

Teamwork Tribune

Governor's Corner - Paul Simon 2016-2017

For club and district membership growth, we all could take a page from **Venus Sanford's** book of tricks.



Well, not tricks, exactly. Venus is the Pacific Southwest vice president for Optimist International, and the way she engages people and encourages them to explore Optimism is instructive – and well worth adopting. I witnessed this firsthand when Venus and I went to the Arvada Lake Arbor Optimist Club's Wine-Tasting event and to the district Casino Night for its Childhood Cancer Campaign.

In her own words:

"I enjoy talking with people and want them to know what Optimists do for our youth and the community and what it provides to ourselves. Mostly I like knowing who they are first and foremost to see where they would fit with an Optimist club. What are their goals and objectives. Also, have they heard of volunteering and do they volunteer. Anything to get the conversation going and knowing about them. It's all about them because they will make it all about volunteering and optimism."

"When conversation has gone in a great way and you'll know it, I provide them with the Optimist brochure. I do not call it an application. As well, I let them know that the brochure will let them know more of what we do. Also, invite them to one of your next events, not just a meeting. A lot of people go to meetings and not a lot go to events."

I've heard from Optimists throughout district how difficult it is to attract prospective members to New Optimist Welcome (NOW) events, to new-club-building programs, and in general to visit their clubs. Try Venus' approach.

"It's really about them and what they have to offer," she told me. "What brought them there. If you find interest in them, they will find interest in you."

CASINO NIGHT - (see pics on pg 7)

Like me, Venus dealt blackjack at Casino Night. We raised \$2,600 for the Childhood Cancer Campaign and it was a great night. That was considerably less than last year and it's a reminder I'd like to serve up to my fellow Optimists: by supporting Optimism's core programs, we support Optimism's mission and our ability to bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. Jump in – it brings a ton of personal reward.

A shout-out to **Patty Hasty** and **Judy Poulson**, our CCC co-chairs, for all they do on behalf of the campaign, including so much of the actual work. A special thanks to **Andrew Stanger**, lieutenant governor of Zone 1 and president of the Windsor Optimist Club, for all his heavy lifting in support of Patty and Judy at Casino Night.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS - (see pg 10)

Speaking of our lieutenant governors, they have created zone membership goals for the final four months of the Optimist year to help more clubs become Honor Clubs and to help the district grow membership. You'll be hearing more from them. Remember, more members means more resources to serve more kids, and that's what we are all about.

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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>

Governor's Corner continued....

Bring in six new members and get \$100 in gift certificates. Bring in nine new members and get, well, you get it. Thanks to Optimist **Frank Middleton** for driving this member incentive program. Are you aware Opportunity Knocks for all Optimists in our district. Bring in three new members during the Optimist year that ends Sept. 30 and get a \$50 gift certificate to Maggiano's, Brown Palace, Outback, Broadmoor or your favorite restaurant.

CONFERENCES (see pages 3-4)

Strong Optimist clubs are vibrant, conduct multiple projects, grow membership and participate in district conferences. If you look at clubs that, sadly, folded in recent years, you will see that they met few if any of these criteria – in particular, their officers and members almost never attended conferences. We've really tried to get the word out this Optimist year that participating in quarterly conferences is extremely healthy. You join other Optimists in adding to your knowledge, you join them in rewarding, hands-on projects and you sharing fun and enthusiasm in abundance.

The **Colorado-Optimist District's 3rd Quarter Conference** at the Salvation Army in Aurora on May 13 was a rip-roaring success, continuing the recent pattern of a mixture of fun, education and hands-on projects. The 90+ attendees heard from our special guest, **Katrina Smith**, the governor-elect of our brand new Junior Optimist District who will be installed as governor at our district's annual conference in Breckenridge on Aug. 19. Other conference highlights were a presentation by **Kent Drotar**, ambassador for the Wildlife Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg; packing hygiene bags for homeless youngsters; and representatives of five Optimist clubs sharing their best and brightest projects and fund-raisers with their fellow Optimists.

We also were inspired by our Vice President **Venus**, who promoted the 2017 Optimist International Convention in Albuquerque (her home base) July 6-8. Twenty-seven Colorado-Wyoming Optimists have registered for the convention, which, among other things, features the sharing of many innovative ideas and affiliated workshops. Incoming club officers in particular garner tremendous help at the convention in getting off to a great start. Venus reminded us the Pacific Southwest regional is sponsoring a hospitality suite that will be open the first two night to the expected 1,000+ attendees from all over the world. Our district, in turn, is one of the suite's sponsors.

We ask attendees at our 3rd Quarter Conference to give us feedback via post-it notes on a poster board at the conference and we received great suggestions for improvement. We also got kudos, and here's a few: "Educational and entertaining guest speaker, The Wild Animal Connection! Good tasty lunch. Thank you, Charlie (Neumann)!" ... "Teamwork! Great idea to have everyone fill bags of essentials for homeless children. Good collaboration for Catholic Services. Much needed!" ... "Great to hear from the new JOI Governor." ... "Incredible presentation by the Oratorical 2nd Place."

Yours in Optimism,
Paul Simon Governor, Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District

District CCDHH Contest Held After the Conference



The CCDHH contest was postponed from April 29th due to the snow storm, but finally took place on May 13th at the end of the 3rd Quarter Conference.

Winner —**Serena Ellis**, Academy OC on the right

Finalist —**Hannah Richardson**, Green Mountain OC is on the left

Finalist—**Chase Ford**, Academy OC is to the left of **Al Shea**, the CCDHH Chair for the Academy OC

CO/WY District 3rd Quarter Conference Photo Album



Gov Simon with Emcee, Nicole Powel, and OI Rep, Venus Sanford



95+ Attendees at the 3rd Quarter Conference



"Thank you ladies, for your support with this very successful conference!"



Start with a BAG!!



Packing Hygiene Bags for Little Flower Assistance

Everything was donated.....



Assembly line filling the bags..



End of the line.



Dental products donated by Delta Dental



Bars of Soap—very important



Mary Grace Wake, receiving the Hit The Ground Running award, nominated by Windsor Gardens



Slide presentation on the Wild Animal Sanctuary



Kent Drotar Ambassador from Wild Animal Sanctuary

Message received from the keynote speaker:

*Dear Optimists of District 25,
It was a pleasure speaking to all of you this past Saturday. I've hardly ever had a group that was to 'into' the talk! Thank you very much for yur generous donation to the Sanctuary; it is greatly appreciated.
All the best, **Kent Drotar***

District Oratorical Winners Donna Priester

“What Our World Gains from Optimism”!

This was the topic of the CO/WY District Oratorical Contest held on April 29th at All Saints Lutheran Church in Aurora. Wow, the audience was truly amazed, and felt that these young people have a good handle on Optimism and the Future!

There were 15 contestants who were coming from our Zone level Contests. Therefore the competition was really intense. Great ideas, great presentations, and lots of supportive parents, teachers, and Optimists cheered them on!

The top three winners were (left to right in photo):

Rebecca Watson from Colorado Springs in 1st Place with a \$2500 Scholarship; **Gabriella Miller** from Denver in 2nd Place with a \$1500 Scholarship; **McKinlee Ruskamp** from Aurora in 3rd Place with a \$1000 Scholarship.



The Academy OC and The Windsor Gardens OC sponsored these 3 young orators. Rebecca will be attending the Regional Oratorical Contest in St. Louis on June 15th, and if she wins the Southwest Regional, she will go on to the World Oratorical Contest the next day (June 16th). If she wins the Regional, she will have an additional \$5000 scholarship and the top 3 winners of the World competition will receive additional \$15,000; \$10,000; or \$5,000 scholarships for their further education after High School.

We hope that OI will have the contests “streamed” so that many who are not attending can view the competitions, but last year there were technical issues. We’ll see this year! However, no matter what, let’s cheer this young lady from Colorado on! She is terrific and our CO/WY District is thrilled to sponsor her in this major opportunity!

Greeley Luncheon (Nooner News) Mike Thacker

Last week was our first Respect for Law Program, and chair **Ron Wittow** did an excellent job.

Greeley Police Chief **Jerry Garner** presented Sgt. **Dennis Lobato** as this year’s recipient of our Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award. Sgt. Lobato has been with the Greeley Police Department since 1995, and currently heads the community citizen’s outreach program, community action team, citizen police academy, and is a negotiator for certain crisis situations. His teams try to solve neighborhood disputes, transient altercations, and are first to respond to many non-violent reports. Our club is honored to recognize Sgt. Lobato for his community service and positive influence.



COWY JOI District Holds 1st Convention & Elects Officers Donna Priester

We are officially a JOI District in the Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District!

We had 5 of our 11 Clubs represented at the 1st Annual JOI Convention on May 6th of this year. Sand Creek Octagon Club, Kidz Partnering JOI Club, Place Bridge Academy JOI Club, Bradley Helping Hands JOI Club, and Chinook Elementary JOI Club were all represented at the convention.



We met, got to know each other through “Ice breakers” throughout the day, and adopted the JOI District By-Laws to actually vote in the COWY JOI District.

We had speakers: our second place Oratorical Winner, **Gabriella Miller**, gave her Oratory; **Mark King** gave a stirring presentation as to what JOI has done for him; and Ms. **Abigail Nicholas** inspired us in several different ways throughout the day.



Caliphe, Mark, Katrina

We heard from those who had stepped up to run for leadership positions. **Katrina Smith**, from the Sand Creek Octagon Club, was elected Governor for this first year. She has led the Sand Creek Club as President for the past two years. **Mark King**, from the Sand Creek Octagon Club, was elected Governor-Elect for this coming year and will train to be the Governor in 2018-19. **Caliphe Brown**, from the Kidz Partnering Club, was elected as Secretary and will help the team to develop communication to all JOI Clubs in this new District.



As the JOI Clubs in our District are electing officers for the coming year, the Presidents of each club will be part of the JOI Board of Directors. Together with the 3 officers, decisions will be made as to how to progress and make this JOI District viable for the JOI Clubs. Hopefully we can meet a few times during next year to plan and help each other move forward.

Our three Officers will be going to the OI JOI Convention on July 3-5th in Albuquerque to receive training, ideas and meet other JOI District leaders. 3 of our Clubs presented projects they had done for the year and prizes were given for 3 categories: Most Unique; Most Helpful; and Most Creative! We all learned a lot by sharing with each other.



This is exciting and wonderful for our youth Leadership!
Thanks to all who were a part of the organizing team as the 1st JOI Convention was AWESOME!

Member Link on CO/WY Website is Now Password Protected

The most updated and correct emails of District leaders is available on the district website www.optimistcowy.org, however, it is now password protected due to hackers the first of this year.

Also password protected is the **FORMS** page where you can review the minutes from the 3rd Quarter Executive Committee and the 3rd Quarter Board meeting.

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.

Password is available through your club president or by replying to the email that sent this newsletter.



Heather Gardens 'Goes to the Races' Tom Merges

The call of "And they're off" filled the Rendezvous Restaurant on Saturday, April 1st as the Heather Gardens Optimists joined together for the first annual "A Nite at the Races".

Proceeds from the evening will be used to purchase computer tablets for students at Yale Elementary School in Aurora, CO. The restaurant was filled to the brim with race fans. Vivage Senior Living generously donated door prizes for the event, **Jeannine and Chuck Montgomerie** organized all volunteers and a fun time was had by all.

Pre-recorded races were 'televised' via CD on a big screen TV.



Julie & Brian Davies, Race Officials



Placing those bets with 'funny money' received with price of admission!



4TH QUARTER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2017. SEND IN INFORMATION ANYTIME ABOUT YOUR CLUB HIGHLIGHTS, PROJECTS, FUND RAISERS OR MEMBERS!

Childhood Cancer Campaign CASINO NIGHT

\$2,600 raised for the District CCC by lots of high rollers (with their funny money!)



North-West Optimist Club Cat DeRose

Reading is one of life's simple pleasures. To help spread the joy and support important literacy skills, the North-West Denver Optimist Club sponsors book distributions at three elementary Denver Public Schools.

Originally, our club sponsored these distributions for many years with the help of additional government funding under the R.I.F. (Reading Is Fundamental) program. When R.I.F. funding was cut, we felt that getting books in to the hands of children, many of whom live at or below the poverty level, was an important and worthwhile project so we committed to carry on our tradition.

Books are purchased at publishers' warehouse sales with funds from our annual fund raiser. One of our talented Optimists creates colorful book-marks featuring favorite animals and various phrases from our creed en-



couraging students to, for example, "Wear a cheerful countenance at all times." or "Look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true." Each book is stamped with "'Expect Only the Best' The N.W. Denver Optimists".

This year, working with school librarians and parent organizations, 1200 students will be served. Throughout our many years of experience with this project, we've seen firsthand the smiles and excitement generated when children are given the opportunity to own a book of their choice. We're confident that this experience creates a lasting impression and helps foster a lifelong love of reading while spreading the message of Optimism.

District Essay Contest Winner from Lake Arbor OC Joe Marci, Terri Kearney

There were 14 clubs entered in this year's essay contest, With a \$2500 scholarship for the winner, more clubs should be working with their schools to get essays into the District competition. The district provided plaques to the 4 essayists. 1st Place **Trey Sayers**, Lake Arbor OC, 2nd Place **Lillian Stone**, Arvada Clear Creek OC, and a tie for 3rd Place, **Katelyn Keen**, Summit Lake Dillon OC and **Taylor Valliere**, Breakfast OC of Loveland.

The winner of the District Essay Contest, Trey Sayers' (pictured), ultimate goal is to become an engineer. He has applied to 4 schools in Colorado and 1 in Wyoming, and has been accepted into the engineering programs at 4 of the schools. He is intrigued by the engineering field and hopes to better his community, and even the world, in the future. He is extremely excited to begin this next chapter of his life, and with optimism, hard work, and dedication intends to excel.



Whose FOO Belongs in Who's Who? Merlin Dart

The Boulder Evening Club is campaigning to have our FOO Member Michelle Médal included in Who's Who. Michelle's extraordinary effort as a Brain Bowl reader at the four Colorado locations during the recent contest is an example of her dedication to Optimist International projects. According to Michelle, FOO isn't just a catchy phrase to take lightly. To her, it means in order to be a friend you have to give as well as receive. Michelle puts FOO in action with her time and effort for our club.

The club honored Michelle at one of our recent meetings by presenting her with a plaque and a Boulder Evening Club Optimist Ball cap. Traditionally, the cap is awarded to new club members who participate for the first time in a club

function. In this case the club broke all the rules and went all out and awarded it to a FOO member. Her Father, Lou Médal who is President of the Boulder Evening Optimist Club, made the presentation. Michelle was given a standing ovation **by club members.**



SAVE THE DATES!

Fundraisers support youth projects of Optimist Clubs.

This restaurant donates 10% from sales ALL DAY, not limited to your 'invites'.

Contact Patxi's to see if your club can take advantage of this fundraiser.

By the way, the pizza is awesome! Plan to support Tamarac on this day, and see for yourself!

PATXI'S PIZZA

FUNDRAISER

Monday
July 17th

Today, Patxi's Pizza will donate 10% of sales to

Tamarac
Optimist Club

3455 S. University Blvd. Englewood, CO 80113

Dine-in, Delivery or Carry Out.*

Help support this great Cause!

*total excludes alcohol sales, catering sales, and restaurant taxes



PATXI'S
52 Weeks
of Giving

Your Club's
Fundraiser
Flyer could
be on this
page in the
September
Newsletter



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

TO ALL OPTIMISTS IN THE CO/WY DISTRICT

GET a \$50 gift certificate to
Maggiano's, Brown Palace, Outback, Broadmoor
Or Your Favorite Restaurant

Just bring in 3 new members from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017



HAVE FUN AND WIN OFTEN

- 3 New Members - \$50 Gift Certificate
- 6 New Members - \$100 in Gift Certificates
- 9 New Members - \$150 in Gift Certificates

Awards presented at the District Conference and Convention

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 need to be recorded on the OI 3+ membership report by September 30, 2017.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2016-2017—Congratulations to these Optimists who have brought in new members to their clubs so far in the 2016-2017 Optimist year. A special shout-out to **Craig Baldwin, Ronald Wendler, Amy Kindland, Ron Benson, Ted Lewis, Bruce Preston, Carolyn Bamford, Terry Kearney, Mike McMahon, Debbie Cooper and Mary Wake**, each of whom sponsored multiple members. (If you sponsored a member and aren't listed here, please contact [Paul Simon](#).)

Craig Baldwin, Heather Gardens (7) **Ronald Wendler**, Steamboat Springs (5) **Amy Kindland**, Brighton (4) **Ron Benson**, Wheat Ridge (2) **Ted Lewis**, Windsor Gardens (2) **Bruce Preston**, Greeley Luncheon (2) **Carolyn Bamford**, Tamarac (2) **Terry Kearney**, Arvada Lake Arbor (2) **Mike McMahon**, Monaco South (2) **Debbie Cooper**, Westminster (2) **Mary Wake**, Windsor Gardens (2) **Ellen Backes**, LUMC (1) **Julia Bandel**, Erie (1) **Alice Barron**, Windsor Gardens (1) **Joyce Black**, Windsor (1) **Sharon Buchan**, Windsor Gardens (1) **Claudia Campbell**, Buena Vista (1) **Michele Compton**, Windsor Gardens (1) **Bonnie Davis**, Buena Vista (1) **Christine Dechristopher**, Buena Vista (1) **Helen Erzen**, Windsor Gardens (1) **Diane Ford**, Arvada Clear Creek (1) **Sandy Harden**, Tamarac (1) **Patty Hasty**, FRACSOC (1) **Helene Hoffman**, T1DOC (1) **Shelia Hughes**, Denver Northeast (1) **Nadou Lawson**, Tamarac (1) **Connie Lester-Hein**, Cheyenne (1) **Mary Anne Lewis**, Heather Gardens (1) **Gail Lindley**, Mile Hi (1) **Kathleen Luna**, Alamosa (1) **Donna Lynch**, Tamarac (1) **Katherine Marini**, LUMC (1) **Linda McDonald**, Wheat Ridge (1) **Trish Merrill**, Difference Makers (1) **Jeannine Montgomerie**, Heather Gardens (1) **Paula Moore**, Heather Gardens (1) **Pamela Nelson**, Loveland Breakfast (1) **Lee Nicholson**, Windsor Gardens (1) **J.J. Pooley**, Wheat Ridge (1) **Donna Priester**, Academy (1) **Jenny Spampinato**, Tamarac (1) **Beverly Stewart**, Windsor Gardens (1) **Miki Stuebe**, Golden Breakfast (1) **Marilyn Thompson**, Pueblo (1) **Brandy Trujillo**, Alamosa (1) **Carolyn Walker**, LUMC (1) **Dana Wedick**, Littleton Breakfast (1) **Phyllis Woodard**, Windsor Gardens (1) **Don Caskey**, Buena Vista (1) **Michael Chavez**, Monaco South (1) **Colin Conway**, Littleton Breakfast (1) **David Cooper**, T1DOC (1) **Jeffrey Dechristopher**, Buena Vista (1) **Craig Eley**, Monaco South (1) **Henry Fischer**, Littleton Breakfast (1) **Greg Grothe**, Brighton (1) **Roger Hutton**, Wheat Ridge (1) **Stuart Lovelace**, Wheat Ridge (1) **Marvin Montgomery**, Gateway (1) **Sherman Phillips**, Lakewood (1) **Rob Proctor**, Loveland Breakfast (1) **Collins Rice Jr.**, Windsor Gardens (1) **Don Roth**, Monaco South (1) **John Scarborough**, Monaco South (1) **Ev Sequeira**, Gateway (1) **Fredric Singer**, Greeley Luncheon (1) **Andrew Stanger**, Windsor (1) **Roy Volzke**, Green Mountain (1) **Greg Young**, T1DOC (1)

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.



CO/WY District, 01

Nancy DeNiro
14740 E Chenango Pl
Aurora, CO 80015

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE