



CO/WY Optimist District

2nd Quarter Newsletter 2014 - 2015

March 2015

Inside this issue:

Governor's Corner	1
2nd Qtr Game Awards	3
CO/WY Brain Bowl	3
Touch of Vegas	4
Glass Half Full Band	4
funRaiser for the 3rd Qtr Game	4
Horizon JOOI Club	5
Evolution of the Solution	5
Oratorical Contest Winners	6
OI Foundation Update	7
C. Milton Morris Achievement	7
Club News	8
Zone News	10
3rd Qtr Game Registration Form	11

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: Larry Brown, Academy
- ◆ Zone 11: Nancy DeNiro, Tamarac



Governor's Corner

Greetings to my fellow Optimists!



Abigail Nicholas

Here we are in the month of March. Although there is a bit of snow all over the ground we have high hopes for warmer weather and for those spring flowers that will soon peek their heads out of the ground.

This Optimist year continues to be exciting for your Head Coach/Governor! I have been staying busy with my goal of being visible to our clubs. I have logged in many, many visits to club meetings and events. I am constantly amazed by the variety of projects and fundraisers that all of you are involved in for the kids in your communities! *Way to go, Team!*

Another one of my goals is to encourage our club members to make a visit to other Optimist club meetings or events. It is definitely worthwhile and will be a learning, re-energizing time for you and your club. You will have the opportunity to make new Optimist friends. It is my very favorite thing to do as your Head Coach/Governor!

Our District held it's Second Quarter Game/Conference on February 28th. Over 100 Optimists registered for the event that was held at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. We were blessed to not have any new snowstorms to spoil the fun and camaraderie. Breakfast and lunch were very tasty and plentiful. Attendees filled up to their hearts, or should we say, their tummy's content!

We were honored to have the CEO, Dale Penney, of the "Up With People" organization as our keynote speaker. They are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Up With

People is an amazing group! More than 21,000 young men and women from more than 102 countries have come together to travel in 180 casts to deliver a common message of hope and goodwill to people around the world. At the same time, the performers pursue their own global education and personal growth goals through service, music and travel.

Our District's Second Quarterly Board meeting was dispatched with updates on the "state of the Union" for Optimist International, the Southwest Region and our District. We also took this time to welcome and "pin" new Lt. Governor, Larry Brown, to serve in Zone 10. Former Lt. Governor Shannon Richter, due to increased work obligations, was unable to finish out this Optimist year in Zone 10. We had presentations by many of our Coaches/Chairs about the PGI program, the OI Foundation, upcoming contests, events and fundraisers.



Governor Abigail Nicholas, shares the activates to date for the Colorado-Wyoming District. On her left is Greg Young, District Secretary/Treasurer, and on her right is Curtis Merrill, Governor-Elect.

Photo Joe Priester

In the afternoon, we had the great pleasure of welcoming members from two of our District's JOOI clubs: Kids Partnering and Horizon. It was my

See Governor's Corner, 2

Governor's Corner Continued

honor to carry out the induction of club members and the installation for the Kids Partnering club's officers. What a treat to have these kids at our Second Quarter Game/Conference!

Members from both JOOI clubs remained with us in the afternoon to help us make blankets and cards of hope for children receiving cancer treatment in a Colorado Springs hospital. After a flurry of cutting material, busy fingers tying knots, magic markers, glue plus lots of laughter we stacked up many blankets and a basketful of cards that will put big smiles on the faces of the kids in the hospital.

I encourage you to join us for the Third Quarter Game/Conference that will take place on May 9th at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Denver. More fun, fellowship, and good food plus the District Level Oratorical and CCDHH Contests are being planned now! You will also hear our Essay Contest winners read their winning entries and we are expecting another keynote speaker to entertain us. Our Southwest Region OI Vice President, Jan Oord and her husband, Ron Graves, will join us.

You won't want to miss the Friday night, May 8th, District Childhood Cancer Campaign's Fundraiser "A Touch of Vegas"! I hear there will be "funny money" gambling...black jack, roulette, craps and Texas hold 'em. Great entertainment by STARS ALIVE, an "illegal" wedding chapel, tasty snacks and a silent auction are sure to add to the fun. Mark your calendars now to join us!

Now, just a moment of your time to speak of serious things happening in our Colorado/Wyoming District:

Within the last three months we lost four clubs in our District. We are at 56 clubs as of this date. Three clubs voted to disband and one club's charter was re-

voked for non-payment of dues. Currently we have 25 clubs who have less than 20 members and there are nine clubs with less than 10 members. We are coming to the crossroads for many of our clubs.

Please, please ask yourself and your fellow club members what can you do to help.

If you are in a strong, active club is there something you can do to help the smaller, struggling clubs? If you are in a small club can you come up with a plan to grow strong again? There are sooo many Optimist members who will help... the NOW Team, Lt. Governors, other clubs, your Head Coach/Governor and Optimist International. I ask you to not let the legacy of your club fade into history. Kids in our communities need our help now, more than ever!

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

I would like to leave you with two quotes from the famous football coach, Vince Lombardi. I believe this ring true for each of us in our Optimist clubs, Districts, Regions and Optimist International.

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

"I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious."

Now get out there and "play ball on the field of your life"! CHEERS for the KIDS!

Head Coach/Governor Abigail Nicholas



District Leaders:

Please note the attached flyer's concerning the upcoming **Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. It will be held at the 3rd Quarter Game (Conference) on May 9, 2015 and between now and then students who are interested in participating in this worthwhile event must be given a chance by your club to complete the application form (attached) and practice their presentations.

Your help is vital to the success of this program because the deaf and hard of hearing students are so spread out that one person could never reach all of them in time. Please contact the high schools in your area and identify their students who would like to compete, then follow up with them and help them get ready by inviting them to your clubs' meeting and encourage them to prepare a 'speech' on this years topic, which is the same as the Oratorical Contest: "How My Optimism Will Help Me Press On To Greater Achievements of the Future."

Keep in mind that there are two \$2500 scholarships that will be awarded, one will go to a student who presents in sign language and the other to a student who presents orally. Please mark the presentation skill being used on the application form.

Thank you. Joe Priester, District CCDHH Chair

2nd QUARTER GAME AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS WINNERS by Lois Gallaway**FIELD GOALS****Team Players of the Quarter**

Sam Bartley from Academy Optimist Club is Team Player of the Quarter. During the last quarter Sam has shown his unwavering service in the projects of the Santa Train, the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the rebranding of the club. This personal inspiration has caused Sam to be that Optimist that has gone the extra mile for the club in so many ways. Nominated by: Al Shea. Congratulations Sam!

Evelyn Wall from Academy Optimist Club is Team Player of the Quarter. Evelyn is being recognized as co-sponsor for the Horizon Middle School Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI) Club. She taught the kids how to knit hats for their "Healing Hats" for children with cancer. She has worked with them to make blankets for their "Bundles of Love" project for children in the hospital. She also gives HUGS! Nominated by: Donna Priestler. Congratulations Evelyn!

Rookie of the Quarter

Gay Roesch from DTC Optimist Club is Rookie of the Quarter. She has demonstrated great dedication and support by volunteering for numerous events such as Brain Bowl and Colorado Feeds Kids. A great representative of the club she demonstrates what a great Optimist is. Nominated by: Trish Merrill & Charlie Neumann. Congratulations Gay!

Dee Carsten from the Tamarac Optimist Club is Rookie of the Quarter. As a new player she took the role of liaison for weekly speakers. She is the lead in finding, scheduling, confirming, and introducing speakers at the weekly club meetings. Stepping up before she was inducted to the club she helped with a Rockies game fundraiser. Nominated by: Carole Smith. Congratulations Dee!

New Player of the Quarter

Frances Tencza from Academy Optimist Club is New Player of the Quarter. Frances brought 3 new players into the Academy Optimist Club this past quarter. Frances continues to help in team building and is a worthy scout for the club. Nominated by: Carol Booth. Congratulations Frances!

TOUCHDOWN**Team Project of the Quarter**

The Windsor Gardens Breakfast Optimist Club wins the Team Project of the Quarter. The club was active in a Reading/Mentor Program recruiting 25-30 volunteers involving not only the club members but also members of the Windsor Gardens community. Club members started a weekly reading program at Place Bridge Academy in cooperation with United Way. By working through the community, the club has helped raise the awareness of the Windsor Gardens Breakfast Optimist Club helping to create a ten percent increase in membership and strong community acceptance of this program. Team leader for this project is Donna Bishop. Nominated by: Carol Brooks. Congratulations Windsor Gardens Breakfast Optimist Club!

There are many clubs who have members who have done outstanding work and should be recognized. Many clubs have done great projects that have benefited kids. Many clubs have promoted their projects and their clubs through some means of publicity. Take the time and effort to send in these nominations for next quarter's awards. Deadline for these nominations is April 29.

If you have questions, contact Lois Gallaway, District Awards & Achievements Chair, at 720-413-3830.

CO/WY 2015 Brain Bowl Championship by Karl Geil

The 2015 Championship Tournament of the Optimist Brain Bowl was held Saturday, March 21, 2015, at Hamilton Middle School. Challenger 8A, from Colorado Springs, was the 8th grade champion, Louisville 7B the 7th grade champion, and the home team, Hamilton 6A, was the 6th grade Champion. Many thanks to the Optimist members and their family and friends who made this year's Optimist Brain Bowl possible. The top four results can be found at <http://www.optimistbrainbowl.org/Resources/ChampionshipResults/Championship2015FinalsResults.pdf>

- Video Optimist Club's 2015 Brain Bowl Finals by Tom Hoch, [CLICK HERE](#)
- Brain Bowl Competition Photo's by Joe Priestler, [CLICK HERE](#)
- FRACSOC's Brain Bowl Concession Photo's by Joe Priestler, [CLICK HERE](#)

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

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



Photos: Joe Priestler

TOUCH OF VEGAS for the CO/WY District Optimists by Patty Hasty

Optimists of the CO/WY District, we need your help to make this year's Childhood Cancer Campaign fundraiser great fun and a success. We are going to have a "Touch of Vegas" Night. It is going to be on Friday, May 8 from 6:00-9:30 at the American Legion #1 (I-25 and Yale – right off I-25 at exit 202).

There will be GAMBLING: Black Jack, Roulette, Craps and Texas Hold em. There will be ENTERTAINMENT: Our Beautiful Governor Abigail as Marilyn Monroe and her friends Roy Orbison, Frank Sinatra and Elvis (and maybe more?). There will be an Illegal Wedding Chapel, a Silent Auction, Snacks and fun, fun, fun!

What we need from YOU, the wonderful Optimists of the CO/WY District: Sponsors for the event. \$100 sponsorships are needed for the gambling tables, the site, etc. All sponsors will be recognized by signage at the event. Anyone can be a sponsor. If you know a business, etc., it is all tax deductible!

We also need you to sell tickets to the event. Your Lt.

Governors have tickets, or contact Judy and she will send you some - immediately. Tickets are \$30 each. Sell them to everyone you know and even those you sort of know! The more the more fun! The purchaser receives \$1000 in play gambling money and all the fun of the event.

Do you know folks that would donate \$25 value gift cards, etc. – we need them for prizes. And lastly we will be having a Silent Auction – we welcome all items.

Last year the CO/WY District was third for CCC – Let's go for #1. Thank You in advance for your help and support.

Your Childhood Cancer Campaign Co-Chairs,
Judy Poulson, judyypoulson@comcast.net and
Patty Hasty, pattyhasty@msn.com

**Yes, Virginia, Glass Half Full Band Will Play at the District Convention!** by Sam Bartly

The Glass Half Full Band, the Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District's own popular musical group, Half Glass Full Optimist Band has been asked to play at the 2015 District Convention in Glenwood Springs!

We're starting to prepare our set lists. We love the rock and blues stuff but we've been told we need more slow songs! Yeah, we want to play a few belt-buckle polishers for you. So what slow songs do you and your honey like to dance to? Let us know and we'll see what we can do.

Who knows, we might even get Randy to sing one! Email your suggestions to SamBartOpt@gmail.com. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Editor's note: The Glass Half Full Band consists of Sam Bartley from the Academy Optimist Club in Colorado Springs and Jon Wachter and Randy Marcove from the Monaco South Optimist Club in Denver. The annual Super Game/Convention is scheduled for August 27-30, 2015 at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs.

**funRaiser for the 3rd Game**

A "Tequila Pull" by Charlie Neumann

Fun Raiser

#1-Clubs, Club Presidents, Lt. Gov's: The **funRaiser** for the 3rd game will be a "Tequila Pull." Please bring one bottle of tequila and we will pick the lucky winners at lunch on Saturday, May 9. Bring your bottle to the registration desk or for those attending the Executive meeting on Friday. Thank you for your support!!

#2-Club Scholarship **funRaiser** Results: We sold \$622.00! Way to go! The following items were won:

- ◇ Cookies by Design Basket
- ◇ One-Hour Massage
- ◇ \$50.00 US Bank Visa Gift Card
- ◇ One Bottle of Wine
- ◇ Salsa & Chip Basket with Italian Soda's

We selected four club winners that can send a member to the next conference all expenses paid. Here are the winners: Cheyenne, Classic Cars, Northwest, & DTC.

This fund has been established to send members who may not have been able to attend due to costs or to honor a member. Half of the proceeds of each **funRaiser** go to support our district for expenses putting on these events. It's a Win/Win for us all.

Chairperson for Fun & Fellowship
Mrs. Charlie Neumann, 303 766-9649

Horizon JOOI Club "Goes Big" in First Year by Donna Priester

We've all heard the expression, "Go big or go home." Well, the young Optimists at Colorado Springs' Horizon Middle School decided to "go big" — in the first year of their JOOI Club's existence, no less!



OI Award JOOI Club members first place award for Fighting for Fosters project.
Photo Joe Priester

Optimist International awarded the Club's "Fighting for Fosters" project for 2014. Twelve Horizon Middle School Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI) Club members worked 30 hours on the Fighting for Fosters project, publicizing the needs of foster children through announcements, posters, and classroom visits to their fellow students. They organized the school-wide donation drive to collect a variety of items that kids in foster care need but don't have, and they decorated and placed collection boxes in classrooms. By the end of the effort, over 1,000 items had been contributed; these were taken to the Fostering Hope Foundation.

In addition to benefiting foster kids, the project bene-

fited the JOOI Club, as well — the Club has now more than doubled in size — to 27 members, as well as receiving a \$50 check from Optimist International to invest in their future service endeavors! At the end of January, Donna Priester (of the Junior Club's sponsoring Academy Optimist Club) visited the middle schoolers to present this very special honor. They received a letter congratulating them on their project, as well as a patch for their Club banner to commemorate their dedication to helping their peers. Optimists of all ages look forward to seeing how this group will "go big" in 2015!

For more info, contact: Horizon Middle School JOOI Club Sponsors, Heather Ullrich, hullrich@d49.org or Kit-trie Glen, kglen@d49.org.

[Nicole Powell, President of Academy Optimist Club shared a terrific article that Matt Meister, Falcon School District 49, Director of Communication, wrote for the districts webpage. To read it CLICK HERE.](#)



Above are the Horizon Junior Optimist charter members who came up with this project, along with their mentors.

The Evolution of the Solution by Phil Perington



Phil Perington
Photo Don StJohn

Over the past few years we have all been part of the vanishing membership syndrome. Consequently there have been many solutions proposed by leadership at all levels of the Optimist Family. After observing and thinking about this challenge there appears to be one simple solution ... Stop talking about it.

Nothing is more refreshing and rewarding than building new Clubs. This can be done in a couple of ways. The first and most efficient way is to team TWO clubs together and build a "Special Interest" Club. By this I mean a Club that serves a common interest of all potential new members. A few examples within our own District are the Childhood Cancer Club, aka FRACSOC (Front Range American Cancer Society Optimist Club); the Childhood Diabetes Club, aka T1-DOC Club (Type One Diabetes/JDRF); and the Classic Car Optimist Club of Colorado, aka CCOCC (Classic car owners and aficionados) serving the special interest of kids, cars and responsibility.

Some ideas that have been discussed in recent months include the formation of the following, but not limited, types of Clubs:

- ⇒ BUGS (Bringing up Grades). Built around Literacy and Reading improvements.
- ⇒ RESPECT FOR LAW: Built around exactly what it stands for.
- ⇒ BRAIN BOWL Parents Club: Great opportunity for JOOI Clubs.
- ⇒ TRI-STAR Basketball Club: Parents, Coach (including Boys and Girls Clubs).
- ⇒ JUNIOR GOLF Planning Club: District wide meetings with Jr. Golf Chairs.
- ⇒ CCDHH Club (Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing)
- ⇒ ORATORICAL & ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP Clubs.
- ⇒ SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE Club: Parents concerned with Kids on the Internet.

Many of these new Clubs could meet monthly or bi-weekly as Mentor type Clubs in different settings or a

The Evolution of the Solution continued

location specific that is appropriate and relevant to the mission of the Club. The beauty of building these new Clubs is that OI and the CO/WY District already have existing resources and experience available, including certified Club Builders ready to swing into action. Potential members can be easily culled from outreach at specific Optimist Club(s) events. Most adults attending are a natural for one of these potential New Clubs. We have the ingredients. — all we have to do is ask and serve up a wonderful meal.

The Second and more deliberate way to build “New” Clubs is to take a hard look at what is going on within the District and bring the NOW TEAM (New Optimists Welcome) on board. They can assist Clubs that are having a hard time growing or are slowly losing membership by offering hands on assistance provided by NOW volunteers. Clubs can also benefit by making sure their “banners are up,” Club and OI literature is visible and available at all Club and District functions. The community needs to know who we are, at every event or function we are a Sponsor or part of.

Also a strong and positive Club PGI (Personal Growth Involvement) program is of great benefit to new members or those seeking validation for their Community and Club involvement.

Our #1 job is keeping kids strong, happy, positive and mentally healthy. We also should do the same thing for ourselves as Optimists, in our dedicated mission of Service to Youth. CHEERS FOR THE KIDS!



Oratorical Contest Winners Shine

by Sandi Squicquero

This year the Windsor Optimist Oratorical contest was held on March 12th at the Windsor REA building. Dr. Rob Bradley took the lead in organizing the event that remains the oldest and most well known program for Optimist International. The contest gives youth under the age of nineteen, who have not graduated from high school, the chance to speak to their communities. They must give a 4-5 minute speech on a chosen topic. This year the topic was “How m My Optimism will help me press on to greater achievements in the future.” This year we had a total of 17 contestants.

I enjoyed listening to the students give their speeches about the chosen topic. Keith Olszewski, a member of the Optimist club, introduced the contestants. Periodically during the evening, and while the judges were tallying their votes, Keith discussed the yearly activities of the Optimist club, and gave multiple quotes from famous individuals about optimism to see if the audience could guess their identities. The winners were given candy bars. The individual speakers were judged on content of speech, poise, delivery, and presentation. There were penalties that the contestants were aware of, with one being failure to announce the topic, that are subtracted from their final scores.

Many contestants spoke about their glass being half full instead of half empty. All of the contestants gave reasons as to why they were optimistic and how optimism would help their future. They cited everything from their family, teachers, soccer, piano, and the desire to be optimistic for what you had. Many students gave quotes from famous people, such as, Walt Disney, Albert Einstein, Vince Lombardi, Winston Churchill, and Lucille Ball. Another woman who was quoted was Helen Keller who said “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement, nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” One of the girls said “optimism causes a chain reaction not unlike the first domino in a large domino display.” One of the boys said that his optimism helped him to feel that he was not a failure.

Unfortunately, there could be only five winners. All the contestants worked very hard on their topics and their presentations and all received a gift from our club. The five winners received cash prizes. The first and second place winners will advance to the next level of competition and be able to compete at state level for a college scholarship. The Winners were: 1st place Evelyn Moyer, 2nd place Lauren Bigler, 3rd place Hannah White, 4th place Ryan Ward, and 5th place: Brooke Eckelkamp.

Dr. Bradley and I had the honor to choose the judges for this year’s contest. They were: Ms. Gene Shellar—a young 84 who moved to Windsor this last September with 3 master’s degrees with majors in Speech, Drama, Teaching and Reading. Nikki Moser—a new Windsorite with a science degree in biology, and a juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma who is employed in the Pharmaceutical industry, and Chris Easton—owner of Easton Homes and an advanced educator with Ski Instructors of America.



Congratulate Craig Baldwin

by Michael Chavez

Craig Baldwin, treasurer of the Heather Gardens Breakfast Club, was presented an outstanding achievement award on Thursday, February 19, 2015. Craig sponsored 10 new members to his club in 2014. Thanks to Craig the club grew by 32 percent. Great job!

Michael Chavez, Lt. Governor for Zone 5 and 9 presented the award to Craig.



Club Highlights, Event Announcements, & Articles Needed

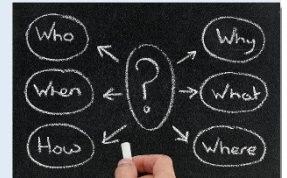


Help to improve the District's Quarterly Newsletter by submitting articles and pictures. The second quarter newsletter will be going out after the second quarter meeting. Submit your Club's stories and activities by March 6, 2015.

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 June 1st.

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.



Optimist International Foundation Update by Steve Gorrell

At the end of January, Colorado-Wyoming District is ranked third for total giving. The Districts total giving was \$8,743.60. We are ranked six for dollar per member at \$5.34 per member. There are 40 Districts in Optimist International.

The District has:

- ♦ 78 Dime A Day members, which is 3rd place.
- ♦ 15 Century Circle members, which is tied for 3rd place.

You too can be come a Dime A Day member by sending in \$36.50 to the Foundation. You can become a Century Circle Member by sending in \$100.00 and a President Club member by sending in \$250.00 to the Foundation.

At the District 2nd Quarter Game/Conference, I was able to recognize the following members and Clubs:

1. Tom Overton and Greg Young the "Benefactor Award."
2. Donna Priester the "Honored Benefactor Award."
3. Susan and John Swanborg the "Distinguished Benefactor Award."



4. Susan and John Swanborg this years OIF print for contributing \$500 or more this year.
5. Steve Gorrell this years OIF print.
6. The Denver Northeast and Windsor Clubs the "\$365.00 patch" for their donation of \$365.00 or more to the Foundation this year. They are the 1st two clubs in the District to receive this patch.

If your Club would like me to come to one of your meetings to talk about the Foundation, I would love to come to your Club meeting. Call me or email me your desires.

A BIG thank you from the Foundation and me to every member and Club who has donated so far to the Foundation.

Steve Gorrell

District Foundation Representative

Sgorrell1@yahoo.com

303-920-2366



C. Milton Morris Achievement Award Revived by Tom Overton

The "C. Milton Morris Achievement Award" is an award intended to honor an outstanding Optimist who has served faithfully at the District level, and is the intent to honor an outstanding Optimist each year. The award was first presented to an individual of the Colorado/Wyoming District in 1983. There have been no honorees the past few years. The district has amended the award to make it more relevant to today. An individual or club can nominate an Optimist by submitting, in writing the name of its nominee together with a biography of the nominee and a \$10.00 fee to the Committee Chair no later than 30 days prior to the presentation of the award at the Colorado/Wyoming District Convention. This years Committee Chair is: Randy Marcove, rsmarcove@gmail.com, 4103 S Rosemary Way, Denver CO, Cell 80237, 303 667-3663.

DESCRIPTION OF

C. MILTON MORRIS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The C. Milton Morris Achievement Award is given in honor of C. Milton Morris who set high standards of service and excellence for the Colorado Wyoming District. He was the

First Governor of the Colorado/Wyoming District in 1937-1938. During his term; the district was known as District 10, and consisted of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Western Missouri. Mr. Morris was a member of the Mile High Optimist Club, which was organized in 1916 and is the oldest Optimist Club in our district. He served as international vice president in 1947-48 and Optimist International President in 1948-49.

The C. Milton Morris Achievement Award was first presented to an individual of the Colorado/Wyoming District in 1983. It has been presented to a person who has exemplified the standards of service and excellence characterized by C. Milton Morris and nominated by their peers.

In order for an individual to be eligible, the following criteria must have been attained:

- The nominee shall have been an Optimist member continually for the past five (5) years.
- The nominee shall be an Optimist who served the District faithfully, unselfishly, to further the goals of the Color-

C. Milton Morris Achievement Award Revive continued

do/Wyoming District in fulfilling the "Purposes of Optimism," which are:

- To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed
- To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs
- To inspire respect for the law
- To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people
- To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.
- The award is given by the Colorado/Wyoming District with gratitude and appreciation.

AMENDMENT TO THE

C. MILTON MORRIS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD COLORADO/WYOMING DISTRICT

The Colorado/Wyoming District approved a resolution creating the "C. Milton Morris Achievement Award" on September 30, 1982, with the following preamble:

- The Colorado/Wyoming District of Optimist International wishes to bestow upon one of its members an award for outstanding service to this District.
- There are those members who continually serve with or without office or committee assignments.
- Such members should be recognized for their service to the District.
- The District agrees that the resolution creating the award would be amended as follows:
 1. The award shall be called the "C. Milton Morris Achievement Award" in honor of our Past District Governor (1937-1938) and International President (1948-1949).
 2. In order for an individual to be eligible to be nominated for the "C. Milton Morris Achievement Award," the following criteria shall have been met:
 - a. The nominee shall have been a member of an Optimist Club within the Colorado/Wyoming District continually for the past five (5) years.
 - b. The nominee shall not have been a Lt. Governor, District Secretary/Treasurer, Treasurer, Governor, or held office at the international level during the year or past year of the nomination.
 - c. The nominee shall be an Optimist who has served the District faithfully and unselfishly, and has fur-

thered the goals of the Colorado/Wyoming District in fulfilling the "Purposes of Optimism."

3. The selection of the recipient shall be determined by a committee consisting of the Chair, appointed by the current District Governor, the immediate past Chair, the current Governor, a past Governor serving during the immediate past five years, a current Lt. Governor, and a current member at large, all of which are appointed by the Committee Chair.
4. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:
 - a. To advise each club in the District of the nature, eligibility requirements' and manner of selection.
 - b. To solicit, receive, collect, and assemble the names and qualifications of nominees for the award from clubs and individuals in the District.
 - c. To screen the service records of the nominees to determine their eligibility pursuant to the requirements set forth herein.
5. Every member or club in the District desiring to nominate an Optimist for the award shall submit, in writing the name of its nominee together with a biography of the nominee and a ten dollar (\$10.00) fee to the Committee Chair no later than thirty (30) days prior to the presentation of the award at the Colorado/Wyoming District Convention. The Chair will disperse copies to members of the Committee.
6. The selection shall be made no later than five (5) days prior to the District Convention. The selection shall be made by a majority of the Committee. The name of the recipient shall be kept secret until the District Convention. The Committee Chair shall announce the name of the recipient of the award and present a plaque representing the award with the recipient's name inscribed on it.
7. The recipient's name and the year of his/her award shall also be placed on a banner properly inscribed and displayed at all Colorado/Wyoming District functions.
8. This award is intended to honor an outstanding Optimist who has served faithfully at the District level, and it is the intent to honor an outstanding Optimist each year. However, if the Committee feels there is not a worthy recipient, they are not bound to present the award.

For information on eligibility and criteria see the CO/WY Optimist web site @ <https://www.optimistcowy.org/>.

Windsor Gardens Optimist Club Wins Award by Monica McKenzie

The Windsor Gardens Optimist Club recently received the Optimists International CO/WY District "Team Project of the Quarter" award for their involvement in Power Lunch. Competing with over 50 other Optimist Clubs across Colorado and Wyoming, the Optimist Club was recognized for serving children in the Denver Community through their Power Lunch program. The Power Lunch Program brings together adult volunteers and second and third grade students through weekly 45

-minute reading sessions to help students develop a lifelong love of reading and a meaningful relationship with an adult. The Power Lunch Program is part of the DPS School Partners Program, a collaborative effort between the Denver Public Schools Foundation, Mile High United Way, and local corporations and community organizations.

Donna Bishop, a resident of Windsor Gardens Community and an Optimist, chaired the Power Lunch Reading/Mentor

Windsor Gardens Optimist Club continued

Program recruiting 25-30 volunteers involving not only Windsor Gardens Optimist Club members but also members of the entire Windsor Gardens Community. She initiated this weekly reading program at Place Bridge Academy in cooperation with United Way. The Windsor Gardens Club is the first retirement community that they approached for this event, and it has been very successful.

Donna, by working through the community, has helped

raise the awareness of the Optimist Club helping to create a ten percent increase in membership and strong community acceptance of this program. The volunteers have been told repeatedly that the children look forward to Tuesday reading time, and the teacher is very supportive of this program. This program has benefited the children, the Optimist Club members and the Windsor Gardens Community as a whole.

Optimists are a BV Institution by Marge Ramsay

The Buena Vista Optimist Club is not just a volunteer group—it is a community institution.

The organization runs the 9Health Fair, the Collegiate Peaks Trail Run, pancake breakfasts, a golf tournament and a kids' fishing derby. The club and its members ring bells for the Salvation Army, help out with CKS PaddleFest and provide scholarships to local high school graduates.

That extensive charity work earned the Optimist Club the title favorite service organization by Times readers.

"I'm just so thrilled," club president Gail Kahler said. "We're glad to see we're being recognized for the work we do in the community."

That work includes a new pocket park set to open next year at the intersection of East Main Street and South Railroad Street.

The Optimist Club pledged \$15,000 for the park, funding that helped build momentum for the project. Buena Vista Square owners Seth and Jody Furtney donated land, the town and county each pitched in \$15,000, and local contractors are donating labor and materials.

That community support helped the park win a \$45,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado, a crucial funding source awarded in June.

Work has since begun. When complete, the park will include a water feature for the young children, seating and public bathrooms.

The Optimist Club meets most Thursdays for a 6:30 a.m. breakfast at Jan's Restaurant, 304 U.S. 24 South in Buena Vista. For more information, visit www.optimistbv.org.

Tamarac Optimist Club – A Happy Club! by Nancy DeNiro

At the end of every meeting, we pass the Happy Bucks jar around the room, and anyone who has had a happy event in their life, would like to pay tribute to someone or something, or just make an announcement, puts in a dollar for each event. The Happy Bucks committee researches possibilities, and when the 'bucks' pass \$350, a recipient is chosen, and the Happy Bucks are given to that cause. We had a VERY HAPPY, HAPPY BUCKS RECIPIENT in December in ten-year-old Lexi, shown here wearing a new wig we had purchased for her with Happy Bucks. The Heart & Hand Center, connected us with Lexi and said what she needed most was a wig. We were able to purchase the human hair wig, which was made and styled just for her. Lexi has a disease called Alopecia, which had caused her to lose her hair completely. The Center wrote to tell us, "Lexi won't let anyone see her without hair... what a difference this has made for her. She was very excited because she even got to go swimming yesterday. The wig is attached, so she wasn't embarrassed!" As you can see, she looks beautiful, and our Happy Bucks have indeed created happiness!

We added a new Super Citizen Program this year at the Mission Viejo Elementary school in Aurora. Our first assembly was held in conjunction with their Rock Star awards as

part of the school's overall Positive Behavior Support program. Their teachers chose fifty-eight happy children from grades K-5, Super Citizens. As their names were called, each child was given a certificate, a tee shirt and a book of their choice, in addition to getting their picture taken for the school bulletin board.

Tamarac Optimist Volunteers participated in 3 Brain Bowl Competitions in January and February, as well as BUG, and Tri-Star in February. In early March, around 470 copies of the Dr. Seuss book, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut, were presented to all Kindergartners in four EMs during Read Across America Week in commemoration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Members read the book to the class, and then presented each student with their own book and bookmark to take home. Happy kiddos!

Announcing Night Meetings During Daylight Savings! NEW in 2015! From March - October, the last Thursday of the month will be an evening meeting. We hope this will give us an opportunity to see more of those members who cannot make the morning meetings! To all those reading this article, consider this an open invitation to visit a Tamarac Optimist Club meeting, and get HAPPY!

Westminster Optimist Club by Jane Keen

The middle school years are notoriously difficult for many students as they struggle to assert their independence while being told what they can't do! With this in mind the Westminster Optimist Club honors middle school students for what

they can do with Student of the Month dinners. These dinners give club members the opportunity to see firsthand their impact on kids and hear what kids think about being optimistic. As one 7th grader put it, "Optimists have more friends! How

Westminster Optimist Club continued

cool is that”!

School counselors, teachers and administrators select students who have met challenges, shown significant improvement and/or volunteered their time and talents. Five times during the school year students from the District’s three middle schools are honored. A locally owned restaurant provides discounted dinners, allowing the club to work within a limited budget. School staff and family members speak about the honored student’s accomplishments, positive traits and contribu-

tions to the school or the family.

These evenings are especially poignant as parents, often with limited English, express their love and pride and offer thanks to the club. Letters from teachers and counselors are read and presented to the students. The club presents students with framed certificates, a Westminster Optimist Club pen and a copy of our Creed. We have fun, and we learn so much as we exemplify our “Friend of Youth” motto through Student of the Month Ceremonies.

Zone 6 Happenings by Tony Carpenter

A brief synopsis of some of the happenings in Zone 6.
Arvada-Lake Arbor

- Community Program: Bicycle Program
- District Events: Participated in the Brain Bowl and Tri-Star Basketball

Edgewater

- Community Programs: Sponsored Eye Exams at the Walmart on 14th and Wadsworth; Giving Tree: Supplemented 34 Families.

Wheat Ridge

- New Program: Kullerstrand Elementary School reading library. Member Hans Hinnen has been doing a great job working with the Kullerstrand principal. The club submitted a grant application to the OI foundation for \$500 that will be matched with \$500 from the WR Optimist club.

- Community Programs: Prepared meals for Ronald McDonald House.
- District Events: Participated in The Brain Bowl, The Essay Contest, and Tri-Star Basketball
- Fund Raising: Held a highly successful 2015 Wine/Beer tasting event on Feb 28th. It should net the club +/- \$6,500.

Westminster

- Community Program Our Caring for Kids with Cancer program provided gas cards for a Delta family with a child receiving treatment at Rocky Mountain Children's Hospital and supported several hours of child care for the sibling of a child under treatment at Children's.
- Fund Raising Several members worked at the Golf Expo reception desk to earn money for our club.

Zone 8 Happenings by Paul Simon

Which is the fastest-growing Optimist club in the Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District. Give up?

Since the October 1st beginning of the Optimist year, the Windsor Gardens Optimist Club in Denver has grown from 36 to 50 members – nearly a 40 percent jump!

“We’re rocking,” said club president Carol Brooks, who credits the club’s participation in United Way’s Power Lunch reading program for kids, its pancake fund-raiser and the enthusiasm at its meetings for its growth in membership.

Governor/Head Coach Abigail Nicholas praised Windsor Gardens’ rise in membership at the district’s 2nd Quarter Game in Colorado Springs on February 28. The club and project chair Donna Bishop also were honored at the conference for the Team Project of the Quarter. The award was based on the weekly reading program at

Place Bridge Academy in cooperation with United Way for which Donna recruited 25-30 volunteers.

It’s not just club members who participate but also other members of the Windsor Gardens community. “By working through the community, Donna has helped raise the awareness of our Optimist Club, helping to create a 10 percent increase in membership and strong community acceptance of the program,” Carol wrote.

The Windsor Gardens club, of course, is part of an active retirement community. Carol is proud that seven of the eight community board members belong to the club.

The club makes sure to provide membership applications to everyone who comes to the pancake breakfast. And as Carol points out, “We have fun at our meetings.”

Zone 10 Happenings by Larry Brown

The four optimist clubs in Zone 10 have been busy during this past quarter keeping kids busy and optimists enthusiastically supporting their clubs.

Way down south the Alamosa Optimist Club was busy with Tri-Star basketball, oratorical/essay contests and preparing for their Magic Show fundraiser in April.

Heading north you can hear the Pueblo Optimist Club clanking wine and beer bottles together as they get ready for their 13th Annual Wine and Beer tasting fundraiser being held April 26th. Their oratorical/essay contest was successful to include their Tri-Star basketball try-outs.

Going a little bit north the Pueblo-Belmont Optimist Club continues to raise money by parking cars at the State Fair. They support kids through scholarships in the local area.

Still heading further north the mighty Academy Optimist Club

never stops, hitting the ground running with their many program/projects. The Santa Train fundraiser again was a big success with many elves running around. The oratorical/essay contests were fun as 61 kids entered the essay contest. Tri-Star Basketball try-outs brought 1600 boys and girls together to compete for one of the boys 18 spots and girls 18 spots. The Academy brought two more Bringing up Grades (B.U.G) programs to local schools. The five (5) Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI) clubs continue to do great things for the local community. Horizon Middle School JOOI Club in their Charter year was recognized by Optimist International with a 1st place award for their “Fighting for Fosters” project. The Academy Optimist Club partnered with the local Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) to form a T1 Diabetes Optimist Club. All clubs have the same goal “Bringing out the Best in Kids.”



COLORADO/WYOMING OPTIMIST WARRIORS

THIRD QUARTER GAME (CONFERENCE)

May 9, 2015

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<https://www.optimistcowy.org>

Bethany Lutheran Church
4500 East Hampden Avenue
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80013
(720) 526-3377

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

GAME TICKET: \$35.00 through April 26 (register early!)

STARTING April 27: Late ticket price: \$40.00 (no exceptions!!)

Game starts at 8:00 a.m.

NOTE: The fee is a REGISTRATION FEE and supports the District Game costs. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. BUT THE REGISTRATION FEE IS REQUIRED whether you eat or not!

Breakfast _____ (how many?)

Lunch _____ (how many?)

(Please print CLEARLY – Club name is very important!)

Optimist 1 _____ Club: _____

Are you an officer at your club – what position?: _____

Address: _____ 1st timer? _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

Optimist 2 _____ Club _____

Are you an officer at your club – what position?: _____

Address: _____ 1st timer? _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

If you have additional registrants, PLEASE use a separate form! You can pay with one check. Mail check, payable to Colorado/Wyoming Optimists and send with this form to:

TRISH MERRILL
P.O. BOX 440327
Aurora, CO 80044
Phone: 303 885-4288 (cell)



Please call if you have any questions!

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