

CO/WY - The Bandwagon



Governor's Corner - Tony Carpenter 2019-2020

We've had a great start to the year, and our activities are now in full swing. To coin a horse racing term, we're off and running...and now at the quarter pole (four months into the year)!

Our **2nd Quarter Conference** was held on February 8th. A snow storm threatened to dampen attendance, yet over **100 participants** braved the weather to enjoy what turned out to be an informative, inspiring and entertaining success. The "god of love" (a very game **Dennis Hutton**) and the **Disability Diva, Cindy Charlton**, were just two of the "not to be missed" gems of that conference.

The **3rd Quarter Conference** will be held on **April 25th** at **Bethany Lutheran Church**. This conference will feature the finals for both **The Oratorical Contest and Communication Contest for the Deaf and hard of Hearing (CCDHH)**.

The Theme for this year is: **Just iMagine a world without Boundaries**. Don't miss the opportunity to see how Optimism is positively affecting the youth of our communities.

An important note: OI has sent updated Bylaws to every club. It's important that your club complete the update ASAP, and it's easy to do so. If you need assistance, please reach out to your Lt. Governor.

Other happenings:

The **Brain Bowl championship** will be on March 7th at Hamilton Middle School.

The **JOI Convention** will also be held on Saturday March 7th at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

The Essay Contest, Tri-Star Basketball

This is a busy for us, and wonderful time to be an Optimist. You're all folks who gives kids a chance to be the best they can be while having fun doing it!



Inside this issue

- Conference photos.....2-3
- JOI..... 5
- Jr Golf.....6-7
- Club News.....8-11
- Save the Dates.....4,12,13

District Officers

- Governor: Tony Carpenter, Wheat Ridge OC
- Governor— Designate: Terri Kearney, Arvada Lake Arbor OC
- Secretary: Craig Baldwin, Heather Gardens OC
- Treasurer: Carma Lytle, Wheat Ridge OC
- Immediate Past Gov.: Linda McDonald, Wheat Ridge, OC

Lt. Governors

- Zone 1: Mary Hall, Loveland Bkft OC
- Zone 2: Charlie Pease, Boulder Lunch OC
- Zone 3: Dennis Hutton, Buena Vista OC
- Zone 4: Joe Priester, Academy OC
- Zone 5: Charlie Neumann, DTC OC
- Zone 6: Abigail Nicholas, Tamarac & DTC
- Zone 7: Larry Brown, Academy OC
- Zone 9: Kris Gresl, Arvada Lake Arbor

Important Websites

Optimist International:

www.optimist.org

OI Foundation:

oifoundation.org/

COWY District:

www.optimistcowy.org/

COWY Brain Bowl:

www.optimistbrainbowl.org/

COWY Junior Golf:

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

CO/WY District 2nd Quarter District Conference



Gov Tony leads the business meeting



Emcee, **Abigail Nicholas**, kept the day moving on schedule



Conference attendees came dressed for Valentines Day theme



OI Vice President, Don Crall addresses the conference



Joe Priester, Linda McDonald, and Donna Priester announce awards from OI Foundation



Gov Tony participated in Round table discussions on developing 'elevator speeches.'



Over 100 attendees filled the conference rooms at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant.



JOI Governor, Elise Clark and Donna Priester gave updates on JOI activities as well as upcoming JOI Convention.

2nd Quarter Conference Activities

Conference Theme was “Share the Love”. The Fundraiser, “Baskets of Love” coordinated by the Cheyenne OC. The “**God of Love**” aka **Dennis Hutton** mingled with the crowd during breaks and basket drawings.



Cheyenne President and members



Charlie Neumann, Awards Chair announces District Award



Featured Guest Speaker **Cindy Charlton** Story of Survival & Perseverance.

As a triple amputee, her story of survival amazed the audience, and gave them hope and inspiration to appreciate and make the most of every precious moment.



Awards & Achievements:

Honoree: **Cesar Camarena "Rookie of the Quarter"** Nominated by: **Bob Meyer/President**

When he learned that the Club planned to renovate the trailer used at its Christmas Tree sales lot, he recognized that his construction background would be invaluable and volunteered to assist with the trailer's renovation.

Cesar and his crew donated over 200 hours of their time (includes Cesar's 70 hours) to totally overhaul the trailer. The "new" trailer will serve the Club's needs for many more years, thanks to the efforts of Cesar Camarena and his band of merry construction men. He will be presented a \$50.00 gift card to Panera Bread. Congratulations & Enjoy



Governor-Elect Speaks Out

Greeting Fellow Optimists,
It may seem too soon, but it is already time to start looking for candidates for the **Office of Governor-Elect for 2020-2021**.

If you would like to apply for the position, I will need the following items per the District Policy:

- Letter of Intent which states you have served a full term as President of a Club, and include your background and qualifications for the office of Governor-Elect
- A letter from the Club of which you belong to, indicating that club's support of the candidacy for the Office of Governor-Elect
- A statement from your employer indicating the employer's understanding and approval of your anticipated commitment to serve one year as Governor-Elect and one year as Governor. If you are self-employed or retired, such statement shall be submitted by the candidate.

If by chance there are other candidate or candidates who decide to run, then I, as current Governor-Elect, will set up a meeting for you to meet with the Candidate Qualifications Committee. If the District has more than one candidate running at District Convention time, then we will hold an election, with speeches. If that happens, you would be notified of what and how the election will be run.

Serving with Optimism!

Terri Kearney
Governor-Elect 2019/2020



SAVE THE DATE for the 3rd Quarter CO/WY Conference

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Bethany Lutheran Church

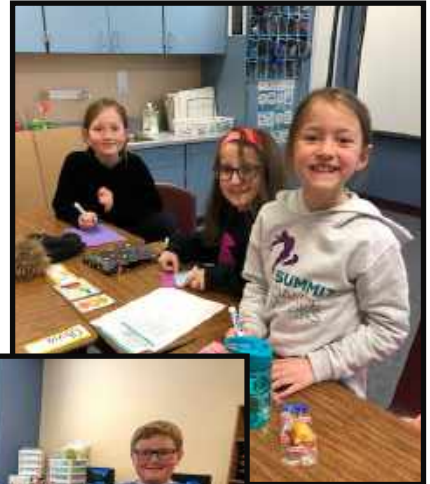
4500 E Hampden Ave

Cherry Hills Village, Colorado 80113

This conference features the District Finals of the Oratorical Contest, the CCDHH Contests, and Finalist of Essay Contest. Trish Merrill & BJ Burleigh are District Conference Co-Chairs

Scott Elementary JOI Club Adds Notes to JOY Jars Donna Priester

JOY JARS are large jars given to children fighting cancer or serious diseases and are in the hospital or a treatment center. They contain small toys, games, and notes of encouragement! Our **Scott Elementary JOI Club** made 61 notes of encouragement and they were sent to the JOY Jars. I guess we could say the JOI sends JOY to kids in need!!



Vista Ridge JOI Club Members Deliver Donations Kadence Neill



Here are representatives of the **Vista Ridge JOI Club** dropping off donations from their toy drive at the new, local Colorado Springs Children's Hospital.

They hosted a toy drive at their school by setting up decorated collection boxes and advertising with large posters in the halls. Staff and students contributed, leaving us with this large haul to deliver. A very successful project!



COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF

2019 was another banner year for the Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program. Almost 400 junior golfers competed in the June 2019 District Junior Golf Qualifiers and the October 2019 Optimist Junior Tour Event, trying to land a spot at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships (commonly referred to as **THE OPTIMIST**). For the second year in a row, there were more Colorado junior golfers at THE OPTIMIST than from any other State in the U.S. There were 66 Colorado junior golfers out of a total field of 609 U.S. and international junior golfers at THE 2019 OPTIMIST.

The 2019 District Qualifiers were held Friday, June 7, at Overland Park Golf Course in Denver for Boys ages 10 – 15; Friday, June 14, at Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder for Boys ages 16 – 18; and Wednesday, June 19, at Meadow Hills Golf Course in Aurora for Girls ages 10 – 18. A total of 64 spots at THE 2019 OPTIMIST were at stake during those three District Qualifiers.

Also, in June 2019, an additional 25 – 30 junior golfers participated in pre-qualifying tournaments in Loveland and Fort Morgan, sponsored by Optimist Clubs in those areas.

Another 23 spots for THE 2020 OPTIMIST were at stake at the October 2019 Optimist Junior Tour Event at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club in Denver.

In 2020, we will hold District Qualifiers on Friday, June 5, at Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder (boys ages 10 – 15); Friday, June 12, also at Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder (boys 16 – 18); and Thursday, June 18, at Meadow Hills Golf Course in Aurora (girls 10 – 18). We expect about 300 golfers at these 2020 District Qualifiers, competing for 70 slots at THE 2020 OPTIMIST at Trump National Doral Resort and Spa in Miami, Florida.

THE OPTIMIST is one of Optimist International's major youth programs with a field of almost 700 of the world's best junior golfers from more than 28 countries around the globe. Over 3,000 junior golfers compete in District Qualifiers in the United States and Canada. Past age group winners at THE OPTIMIST (and its predecessor, the Optimist Junior World Golf Championships) include Denver's own Mark Hubbard, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Davis Love III, Lorena Ochoa, Nancy Lopez, Brittany Lincicome, Lexi Thompson, Brooke Henderson, Jason Day, and Emiliano Grillo, among dozens of prominent PGA and LPGA golfers.

The Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program is totally self-funded. We raised over \$40,000 to send 66 junior golfers to THE 2019 OPTIMIST. We were able to give \$1,000 to each of the seven age group winners and \$500 to the other qualifiers from the 2019 District qualifying events.

Cont. on page 7

Jr Golf - continued from page 6

With an additional six slots for THE 2020 OPTIMIST, we will need to raise close to \$45,000 to provide the same amount of financial assistance for the 2020 age group winners and other District qualifiers.

Various fundraisers are used to defray expenses for the local qualifying tournaments and for sending junior golfers to THE OPTIMIST. An adult golf tournament and silent auction will be held **Tuesday, June 2, 2020**, at Saddle Rock Golf Course in Aurora. We will have several Optimist Days at the Colorado Rockies in 2020.

We also solicit title, hole, banner, and player sponsors for the qualifying tournaments at Flatirons and Meadow Hills from many Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Clubs, individual Optimists, families and friends of Optimists, and their businesses.

In addition, we solicit cash and in-kind donations at the annual Denver Golf Expo from local golf courses, parents of our junior golfers, and the public.

Please help support the Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program to “Bring Out the Best in Kids”. For further information, please contact **Bob Meyer at 303-919-4532** or meyerrob@comcast.net.

COLORADO-WYOMING OPTIMIST



JUNIOR GOLF

HAS A CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM ON GOFUNDME.COM

<https://www.gofundme.com/cowy-district-optimist-jr-golf>

Sponsor Windsor Optimist Club sees Windsor High School's "Academic Achievement Hall of Fame" for the First Time

Thursday morning, February 13, members of the **Windsor Optimist Club** held their weekly 6:30 am meeting at **Windsor High School** for a special opportunity to see the Academic Achievement Hall of Fame that they sponsored. After honoring the **Windsor Middle School Student of the Month**, members took a look at the display, which was installed in late December. Most had not seen it before, and were impressed with its quality and size, and the fact that the names on it represent the best of the best of WHS students from recent years. **Andrew Stanger** pictured here.



WHS Principal Michelle Scallon and Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Copher spoke to the club, telling a little about the information presented on the Wall and how it was collected. Ms. Scallon thanked the Club for its donation of over \$7000 used to pay for the display, which is on the wall near the new Cafeteria where most students pass every day. Information on the Display includes the names of Gates, Daniels, and Boettcher scholarship winners, students who were selected to enter the **military academies, National Merit Scholars, and Valedictorians and Salutatorians** for the last few years. It covers a large part of the wall on which it is mounted, but according to Ms. Scallon, there is room to add panels to it when the current ones are filled.

The **Optimist Club has been in Windsor since 1973**, and is an international service organization with the motto "Friend of Youth". They sponsor the annual **Easter Egg Hunt in Main Park, the Alternative Halloween Party at the Recreation Center, Bike Night, and Santa's Toy Shop**, among other community service projects. They currently have 34 members, and their website is www.WindsorOptimistClub.org. Courtesy of **Kathy Goering, Secretary, Windsor Optimist Club**

Windsor and Severance, Colorado Adopt Kindness Week

The **SECOND SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY** an occasion to celebrate the small town feel and culture of our community by promoting random acts of kindness

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS - **Sunday** Good deed or act of service - **Monday** Be Nice to a Senior Citizen - **Tuesday** Give a word of encouragement - **Wednesday** Pay It Forward - **Thursday** Thank an Educator - **Friday** Thank a First Responder and or a Veteran - **Saturday** Be Kind to your Neighbor

Gary Edwards, President of Windsor Optimist Club Colorado

Strategic Growth & Vitality Committee Report-SGVC Phil Perington-Chair

The **January and February Meetings of SGVC** was jam packed with energy and thoughtful ideas for the upcoming Year. As a point of information; meetings are attended by Club Presidents-guests & members, Lt. Governors and District Committee Chairs, including JOI Club Chair **Donna Priester**. **There are usually 15-25 Optimists in attendance at every meeting. New Club Building, Vitality, JOI Club growth and Retention are the current main subjects.** At this moment in time the committee is working on an "elevator speech" designed to deliver a positive impact and create friendly curiosity about what we do as Optimists.

The **monthly Saturday meetings** are scheduled for 2 hours(11-1pm), including a complimentary lunch. The Agenda is focused on how to better serve Clubs and their Youth Service programs. **Gov. Tony and Gov. Elect Terri** have combined their efforts in hope of achieving a 2-year administrative plan that will successfully grow Clubs and help deliver Services O.I provides to the District.

Please make every effort to attend one of the SGVC meetings in the future. We need your ideas, inspiration and commitment to serving our kids and their future.

Vitality Chair, Abigail Nicholas, pictured here leading discussions



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 February 1, 2020.

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

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.

Windsor Gardens Pancake Breakfast Mary Grace Wake

The Windsor Gardens Breakfast Optimist Club held its Annual Pancake Breakfast on February 22. This year the venue was different because there is no longer a restaurant. Instead Flippin Flapjacks was hired. Their pancakes are delicious and they are able to make 300 pancakes an hour. Two hundred people attended and socialized at the event. Plus everyone left with tummies full of pancakes sausage and fruit. About 35 members volunteered to make this event successful and profitable.



Cheyenne Optimists Host Great Gatsby Dinner &

“The Cheyenne Optimist Club presented The Great Gatsby Dinner & Dance on February 14, 2020, at the Historic Plains Hotel. The Jane Robinett Quintet played for everyone’s listening and dancing pleasure. Proceeds to benefit the Friday Food Bag Foundation.”



Cheyenne OC Supports MLK Walk Katherine Van Dell

In collaboration with the GFWC women's clubs of Cheyenne, the Cheyenne Optimist Club provided cookies and hot cocoa to the Martin Luther King, Jr March participants on January 20, 2020.

Estimation was 150 enjoyed the refreshments. Remaining cookies were delivered to the Comea Homeless Shelter and the Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless.



Optimist News From A Club Outside CO/WY District Kathy Sullivan

Tamarac OC's member, **Kathy Sullivan** shared this report: When ever I go to Kansas to visit my family, I try to attend the **Optimist Club of McPherson**, a combined group of men and women. They have many activities I have enjoyed such as the citywide Easter Egg Hunt, and the Hot Dog picnics they provide for the 4 elementary schools in town.

One of their projects and main fundraiser is the **Mid-America Basketball Tournament** that also involves the local high school. Just a hint: You can't get a hotel room anywhere in the town during this event! The pictures were taken at a **rocket presentation** the Optimist club helped fund at a local elementary.



My Granddaughter, **Brenna Sullivan** on right, was one of the six students to do the presentation at the club meeting.



SAVE THIS DATE!!

Your Club's Fundraiser Flyer could be on this page in the 3rd Qtr

Walkabout Australia

**DTC Optimist Club Annual
Fundraiser**

**WINE TASTING &
SILENT AUCTION**



AUSTRALIA

TICKETS

\$25.00

**Saturday,
April 4, 2020
1:00 to 4:00pm
Calvary Baptist
Church
6500 E Girard
Denver, CO**

*** WINE & APPETIZERS ***

For Tickets, contact Sheryl Overton
at sheryl.overton@yahoo.com

SAVE THIS DATE!!

Your Club's Fundraiser Flyer could be on this page in the 3rd Qtr



This is a fun night that benefits Aurora Children!

4th Annual

Heather Gardens Optimist Club

Nite at the Races

Sandburg Auditorium-Heather Gardens Clubhouse



Saturday
April 18

.....
starting at

5 pm

Silent
Auction!

..... **Tickets: \$25**

Includes \$20 in FUNNY MONEY & DINNER

Place your funny money on pre-recorded horse races!

.....
FUNdraiser to benefit the children of Aurora,
who the Optimist are dedicated to supporting.

Must be 21 years old to attend.
.....

**Purchase
Tickets** ▶

Contact Paula Moore
303.671.4653

bama3544@gmail.com

Dr Seuss Was An Optimist

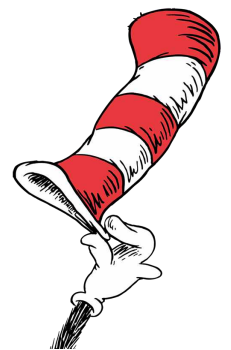
Dr. Seuss, born Theodor Seuss Geisel, was a writer and cartoonist whose work conquered the heart of every child and put a smile on the face of every adult. This week celebrates Dr Seuss's 116th Birthday in schools across the nation.

Seuss faced many challenges in his lifetime. Some were devastating deaths and some were horrible wars, but despite all the negativity that surrounded him, **Seuss remained an optimist** with a heart of gold.



Once you read some Dr. Seuss quotes, you'll see that a few words can carry such strong emotions. He never had any biological children, but could always connect with them. Following are the best Seuss quotes and sayings on life, love and happiness. Exceptionally creative and original, he didn't write only for children, he wrote for the people, and his drawings made those books the most enjoyable to read.

- ◇ The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.
- ◇ Don't give up! I believe in you all. A person's a person, no matter how small.
- ◇ It's not about what it is, it's about what it can become.
- ◇ Sometimes you will never know the value of something, until it becomes a memory.
- ◇ Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you.
- ◇ Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.
- ◇ If you never did you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.
- ◇ Step with care and great tact, and remember that life's a great balancing act.
- ◇ Oh, the thinks you can think!
- ◇ Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one.



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

