highlands Ranch, Denver and Stapleton. The Aurora club, which is an evening club, is nearing charter status as we have 10 members who have committed to join the club. If you have friends in these areas and would like them to join one of these clubs contact Charlie Pease at [cpease007@gmail.com](mailto:cpease007@gmail.com).



The NOW team is up and running with the team already doing NOW programs for clubs. This team is dedicated to helping your club grow in membership bringing together ideas that maybe you haven't thought of to make membership drives successful. The members of the NOW team are as follows: Charlie Pease (Past Outstanding Distinguished Governor); Ron Benson (Past Governor); Abigail Nicolas (Past Governor); Phil Perington (Past Governor) and Frank Middleton (Past Lt Governor). I think you would have to agree this is a stellar team and can make the growth that you want for your club happen in the coming year. Frank Middleton has already come up with a membership drive rewards program which is as follows:

## CONTEST FOR ALL OPTIMISTS IN THE COLORADO WY DISTRICT

WIN a \$50 gift certificate to Maggiano's, Brown Palace or Your Favorite Restaurant

Just bring in 3 new members

From October 1, 2015 thru January 31, 2016

Only guidelines are:

1. The new member cannot be a FOO (Friend of Optimist)
2. A current Optimist cannot be joining another Optimist Club
3. The new members must be recorded on the OI Headquarters Club Roster by January 31, 2016

HAVE FUN AND WIN OFTEN      UNLIMITED CHANCES TO WIN

Awards to be given at the second quarter conference

February 27, 2016 in Denver

Several clubs that I was able to visit in the month of November have impacted a lot of kids. First off was the FRACSOC club's involvement with the Breast Cancer 5K run serving over 2500 participants pancakes after their run in Denver. Next I was up in Boulder for their annual Youth Appreciation Dinner honoring special youth nominated by several organizations in the Boulder area for their outstanding contributions to those organizations. The Monaco South Optimist club served up 800 Thanksgiving meals for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Denver. They conducted a book drive and gave out more than 3000 books to those kids that attended in support of the literacy program by Denver Bronco David Bruton.



And finally, Trish and I made a special trip down south to the Academy OC Santa Train. This event requires us to turn into elves and help kids get excited about the coming arrival of Santa Claus. This truly is a wonderful event and if you have ever had the desire to transform yourself into an elf then you have to volunteer for this event as you will never regret taking time to do it.



Finally, I want to remind you of the grant fund that I started this year: Impacting the Future; One Member, One Child. Have you ever had the chance to Impact a child's life or, better still, did a child ever Impact your life? Here's your chance to express that experience. Write down that experience and send that to me and you might win \$150.00 grant money to continue the great projects that your club does. There will be two winners per quarter: one large club (+40) and one small club (less than 40). A club can only win this grant money one time this year so there is room for all and you can enter as many times until you win. The deadline for the first quarter is February 1, 2016.

I want to conclude that we as Optimists are needed more than ever in the world today. With the events of the past weeks I feel it is evident that we need to make a greater Impact as our children need to know that someone is there that cares about their future. I know that each and every one of the Optimists in the Colorado/Wyoming District strive to make this a reality. Can we do more? Sure we can. Let us each look at the projects that we do and see how we can make them more effective and reach out to as many children that we can. Look at doing new projects or ones that were done at one time and discarded. Most importantly make those projects FUN for both the kids that you serve and your members. As Optimists we can make a difference and we are making a difference. The kids are counting on us!

Curt Merrill

Governor CO/WY

## **Important Dates to Remember**

### **Brain Bowl**

North Region Tournament: Saturday January 9, 2016-Stanley Lake High School

Central Region Tournament: Saturday January 30, 2016-Heritage High School

South Region Tournament: Saturday, February 6, 2016- Horizon Middle School

Championship Tournament: Saturday, February 20, 2016-Hamilton Middle School

To volunteer contact Mike Chavez or Nancy DeNiro or go to

[www.optimistbrainbowl.org](http://www.optimistbrainbowl.org)

### **Oratorical**

Clubs need to complete their club contests no later than March 30, 2016.

Zone Contest: Check with your Lt Governor for Zone Contest Dates and times.

Zone contests will be conducted no later than the first two weeks in April.

District Contest: This event will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Contest winner will speak at the District Conference and will advance to the World Competition in St. Louis.

Please contact Donna Priester, Sharon Foster or Steve Gorrell for more info.

These chairs will also come to your club meeting and speak about the contest.

### **Essay Contest**

All entries for the essay contest must be turned in no later than February 28, 2016 to the Essay Chair, Joe Marci.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter District Conference**

Come join us for an exciting conference on February 27, 2016. Book author Joyce Lohse will speak about "Colorado History: Truth & Mystery." Flyer and registration included with this newsletter.



Colorado/Wyoming  
Optimist District  
2nd Quarter Conference  
February 27, 2016

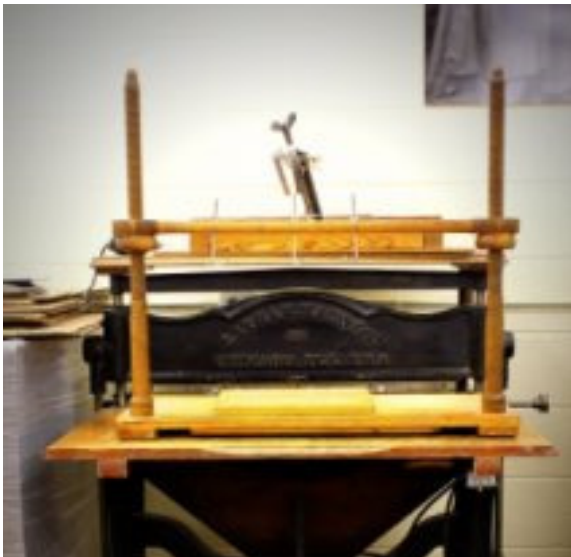
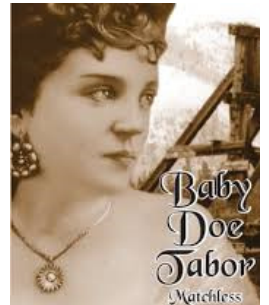


Denver Bookbinding  
Event Center  
2715 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
Denver, CO

Joyce Lohse, Author

“Colorado History: Truth &  
Mystery”

Also Gail Lindley, Owner DBBC



Breakfast Starts at 8AM

Board Meeting Starts at 9AM  
All Club Presidents should attend

**Early Bird Registration**  
by January 15, 2016 Only  
\$30 for Breakfast & Lunch.

**Regular Registration**  
\$35.00 till February 15,  
2016

**Late Registration**  
\$40.00 After February 15,  
2016



Denver Bookbinding Event Center  
February 27, 2016

1401 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Denver, CO 80211  
Phone: 303.455.5521

[DBBC@denverbook.com](mailto:DBBC@denverbook.com)

**8AM Breakfast: 9AM Meeting**



**Conference Early Bird Registration: \$30 if received by January 15, 2016;**  
**Regular Registration:** \$35 from January 16 to February 15  
**Late Registration** \$40 after February 15, 2016. ☐ Check here if paid online.

Name: Optimist 1: \_\_\_\_\_:

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer? \_\_\_\_\_

Optimist 1: Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Optimist 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer? \_\_\_\_\_

Optimist 2: Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU MAY PAY ONLINE at the Colorado/Wyoming website:**  
<https://www.optimistcowy.org/events-conferences/conferences/>

If paying by check: Mail check, payable to Colorado/Wyoming Optimists to Trish  
**EITHER WAY YOU PAY, MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO:**  
Trish Merrill P.O. Box 440327, Aurora, CO 80044  
Phone: 303 885-4288 E-mail: [t\\_merrill@comcast.net](mailto:t_merrill@comcast.net)