

CO/WY - The Puzzler



3rd Quarter Governor's Corner -



Greetings Fellow Optimists!

The first half of the Colorado/Wyoming Optimist year was active and it continues to be active. I want to thank Curt Merrill, my Videographer, for doing a fabulous job showing club activity through slides (including wonderful music) at our 3rd Quarter Conference. Pictures speak a thousand words! His countdown music also energizes us for a great Conference! Thank you Curt!

I was moved by all the contestants in each of the contests (Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical). Each time I heard a student share, there was something to take away. It's easy to see their individual personalities through their speeches and essay. It's amazing how the same topic can be shared so differently. Thank you to each Chair and teams for all your hard work, time and energy.



One of my goals as Governor was to charter an Optimist club. The Joint Venture Virtual Optimist Club was finalized on April 29 during **National Autism Awareness month!** The Joint Venture Optimists is personal and very special to me because my grandson is on the autism spectrum. The JVO will be working with

organizations like Firefly Autism which is a school in Lakewood that specializes teaching children on the autism spectrum. Firefly Autism donated \$150.00 to JVO to pay the first quarter dues for six new members.

From literally the first moment at the Club Building Seminar that I attended in St. Louis, MO, I was determined a virtual club would be chartered. On my lunch break I posted on my Facebook that I wanted to see this happen. Within an hour, Larry Brown (Academy Optimist) and Leadership Development Chair, commented that he would be on board! In addition, Tony Carpenter (Wheat Ridge Optimist), and Immediate Past Governor, wanted to help. Last but not least, Bill Cassel (Wheat Ridge Optimist) founder of Noah's ARK (Autism Rescue Kits) & Childhood Health and Wellness Chair, wanted to join us.



The first project that JVO helped with was the Firefly Autism Vaccination Clinic. The clinic had 500 plus people scheduled to get their vaccines. Jesse Ogas, Executive Director and CEO of Firefly Autism and Tobin Truslow, Director of Development and who

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District Officers

- Governor: Terri Kearney, Arvada Lake Arbor & Purpose Driven OC
- Governor— Designate: Nicole Powell, Academy OC
- Secretary: Edward Quintrall, Purpose Driven OC
- Treasurer: Craig Baldwin, Heather Gardens OC
- Immediate Past Gov.: Tony Carpenter, Wheat Ridge, OC

Lt. Governors

- Zone 1: Charlie Pease, Boulder Lunch DC
- Zone 2: Bill Ashbee, Boulder Lunch DC
- Zone 3: Ken Kearney, Arvada Lake Arbor
- Zone 4: Joe Priester, Academy OC
- Zone 5: John Nachter, Monaco South DC
- Zone 6: Mary Grace Wake, Windsor Gardens OC
- Zone 7: Larry Brown, Academy OC
- Zone 8: Kris Grestl, Purpose Driven DC

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/cowoptimistgolf/home>

Governor's Corner continued from page 1....

who are both members of the University Hills Optimist Club told me I was welcome to put up the JVO banner. Besides the banner, I had flyers and applications. From there things really took off! JVO had our first Board Meeting and we are officially meeting as a virtual club on the third Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. New members are always welcome!

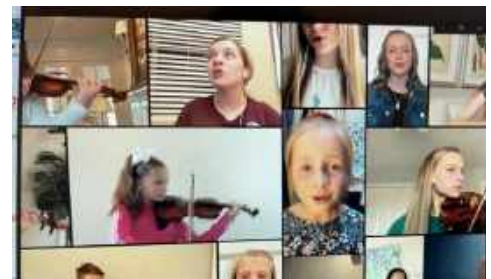
Welcome to the Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District Joint Venture Optimist Virtual Club!



2020-21 Virtual 3rd Quarter Conference In Pictures!



**Opening by
Bellanova One Voice
Children's Choir
singing - Memories**

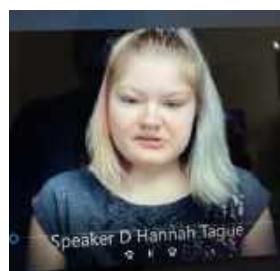


**Cheyenne OC President, Linda Chasson
and Treasurer Connie Hein gave a video
presentation on the site of the District
Convention at Little America in Cheyenne!
August 27-29, 2021**

2020-2021 3rd Quarter Virtual Conference More Pictures!



Jazmin Galvez 1st Place winner of \$2500 scholarship sponsored by Westminster OC



2nd Place—Hannah Tague Sponsored by MSOC



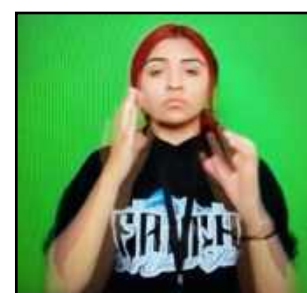
3rd Place—Caleb Boutelle, sponsored by Academy OC



1st Place winner is Grace Benham from Academy



2nd Place Maria Padilla from Academy



3rd Place Mariah Gonzalez

2020-2021 Oratorical Contest at Conference



1st Place—Paige Kastens Sponsored Difference Makers



2nd Place—Rose Webster Sponsored Littleton OC



3rd Place Izzabella Davila-Armendano—Academy OC



Valerie Sevilla



Ellie Sedaghat



Dante Osumb-Hughes

See article on page 8

More Virtual Conference News..... District Essay Winner



The winner was **Chance Bellomo** from a group of 11 entries submitted by T.J. HS- Monaco South was the Sponsor Club. **Wyatt McCallie and Jack Kleinheksel** Co-Chairs. Medallions for 1st, 2nd & Third Place + Cash prizes. **Chase awarded plaque for COWY District Winner + the \$2,500 Scholarship.** Clubs participating: Academy, Westminster-Broomfield, Arvada-Lake Arbor, DTC, Ft. Collins, Summit-Lake Dillon, Tamarac (At-Large), Monaco South, Littleton Breakfast & Ft. Morgan

Two Rookie of the Quarter Awards

Charlie Neumann

Two Rookie of the Quarter Winners will each receive a \$50.00 gift card from Amazon

Nominee: **Tricia Cordova**

Nominated by President of the Optimist Club of Pueblo, **Helen Kneib**

She has been a member for four weeks and has brought to our club the opportunity to participate in a diaper drive with ENT (where she works). The diapers went to Catholic Charities for their "Caring Pregnancy Center" in Pueblo. We are happy to have an enthusiastic new member

Nominee: **Brian Zettel**

Nominated by: **Donna Priester** Academy Optimist Club of Colorado Springs

Brian joined the club prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and jumped into the JOI program at Vista Ridge High School. He is helping the JOI club develop a cabinet that will help students who are struggling with finances. Brian is helping to collect and assist in making this project a reality. He is also accepted to be Academy's next President. Way to go!!

Time to Register for 103rd OI Convention -

JUNE 30, 2021 - JULY 3, 2021 In-Person or Virtual Options



Optimist International Convention



**COWY Optimist District
Ambassadors to Int'l Convention**

Gunar & Charlie Neumann
Club: DTC
4473 S. Granby Ct., Aurora, CO 80015
Res: 303-766-9649
Cell (Charlie): 720-949-8702
Cell (Gunar): 303-829-7903
neumann-charlie@comcast.net
gunarneumann@comcast.net

For latest Convention info, go to International Convention Website.

Sign on to <https://www.optimist.org/convention>
for full schedules and registration options

Dance Contest Was an Event of It's Own!



Judge was our District Vintage Newsboy, Larry Brown, who called for a 'dance-off' between Tony Carpenter and Kevin Keilbach!



And the winner was.....Kevin, President-elect of the Pueblo OC

Packs of Hope needs your help! *Project of Purpose*

Packs of Hope is a nonprofit organization that was spotlighted at our First Quarter

Conference 2019. They are a 100% donation organization that fills backpacks for children who are entering foster care. Due to COVID-19 and lack of donation drives, Packs of Hope is in need of our help. Typically they are now spending between \$1000-\$3000 each month serving 9 counties in Colorado.



Currently they are in desperate need for **backpacks, toiletries, small toys or stuffed animals and new spring/summer clothes of all sizes (newborn to adult)**. Cash donations help fill the gaps of items they are lacking. Donations are down and distribution is rising. Please consider helping Packs of Hope in any way you can. Together we can make a difference to these children being removed from their homes and put into the foster care system. The pictures of



the shelves below is what Packs of Hope has to carry them through summer.

Donations can be made directly to Packs of Hope at: packsofhope.org The Purpose Driven Optimists gave \$250.00 toward Packs of Hope and would like to challenge other clubs in CO/WY to also give \$250.00 or any donation.

If you need more information feel free to contact **Joanne Morfit at 720-560-6443 or Kris Gresl at 414-915-2236**. Both are members of the Purpose Driven Optimist Club.

Cheyenne OC Member Receives Award Linda Chasson

Paulette Gadlin was given for her affiliation with the WY Independent Citizens Coalition. She is an Optimist! We are so proud of her!



Wyoming Independent Citizens Coalition volunteers, from left, Sally Meeker, Paulette Gadlin, Carla Gregorio and Lilly Zuniga celebrate being given the Compassion-in-Action Award from Compassionate Cheyenne by Ed Boenisch, far left, Saturday at St. Joseph's Church in south Cheyenne. WICC was nominated for the recognition by focusing on partnering with local organizations, as well as working toward elevating underrepresented communities. Michael Cummo/Wyoming Tribune Eagle

Wyo. Independent Citizens Coalition receives award

By Hannah Black | Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE – After less than two years together, the Wyoming Independent Citizens Coalition is being recognized for its impact on the Cheyenne community.

The group received the latest Compassion-in-Action Award from Compassionate Cheyenne on Saturday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. WICC's main mission is to represent and give voice to people and groups in the community that are underrepresented or have been neglected, challenge systemic and structural racism, and to promote diversity, especially in the school district, vice president Carla Gregorio said.

In her nomination letter, St. Joseph's Food Pantry Director Renee Gamino wrote that WICC "has been concerned about the suffering of the misfortunes of another and (is) moved to do something about it."

"Whether you know it or not ... that's our definition of compassion," Compassionate Cheyenne working group member Ed Boenisch said while presenting a certificate to four of WICC's volunteers. Each organization to be awarded also receives \$100 from the Sunrise Rotary Club.

Another thing about the organization that caught Compassionate Cheyenne's attention, Boenisch said,

To nominate someone

If you know an individual or small group of individuals performing compassionate work in Cheyenne that is relatively unknown or a nonprofit organization involved in a unique, compassionate activity in Cheyenne that is not widely recognized, email CompassionateCheyenne@gmail.com with a paragraph of 150 words or fewer to describe why the person is deserving of the Compassion-in-Action Award. Provide your name, address and phone number, as well as the same information for your nominee.

was WICC's desire to partner with other community organizations, as well as "loving your neighbor and speaking truth and facts, and to represent people that ... were marginalized and voiceless, and that needed some kind of a support and representation."

Boenisch said it was rare that Compassionate Cheyenne would give the award to such a new group, but that WICC has already made such an impact on the community through its work to elevate underrepresented communities.

Gamino's letter noted several recent contributions by WICC and its members, including the successful push to include representatives from

south Cheyenne on the Laramie County School District 1 Board of Trustees beginning in 2022.

"Just being an adult, or a mother, a teacher, in Cheyenne, Wyoming – I think a group like this is really needed, and I think we have and will make a difference," coalition member Paulette Gadlin said.

"This particular group's effort ... is to be active. It's not just to care about people, but to put the words into action, and that's what I see this group really doing politically, educationally, personally, professionally," coalition member Sally Meeker said, also emphasizing the diversity of backgrounds and political beliefs present in the coalition. "All that effort really is important because there's a lot of people that are uneducated about the needs in our community."

Following the award presentation, the four coalition members who accepted the award planned to stay and volunteer at the Just Caring lunch at St. Joseph's, where they would be serving those experiencing homelessness or hunger.

"They're citizens, just like we are," Meeker said.

Hannah Black is the Wyoming Tribune Eagle's criminal justice reporter. She can be reached at hblack@wyomingnews.com or 307-633-3128. Follow her on Twitter at @hannahblack.

Windsor Gardens Visual Arts Competition Mary Grace Wake

The Breakfast Optimist Club of Windsor Gardens sponsored a Visual Arts Competition. Eight schools were invited to participate but only one, Lowry Elementary choose to enter.

We had 12 student's drawings and paintings. Our members voted on them to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. We had a virtual awards ceremony. The winners received cash prizes and all participants received a certificate. The Art teacher was the liaison and was helpful and enthusiastic about this competition. It was rewarding to see the smiles on the student's faces.



Aiden First Place winner



Blake 2nd place winner



Art class participants



Tamarac Volunteers at Denver Health 'Newborns in Need'

One-third of all babies in Denver are born at Denver Health. 90 percent of them come from families who struggle to get by. All donations to **Newborns in Need** give all children born at Denver Health a healthy start in life by providing essentials that help them grow strong: diapers, blankets, bibs, onesies, socks, first toy to name a few. Tamarac sends crews of 6 (Covid limits) to pack these bags, and sort donations and stock shelves.

Pictured L to R: **Jan White, Nancy O'Brien, Nancy DeNiro, Sherry Pearn, Marilyn Mehlman, Sheryl Overton.**



District Oratorical Contest 2021 Steve Gorrell

Once again, the Colorado-Wyoming District was able to hold a Oratorical Contest. This year's Topic was "Healing the World with Optimism". This year the Colorado-Wyoming District had 31% of the Clubs holding a Oratorical Contest. There were 113 students who took part in this year's contest.



Congratulations to every Club who held a contest this year. Some of the Contest's were in person and some of the Contest's were via Zoom. Yet the Club's were able to hold a contest. The top 2 contestants in each Club went on to compete in a Super Regional. The Regionals were held on April 10th. The top 3 contestants in each Regional then advanced to the District Finals. The District Finals were held on April 17th. The Finals were recorded and played at the 3rd Quarter Conference on April 24th.

At the Conference we all were treated to a great final and were able to find out about each of the contestants. We had contestants from Middle School to High School level. Drum roll please, here is the results of this year's contest. **(See pictures of all contestants on page 3)**

District Finalists include: Valerie Sevilla—sponsored by the Windsor OC
Ellie Sedaghat---sponsored by the Windsor OC
Dante Osumb-Hughes—sponsored by the Heather Gardens OC

3rd place winner of a \$1,000.00 Scholarship **Izzabella Davila-Armendano**—sponsored by the Academy OC
2nd place winner of a \$1,500.00 Scholarship **Rose Webster**—sponsored by the Littleton Breakfast OC
1st place winner of a \$2,500.00 Scholarship. **Paige Kastens**—sponsored by the Difference Makers OC.

Paige will now go on to compete in the Oratorical World Championships where she will have the opportunity to win up to \$20,000.00 additional scholarship money. The World Championships will be Virtual, and will be held July 22nd and 23rd. Page we wish all the best in the Championships.

I would like to add that Paige also had competed in last year's District Contest. She finished 2nd Place in the District Contest. So, Club Chairpersons have your Contestants come back to compete next year, UNLESS they are 19 before October 1, 2021 or have graduated from High School.



So Clubs start planning to do the Oratorical Contest next year. Hopefully by the District Convention, we will have the topic and you can start planning for the contest to be held in 2022.

I would like to thank **Charlie and Gunar Neumann, Kris Gresl, Curt Merrill, Michael Chavez** for their help putting on the Regionals and the Finals. Without the help of these Optimists, there would not have been a District Contest. Thank you everybody. Steve (Yoda)

**SAVE THE DATE for the
2020-2021 Annual District Convention
Meeting Live at Little America
in Cheyenne, Wyoming
August 27-29, 2021**



Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) or Professional Development



By Larry Brown

First off, there is a **difference between PGI and PDP**. I am sure most of you remember the PGI program and the passport where you kept track of your progress as you completed levels I thru X. The PGI program is still something you can continue to pursue. Optimist International (OI) currently has no plans to discontinue the PGI program. Changes may be coming later.

Why PGI? It gives you the opportunity to enhance your knowledge at the OI, District and Club levels. Not to mention improvement in leadership.

Sadly, some clubs have put PGI on the back burner, along with the mentor program. Both are needed to energize their club and to allow members to have a better understanding of the importance of leadership. Something to remember as you progress in your PGI passport, you can skip around in the different levels. Once you have completed level I and so on, you must contact a club officer or the PGI/PDP chair to certify completion. At this point, a Recognition Form will be completed and sent to the OI PGI/PDP Department. They in turn will send a copy of the Registration Form along with a color tab for the level completed to the Club President or PGI/PDP District chair. You will be recognized at a club meeting.

What is PDP all about? Interesting, the PDP brochure is a little different from the PGI passport in size and content. The focus as you will see is on business and management. There are 10 levels and 3 Advanced levels of PDP. Before you can start the Advanced levels, you must complete levels I thru X. Advanced levels must be completed within one year of starting the first advanced level and levels must be worked on consecutively. There are three levels; Bronze pin, Silver pin and Gold pin. It is up to you to decide if you want to continue with the PGI program or start the PDP. If you haven't started the PGI program, start with the PDP.

What type of recognition will you receive after you have completed levels I thru X of the PDP?

Instead of the color tab for PGI completion, you will receive a certificate for the level completed. Once a club member has completed level I and so on you must contact a club officer or PGI/PDP to certify completion. A PGI/PDP Recognition Form will be completed and sent to the OI Leadership Development & Growth Department. They in turn will send a copy of the Registration Form along with a certificate for the level completed to the club President or PGI/PDP chair. You will be recognized at a club meeting.

The Advanced levels completed will follow the same process as PDP levels I thru X. Recognition should be at the District level.

For questions or further information please contact: **Larry Brown** slvrfox1940@comcast.net
Leadership Development & Growth, Optimist International, Stephanie Monschein/Jamie McNiff,
Stephanie.Monschein@optimist.org and Jamie.McNiff@optimist.org (800) 500-8130

Visit optimist.org, member resources, professional development program (PGI), select PGI or PDP

2021 DISTRICT JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM Bob Meyer



**THANKS TO THE CO-WY DISTRICT
FOR ITS GENEROUS DONATION
SO THAT WE CAN SEND 70
GOLFERS TO THE 2021 OPTIMIST**

DONATIONS, GOLFERS, AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It's not too late to help the Colorado-Wyoming District Junior Golf Program send 70 junior golfers to THE 2021 OPTIMIST at Doral Resort – Miami.

We're accepting donations for hole, banner, and participant sponsors. The attached Sponsorship Opportunities flyer (when printed and tri-folded) contains lots of useful information.

On Tuesday, May 18, the District Junior Golf Program is holding the Annual Golf Scramble at Saddle Rock Golf Course in Aurora. The attached entry form should be completed to indicate your participation in this fun event. Fill out a foursome or part of a foursome or as a single and we will match you up with other singles. Before and following the scramble, please be sure to check out the silent auction of donated foursomes at local golf courses.

Our Junior Golf District Qualifiers on June 4, 10, and 18 always need volunteers to help out in a variety of positions on and off the golf courses. You don't need to be a golfer to enjoy these volunteer positions. Come out and watch some of the best junior golfers in Colorado and Wyoming compete for the 70 spots to THE 2021 OPTIMIST.

CO/WY District Optimist Junior Golf Qualifying Tournaments SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TITLE SPONSOR – \$ 5,000.00+

Promoted as "TITLE" Sponsor on all event printing, signage, and promotional material.

DOUBLE EAGLE SPONSOR – \$ 500.00- 4,999.00

Sponsor the Driving Range, Putting Green, Scoreboard, or Registration Area. Includes Sponsor's Sign in appropriate location.

EAGLE SPONSOR – \$ 150.00- 499.00

Sponsor the 1st Hole or 10th Hole. (Both are near the Clubhouse.) Includes Sponsor's Sign on course.

BIRDIE SPONSOR – \$ 120.00-149.99

Sponsor a Hole. (Holes 2-9 and 11-18.) Includes Sponsor's Sign on course.

PARTICIPANT SPONSOR – \$ 85.00-119.99

Sponsor one or more participants in the Tournament.

If you have any questions or want further information about anything discussed above, please feel free to contact any of the District Junior Golf Program Tri-chairmen listed below.

Ron Cisco - 303-794-0749 Joe Marci - 303-771-3748 Bob Meyer - 303-919-4532

SAVE THIS DATE!!

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



**COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT
OPTIMIST GOLF SCRAMBLE**

**FUNDRAISER FOR COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT
OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM**

**HELP US SEND 70 JUNIOR GOLFERS TO THE
2021 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIPS AT DORAL RESORT - MIAMI**

**COLORADO-WYOMING
OPTIMIST**



WHERE: Saddle Rock Golf Course, 21705 E Arapahoe Rd, Aurora CO
WHEN: Tuesday, May 18th – tee times starting at 8:00 am
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 303-919-4532, or Ron Cisco at 303-794-0749.

Sweet Dream Packing Party Brings DTC Together!

On March 27, 20 DTC members gathered at Ackerman's mountain home for a Sweet Dream in A Bag packing event, followed by a potluck supper, complete with piano bar! Everyone in the group had been completely vaccinated for Covid, and felt comfortable with the event. 6 long tables were set up for assembly of the bed sets, and everyone paired up for packing, assembling extras, and tying ribbons. At the end of the day, 30 new bed sets were completed for Sweet Dream. **Susie & Wayne Fox** sent a thank you to the club for the making of the bags. Connie read the note and expressed how grateful they are to this club and its members. Kudos to **Trish Merrill** and the Difference Makers, who wrote a letter to Delta Dental and they provided the following 400 Toothbrushes and Toothpaste.



Tom Kramis and Gunar Neumann pack Bronco bag



Sheryl Overton & Jeanette Thompson pack girly bag



Gunar, Lois Parker & Irene Gartz show the 30 completed bed bags

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

