

CO/WY Together Tribune

Governor's Corner - Linda McDonald 2018-2019



Wow! Look at all of the projects and great work Optimists are doing in our District! This newsletter is loaded with ideas and reliable projects, events and fundraisers. You might find something to incorporate into your club. It is so inspiring to see Colorado/Wyoming serving so many kids, and having so much fun at the same time! Yup, we're **BETTER TOGETHER!**

Our 3rd Quarter Conference was a great success! It was a day for youth run by our youth and didn't our emcee, Junior Optimist Governor **Mark King**, bring out the "inner child" in all of us? Aren't we all, after all, children at heart? We got to witness the hope and promise of our youth all day; the Oratorical Contest finals, the winner of the essay contest reading his essay and the CCDHH (Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) all inspired us! And, we even got our business meeting complete, raised some money for the Junior Optimists and had some brainstorming during this great day!

Awesome Convention Coming Up—Mark your Calendars! You'll be receiving official notice and registration for our Convention soon, but in the meantime, it is **August 16-18 (Friday through Sunday), at the beautiful Pueblo Convention Center on the Riverwalk.** We have been listening to you and your clubs, and our agendas will be filled with meaningful, fun, and informational content. If you've never attended our District Convention before, this might be the time to head to Pueblo and enjoy the weekend! Details and registration to follow so be on the lookout!

The Junior Optimists are rocking it! We have TWO brand new JOI (Junior Optimist International) clubs, each dynamic and out there spreading our creed and community service. They are **The Southmoor JOI-ful Bees sponsored by Denver Tech Center Club and The Hidden Lake High School JOI Club sponsored by the Arvada Lake Arbor Optimist Club.** This is a huge part of our legacy, folks, and I salute these new clubs!

Lieutenant Governors are active and supporting your clubs and Strategic Growth Committee is thriving! The best crop of Lt. Governors EVER are available to support your clubs! Be sure and connect with them when you can! They care & can make a big difference in your clubs! We are evolving our Strategic Growth Committee meetings and they are filled with support so please consider coming to one of these meetings.

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Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District
2018/2019

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District Officers

- Governor: Linda McDonald, Wheat Ridge OC
- Governor-Elect: Tony Carpenter, Wheat Ridge OC
- Secretary: Sandra McKenzie, Tamarac OC
- Treasurer: Carma Lytle, Wheat Ridge OC
- Immediate Past Gov.: John Swanborg, Westminster, OC

Lt. Governors

- Zone 1: Mary Hall, Loveland Bkft OC
- Zone 2: Dennis Hutton, Buena Vista OC
- Zone 3: Charles Pease, Boulder Eve OC
- Zone 4: Joe Priester, Academy OC
- Zone 5: Jeannine Montgomerie, Heather Gardens, OC
- Zone 6: John Oss, Monaco So & DTC OC
- Zone 7: Wade Hammond, Wheat Ridge OC
- Zone 8: Larry Brown, Academy OC
- 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>

CO/WY District 3rd Quarter Conference



CO/WY District in action - Clockwise from top :
Conference attendees...**Tony Carpenter**, Governor-elect...
table of **Tamarac ladies**...**Sandra McKenzie** - District Secretary...
Carma Lytle - District Treasurer...
Linda McDonald – our **CO/WY Governor**
Center...**Mark King** - JOI Governor

Results of CCDHH (Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) Joe Priester, District CCDHH Chair

The results are in and I want to thank you all for your patience. Since the contest had to be video recorded and sent to 2 of the judges there was a delay getting to this moment. This is the very first time that a delay of this nature has happened, but as with everything in life we must try to make these incidents teaching moments for us all.

The contest was recorded by three separate cameras, and I looked at each of them to decide which one would work the best. It turned out that one of those actually recorded uninterrupted for the entire event or just about 26 minutes. This allowed the viewer to judge the contestants in 'real time' just like being there in person. The images were very clear, and the judges each commented how easy it was to interpret the signing. We required them to mute the volume so that only the contestants signing skills were judged.

Once all of the judges score sheets were sent to me, I was able to complete the official report form and determine the placement in the contest of all three contestants. Here are the results:

The WINNER is..... Speaker 'A'- Sean Cosslett. (on left)
Interestingly, both Speaker 'B'- Sigridura Junc (on right) and Speaker 'C'- Jing Tao Reed (center) were tied, and not too far behind the winner. I would encourage both of them to come back next year and try again.

Thank you again. We're Better Together!



District Oratorical Finals at 3rd Quarter Conference Mike Chavez



L-R Alacia, Naila, Sean

Eight students competed in the Oratorical Finals at the 3rd quarter conference. **Gunar Neumann** emceed the event.

1st Place went to **Naila Martinez** from Thornton, and she won a \$2,500 scholarship. She will also go to St. Louis to compete in the SW Regional contest, and hopefully in the International contest!

In 2nd Place was **Sean Kouma** from Loveland, and he will receive a \$1500 scholarship.

3rd Place went to **Alacia Bates** from Denver, and she will receive a \$1000 scholarship.

Sixteen clubs participated in this years contest with a total of 186 participants. Scholarships are provided by the Optimist International Foundation.

District Essay Contest Winner

The winner of the District Essay Contest was **Nicolas Manning** from Englewood. He read his winning essay to the 3rd quarter conference attendees. The topic this year was ***"When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?"***

Pictured here, (L-R) **Jane Keen**, District Essay Chair, **Mark King**, District JOI Governor, and winner, **Nicholas Manning**. Far right is Nicholas reading his essay.



T1DOC Will Send Kid's with Type 1 Diabetes to Camp

Helene Hoffman

With hard work and dedication, the members of the Type 1 DOC Optimist Club have **raised approximately \$13,000** to provide scholarship funds for children ages 8-14 with Type 1 Diabetes. The scholarships will be used to help kids attend overnight camp this summer for a week. The camp is located in **Woodland Park, Colorado** and is staffed by on site medical professionals so that the children's diabetes monitored throughout the entire time they are in attendance.

Beginning in February, members began to solicit donations from local businesses, friends, and neighbors to provide items for the online auction. The live auction took place from May 12-19. Items ranged from gift cards to local businesses to a flight simulator experience. After the auction concluded, the members of the Club reconvened to distribute the items to the winning bidders.

Not only is this event a means to provide support to children with Type 1 Diabetes and their families, but it also makes people in the community aware of the significant volunteer efforts put forth by the Type 1 Optimist Club.



Law Day at Windsor Gardens Mary Grace Wake

For Law Day we honored the Fireman from the **Denver Fire Station Department #18** near Windsor Gardens. They make an average of 3 calls per day to our community.

They were appreciative of the breakfast, and we presented them with a plaque.

Academy OC Celebrates Brining Up Grades Winners - Larry Brown

The Bringing Up Grades (B.U.G.) program at the Remington Elementary School in Colorado Springs, CO., celebrated the end of year by providing the B.U.G. winners with pizza, cookies and drinks. There were 40 B.U.G. recipients that enjoyed their lunch time with fun and excitement as they talked and laughed amongst themselves. The B.U.G. program is designed to award not the smartest but the student who has been struggling with their grades. Each student who is recognized by their teacher receives a T-shirt, certificate, stuffed animal and book. DOT the lady bug was there to help celebrate with the student being recognized at the school assembly. Sponsored by the Academy Optimist Club.

CONGRATULATIONS to the B.U.G. winners for 2019!



Know Brainer - Fifth Graders Shine! Jenny Spampinato

Monaco South joined Tamarac at Hamilton Middle School on April 26th for their annual **Know Brainer**. This event is modeled after the District-wide Brain Bowl, only for 5th graders.

Organizers were thrilled to have 23 fifth grade teams participating and the help of so many **enthusiastic Optimist volunteers** from the two clubs. After completing five oral rounds and one written round, the teams were happy to relax in the lunchroom with pizza while waiting for the winners to be announced.

Congratulations to **The Hunger Games, Southmoor** in 3rd place; **The Mockingjays, Southmoor** in 2nd place, and **Muppets that Fall on their Swords from Slavens** in 1st place.



1st place
Muppets That Fall On
Their Sword from
Slavens



2nd Place
Mockingjays from
Southmoor



3rd place
The Hunger Games
From Southmoor

Continued from page 1.....

They are now on Saturdays and your club Presidents get notifications so be on the lookout for these meetings. Come one, come all and thanks, Past-Governor Phil Perington, for keeping this Strategic Growth lighthouse burning and helping our District grow!

The District is leading in Dime-A-Day donations FOR ALL OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL! Yes, our District is leading the way, even including much bigger Districts in the world, for our amazing and powerful OI (Optimist International) Foundation! What a legacy! Thanks for the hard work Ron Benson, District Chair for the Foundation!

Governor-Elect, Tony Carpenter, is already energetically planning for the 2019-2020 District Optimist Year! Tony is inspired, has a great team in place and will seamlessly continue the exuberance in Colo/Wyo Optimism. There is lots of fun and service to our youth ahead! And by the way....**\$75 off convention registration to the first person to report my typo to lindamcdonald1717@msn.com** I hope to see you at our District Convention because, you guessed it, **WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER!**



Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District
2018/2019

**SAVE THE DATE for the CO/WY Annual Convention
Fri-Sun, August 16-18, 2019**

**Pueblo Convention Center
320 Main Street, Pueblo, CO**

Watch your email for registration information

2019 Optimist Know Brainer Tournament OCL Participants

Littleton OC hosted their annual Know Brainer Tournament on Saturday, April 6, 2019 Northridge Elementary School. Chaired by **Ralph Dergance**, there were 8 teams



representing 8 elementary schools in LPS, Jeffco SD, and DCSD.

There were 55 kids (7 teams of 7 and 1 team of 6). 23 OCL Optimists participated.



Department for Protests....

Loveland Breakfast OC Partners With Rotary Mary Hall



On Saturday March 9th **Carl Beukelma** and **Mary Hall** of the Loveland Breakfast OC joined with Loveland rotary in their drive to collect food for **KidsPak**. KidsPak is made up of Rotarians and community volunteers like the Loveland BOC, who pack on Wednesday of each week during the school year.

For the 2017/2018 school year, KidsPak provided 19,820 weekend food bags. Teams worked over 3,230 hours to deliver food bags to 39 schools in the Thompson School District. The KidsPak team now consists of 105 Loveland citizens. This program provides over 600 Loveland kids food over the weekend who would normally go without any substantial meals. Over 36,000 pounds were collected, due to the generous donations of local families.

Pueblo Optimist Club Teen 180 Program Larry Brown, Lt Gov Zone 8

The **Teen 180 Program** is for Pueblo area middle school students who have made a significant turnaround in their lives. The program contacts the middle school counselors/principals and asks them to recommend two of their students for this award. They arrange a lunch meeting one school at a time, buy the students and their parents/counselors' lunch. Then the counselor gives a brief reason why each student was chosen (some of the reasons are so confidential that they just summarize the achievement).

The students are asked to say a little about their turnaround, and then are presented with an individualized plaque and a copy of the Optimist Creed. It is one of the Pueblo Optimist Club's favorite programs. The schools love that someone is recognizing middle school students who have gone through some difficult times, and with the help of their parents/teachers have turned their lives around.



Pueblo Club President **Carl Ballinger** and CO/WY District Lt. Governor, Zone 8 **Larry Brown** present the awards to **Jazmyne Ortiz** and **Ezekiel Valdez-Villegas**.



Windsor Gardens Gives Books to Reading Partners Mary Grace Waje

The Windsor Gardens Optimists gave over 250 books to the Reading Partners program at Shoemaker Elementary School. Several members of the Windsor Gardens Breakfast Optimist Club have tutored at Shoemaker Elementary. After some of the tutoring sessions, the student can pick a book to take home to expand their home library.

To encourage reading during summer vacation, back packs with books were given to the students. Reading Partners is a national non-profit that contracts with schools to improve reading.

The Principal of Shoemaker stated that reading scores have improved and she is grateful to the tutors and Reading Partners.



District Award Nominations Due Charlie Neumann, District Awards Chair

Chairperson Mrs. Charlie Neumann 303 766-9649 neumann-charlie@comcast.net
Address: 4473 S. Granby Ct, Aurora, CO 80015 **Nominations due by August 1st.

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

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

Optimist of the Year - Each club can submit one nomination. The nominee can be either an old or new Optimist Member who has demonstrated an exemplary example of Optimism in the club and community, the award presented by the Gov. Linda McDonald.

Sponsor 3 New Members Award Chairperson Curt Merrill c_merrill@comcast.net
303 589-3000 - Receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to your favorite Restaurant by sponsoring three new members into your club this quarter.

JOI NEWS- Larry Brown

PENNY WAR HUGE SUCCESS FOR CHINOOK TRAIL ELEMENTARY JOI CLUB

The Chinook Trail Elementary Junior Optimist Club (JOI) in Colorado Springs, CO. raised \$2116 dollars in their Penny War this year. Their hard work payed off by donating \$1,058 dollars to "Water for Africa" that provided water for 13 families. Also, The Leukemia-Lymphoma Society rep was at the end of year JOI Club meeting May 10th and had a big check to represent the \$1,058 dollars the kids had collected during the Pennies for Patients drive. Sponsored by the Academy Optimist Club.



Congratulations Chinook Trail Elementary JOI Club for your successful year!

Scott Elementary JOI Club Helps Out Ronald McDonald - taken from Facebook

Nearly 20 fifth graders at Scott Elementary spent several months putting together more than a thousand items to donate to the local Ronald McDonald house.

"We collected in total 1,202 items," said Madeline Flack, a member of the JOI club who organized the donation. Madeline said she, along with her peers, meet twice a month to do volunteer work for the community. At the end of this school semester, their big project was the donation drive.

"A lot of people that have a bad situation and sometimes we just want to help because there are people out there who don't want to make a difference. But we do and we are very happy about that," said Madeline.

Friday, the students were able to drop off all the donated items to the house and even meet some of the families they are helping out.



"It makes me almost cry. I am just so proud they are thinking outside of just themselves. They are starting to realize life isn't all about them," said Kathy Douglas, the JOI group leader.

The JOI group is for fourth and fifth-grade students only. JOI stands for Junior Optimism International. The students aren't required to be part of the group, they choose to participate. "When children choose to help other kids, there is magic," said Sam Rush-Walton, the Development Director at the Ronald McDonald house.

3rd Annual Colorado/Wyoming JOI Convention Donna Priester

The 3rd annual CO/WY JOI Convention was held on March 9th in Castle Rock at the **New Hope Presbyterian Church**. It is at this convention of JOI Clubs and their members that officers for the coming year are nominated and elected. It is also a time for clubs to share the wonderful things that they are doing in their communities!

The day began with **Governor Mark King** welcoming all attendees. There were 10 JOI Clubs represented by members and their advisers and parents. There were approximately 90 persons who came to support the JOI program and convention!

Planning had been done that provided time for an icebreaker, business meeting, a great speaker, **Cedric Taylor**, workshops, sharing of club projects, and, of course, great food. Breakfast and lunch were provided by the JOI Convention committee consisting of Optimists around the CO/WY District who are wonderful proponents of the JOI program and mission, as well as the adult District!



Officers were elected and **Governor – Elect, Elise Clark, became Governor – Designate** and will assume the Governor role October 1st. **Makenna Weiner from the Vista Ridge High School JOI Club will be the Gov.-Elect for the 2019-2020 Optimist year, and Aaron Fesh from the Summit Ridge JOI Club was elected as incoming Secretary/Treasurer.** He will be training with

the current Sec./Treasurer, **Justin Watkins** throughout the rest of this year.

Governor Mark did a great job of making sure that all felt welcome and that JOI members had a chance to learn, socialize, and know that they are special. As he has said many times, **“You kids are the future! As JOI members, you will make a difference!”**



Optimist Junior Golf Program

Bob Meyer



Hello fellow Colorado-Wyoming District Optimists,

As you know, Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with 2,500 clubs and 100,000 members in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and around the world. Carrying out the motto "Bringing Out the Best in Kids", Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. The Optimist Junior Golf Program is one of the organization's most prominent projects.

Each year, approximately 700 junior golfers (boys and girls ages 10 – 18) travel from around the world to play in the Optimist International **Junior Golf Championships (commonly referred to as THE OPTIMIST)**. **THE OPTIMIST** brings together some of the world's most talented young competitors, many of whom have the potential to become leading collegiate and professional golfers in the future. More information about **THE OPTIMIST** and the Optimist Junior Golf Program is available at <http://optimist.org/GolfMenu.cfm>.

In the Colorado-Wyoming District, we will be holding three qualifying tournaments in June 2019 to send 64 junior golfers to **THE 2019 OPTIMIST**. Our ongoing involvement with the Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado produced a record number of entrants in our 2018 district qualifier. We're hoping to have a field size of around 300 for our three qualifying tournaments in 2019. We also have 23 additional 2019 OPTIMIST slots from an 18-hole Optimist Junior Golf Tour event that we held in October 2018 at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club.

More information about the Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program is available at <https://sites.google.com/site/cowyoptimistgolf/>.

If we are to send 64 junior golfers to the **2019 OPTIMIST** (and continue to provide financial support to all of them...\$ 1,000 for seven age group winners and \$ 500 for the other 57 qualifiers), we need to expand our fundraising activities. One of our fundraising events is an **adult scramble to be held Tuesday, June 4, at Saddle Rock Golf Course in Aurora**. An entry form for the scramble is attached to this email. After the tournament, lunch and a silent auction will be held. The silent auction includes dozens of donated foursomes from area golf courses, golf vacations, travel vacations, and cruises. You can get an idea of the golf and travel vacations and cruises that will be available at <http://cowyoptimist.travelpledge.com/>.

If you could forward the flyers to family, friends, and business associates, that would be greatly appreciated. The more foursomes we can attract to the fundraising scramble (and lunch and the silent auction) and the more participant, hole, and banner sponsors we can attract, the more financial support we'll be able to provide to the junior golfers who will be attending **THE 2019 OPTIMIST at Trump National Doral Miami in Miami FL**

You can also make donations on our GoFundMe platform at <https://www.gofundme.com/cowy-district-optimist-jr-golf>.

If you need further information or have any questions, please let me know. Thank you,

Bob Meyer
Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program Tri-chairman
5138 Gould Cir
Castle Rock CO 80109
Home: 303-814-5990
Cell: 303-919-4532

SAVE THESE DATES!

Your Club's Fundraiser Flyer could be on this page in the 4th Qtr Newsletter



**COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT
OPTIMIST GOLF SCRAMBLE**

COLORADO-WYOMING
OPTIMIST

FUNDRAISER FOR COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT
OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM



HELP US SEND JUNIOR GOLFERS TO THE
2019 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIPS AT DORAL

JUNIOR GOLF

WHERE: Saddle Rock Golf Course, 21705 E Arapahoe Rd, Aurora CO
WHEN: Tuesday, June 4th -- 7:30 am shotgun start
PRICE: \$ 125 per player
Includes: Green Fee and Cart
Lunch
Team Prizes
Closest to the pin on all par 3's
Longest drives (men's and women's)
Longest putt
Donation to CO-WY District Junior Golf

If you have a foursome, you can enter as a team, or we will establish teams based on individual entries.

Please make your \$ 125 checks payable to "Optimist Junior Golf" or to "Optimist International Foundation" if you would like a tax deduction from a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization and mail the checks and this entry form to:

Joe Marci
4173 S Rosemary Way
Denver CO 80237

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

ZIP: _____

Optimist Club: _____

Other Team Members:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

We need the support of all Optimists and their friends to make this a successful tournament. There will be a silent auction for some valuable items donated to Optimist Junior Golf.

If you have any questions, please call Joe Marci at 303-771-3748, Bob Meyer at 303-814-5990, or Ron Cisco at 303-794-0749.

FRIDAY THIS WEEK!

Your Club's Fundraiser Flyer could be on this page in the 4th Qtr Newsletter



Friday, May 31, 2019

6:00 - 9:00 pm

American Legion

5400 E Yale Ave, Denver, CO

(located Yale Ave and I-25)

TICKETS: \$30

Includes \$1000 play chips, food, entertainment and fun!

**Pre-purchase of tickets
appreciated!**

Tickets sell as will-call. Send
names to pattyhasty@msn.com

Donations or sponsors to help off-
set the costs, please contact Patty
Hasty, pattyhasty@msn.com

Silent Auction inquiries call JJ
Pooley at jjpooley@comcast.net

-  Casino games
-  Sliders & Sweet
-  Bingo
-  Silent Auction
-  Cash Bar

All Proceeds

Go To Benefit



SAVE THESE DATES!

Your Club's Fundraiser Flyer could be on this page in the 4th Qtr Newsletter



ACADEMY OPTIMIST CLUB
BRINGING OUT THE BEST

Second Annual Academy Optimist Cup Tennis Tournament August 2019

Family Fun!



Ages 14+, Levels
2.5 to 4.0 and
Open

August 9th - 11th

John Venezia Park

3555 Briargate Parkway

Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Registration and Details at:

<https://tinyurl.com/AcademyOptCup2>

or

E-Mail AcademyOptimist@GMail.com

Sponsored By



Colorado Home Interiors

In Memory of Past Distinguished Governor, Lester Sitter



Lester Sitter died peacefully in his sleep, Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the Sunrise Hospice after a long illness. He was 78. He is survived by his wife, Clara; daughter, Susan Sitter; son Scott Sitter (Michelle) and 6 grandchildren.

Les has a long Optimist 'resume' beginning in 1986, and was a life member at the time of his death. He joined Littleton Breakfast OC in 1996 and the DTC OC in 2006 with his wife Clara.

Les held many positions in the COWY District including being a Distinguished and Honor Governor 2004. He also served as a Lt Governor in 2001 & 2009, and received the Builder of Excellence Award for the chartering of the Castle Rock OC in 2005. In addition, he was president of the DTC OC in 2011-12, and had served as their Foundation Rep from 2009-2014.

A memorial service was held at the Littleton United Methodist Church on May 30.

He is remembered by fellow optimists:

Les blazed a great trail...We should all be so grateful for his life and commitment to the spirit of Optimism. He and Clara generated a tremendous ray of light to the world. Blessings and good fortune to a life so well lived and served...guess the greater achievements of the future are waiting in heaven. **Phil Perington.**

I am so sad to lose Les, even though I hadn't seen him in quite awhile. He was such a mentor to me and to so many others. He and Clara were the mentors of other Optimist couples as well! I have missed his presence during the illness, but am glad he is now free of the illness and living with the Lord!! **Donna Priester**

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

