CO/WY District Newsletter

1st Quarter 2021 -2022

CO/WY - Battle Bulletin

1st Quarter Governor's Corner - Nicole Powell 2021-2022



Greetings from the front! Welcome to the beginning of another Optimist Year!!! I am Nicole Powell, your 2021-2022 Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District Governor. I look forward to working with you to provide hope and bringing out the best in youth, our communities & ourselves.

Every day there is a battle raging out in the world. Our kids are up against a seemingly endless army of despair day after day, and it pollutes their hearts & minds. This incessant enemy leaves them ravaged with hopelessness, pain, anger, heartache, sickness, loneliness, abandonment, confusion, hate, division, suicide, and so much more. But I have decided that our District is going to meet these tribulations head on! We are going to show up to battle. We are going to show the kids that they are loved, wanted, needed and worth it.

- No matter the enemy.
- No matter the obstacles.
- No matter the struggles.
- We are not giving up on them.
- We are going to Fight the Good Fight for those kids!

My team (my Knights) and I are not only here to help the kids, but each other as well. We all know the hardships & hurt over the past 22 months. When we take care of ourselves, that's when we're strongest to take care of others. We all need to rekindle the hope & passion that inspired us to become Optimists. We are here for you & your Club. My Knights can support you with Leadership, Marketing, Social Media, Mentoring, and Club & Membership Health. Let us help fight alongside you. Together we can have more victories and make more positive changes that are needed now more than ever. Help us **Fight the Good Fight** for each other. See you on the battlefield!

Yours in Hope & Optimism,
Governor Nicole Powell

Save the Date for the 2nd Quarter Conference February 26, 2022 Saturday, La Foret Conference and Retreat Center, Colo Spgs



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District Officers
□ Governor: Nicole Powell, Academy DC □ Secretary:Treasurer: Craig Boldwin, Heather Gardens OC □ Immediate Past Gov: Terri Kearney, Arvada Lake Arbor & Purpose Driven OC □ Gov-Elect Tony Carpenter, Wheat Ridge, OC
Lt. Governors Zone 1: Linda Chassan, Cheyenne OC Zone 2: Bill Ashbee, Boulder Lunch DC Zone 3: Phil Perington, Monaco South & DTC Zone 4: Michael Chavez, Monaco South OC Zone 5: John Wachter, Monaco South OC Zone 6: Mary Grace Wake, Windsor Gardens OC
☐ Zone 7: Kevin Keilbach, Pueblo OC
☐ Zone 8: Ron Benson, Wheat Ridge DC
Important Websites Optimist International: www.optimist.org
Ol Foundation: oifoundation.org/
CO/WY District:
www.optimistcowy.org/
CO/WY Brain Bowl: www.optimistbrainbowl.org/
www.optimotoralinbowi.org/

CO/WY Junior Golf: sites.google.com/site/ cowyoptimistgolf/home

1st Quarter Conference Recap and Photos Charlie Neumann

The 1st quarter conference was held on Saturday, October 23 at the Denver Book Bindery. Over 80 optimists attended, some wearing costumes, and all were there to have some fun! The committee chairs all gave updates to their committees, and the budget for next year was approved.

Awards were given in 2 categories. Optimists of the quarter were **Linda Williams and Kathy Sullivan**, past co-presidents of Tamarac OC, nominated by **Mary Grace Wake Lt Gov** for their zone. New project of the quarter was awarded to Tamarac OC for their Free Book Giveaway at the South by Southeast Festival in August. The 3 Member Awardee's were **Steve Kady** from Monaco South and **Bob Hamblin** from Windsor Gardens. Each member received a \$50.00 gift card from Amazon. Way to go!

The featured keynote speaker was **Chris Albrecht**, Golden History Tours owner who provided a Ghost Walking Tour in the evening. He gave us a fun and informative history of the famous haunted "Cheeseman Park". Chris was also a judge for the Halloween costumes. The winners were **Phil White**, **Connie Hein and Tom Kramis.** He complimented our group for being fun and engaged and really enjoyed his day with us. Sarah was the tour guide took our group around Golden, and gave us a very interesting talk about the history, the ghost sightings, and the Coors family. What fun!!!

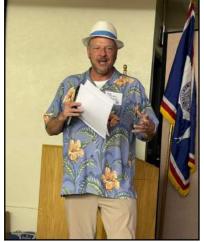
The 1st quarter Hands on Project was filling 330 Halloween Bags with candy, chips and toys, our Optimist Creed, and a flyer from Mile Hi Club promoting their Trunk & Treat on Oct 30. A special thank you to our clubs and members who donated money and candy and non-candy items. Your support is gratefully appreciated! The following organizations were provided bags:

Shiloh House, City of Wheat Ridge, Aspen House, Firefly Autism, and the Boys & Girls Club of Altura Elementary.



Gov Nicole at the podium





Above, Emcee for the day, John Wachter. To the right, induction of new member to University Hills OC, Kristy Hopkins. Also in pic Earl McAvoy, pres and Jill Dixon sponsor



Kathy Sullivan & Linda Williams receiving the Optimist of the quarter award from Charlie Neumann

Conference Costumes - Notice Everyone is Smiling!















Meet Your District Leaders and Committee Chairs 2021-2022



Craig Baldwin, Secretary/Treasurer 2021-2022 District Secretary/Treasurer.

I am beginning my 7th year as a District Officer. I will have served 7 Governors as Secretary and/or Treasurer.My wife Jean and I have been members of the Heather Gardens OC for 13 years. We have sponsored 62 new members during that time.

I may be contacted any time with financial concerns, either district and club business <u>cebaldwin103@</u> gmail.com or 720-535-1917.



Terri Kearney Immediate Past Governor Inspiration Chair and I'm on the New Club Building Committee. I belong to the Arvada Lake Arbor Optimist Club, the Purpose Driven Optimist Club and the Joint Venture Optimist Club. My cell number is (303) 506-6692 and my email is optimistkearney@gmail.com I am a second generation Colorado native and my favorite seasons are Fall and Spring! I have discovered since joining my first Optimist Club that it is very difficult for me to talk about anything but my Optimist clubs. However, you may see a picture or two of my grandchildren that I cannot get enough of.



Charlie Neumann - Chief of Staff to the Governor, Awards & Achievements & 3 Member Chair , District Ambassador to the Int'l Convention, Co-Chair Health & Wellness, Fun & Fellowship Team Member Fundraising Trainer , International Team Member for the Reno Convention 2022, Club: Denver Tech Center Contact information: email: neumann-charlie@comcast.net H:303 766-9649- C:7 20 949-8702 Best part of being involved is the friendships, getting to serve those in our communities and using the tools that Optimist International has provided. I am a better person today by being connected with the Optimist Organization. 'BE PART OF THE CHANGE"



Gunar Neumann - Governor's Co-Chief of Staff Finance Committee Chairperson Policies Committee Member, Training & Education Committee Member - Club Secretary/Treasurer Tr aining ,Conferences & Convention Planning Council Member Ol Convention Co-Ambassador Directory Editor Brain Bowl Training Chairperson Best Contact Info: 303-766-9649 (home), 303-829-7903 (cell), gunarneumann@comcast.net I am a retired aerospace industry system engineer and also a retired Air National Guard intelligence officer.



Abigail Nicholas - Candidate Qualifications Committee; Co-Chair for Convention and Conferences; Conference & Convention Planning Council; Training & Education Committee (Mentor and President's Training); Chair of Club Health Committee Member of Tamarac OC; DTC OC and Cheyenne OC Contact Info: 303-919-6569 and abigailnicholas@msn.com An interesting fact about me: I have had the opportunity and privilege to stand on all seven continents of this wonderful place we call our home, "Earth". My husband, Kent, and I have eight kids and 17 grandkids...holidays are always BUSY! I was a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol which is an auxiliary of the United States Air Force that helps in search and rescue, emergency help and cadet programs.



BJ Burleigh - Co-Chair Conference and Convention, Optimist Club of Wheat Ridge, Best contact number and/or email – 303-809-6286, bjb146@comcast.net I am the grandmother to eleven fantastic,wonderful, loving, kids. I will do anything for them, and they all know it. I love being a member of Optimist International, the friends I've made are awesome and I enjoy helping in my community. I have also been very involved with National Western Stock Show for twenty years.



Pearl Meulemans - Registrar Belongs to Tamarac OC, and is Treasurer for University Hills OC. Contact info: kpm006@aol.com Ph: 303-770-4574



Emma Schlosser—Governor
JOI District Club: Horizon Middle
School JOI, Contact JOI District
Chair, Donna Priester, or
emma schlosser@icloud.com



Lindsay Parr—Secretary/Treasurer JOI DistrictClub: Vista Ridge High School JOI Contact JOI
Donna Priester, or liparr1144@gmail.com,



Donna Priester—JOI District Chair Academy Optimist Club of Colorado Springs CO/WY Committee Chair of the Junior Optimist International Program Contact information: donnapriester@hotmail.com or phone: 719-590-1217 I was an elementary teacher and consultant for Gifted and Talented elementary students for about 40 years. My love of inspiring and helping our youth become the best they can be for themselves and their communities is my passion! I have a wonderful, supportive husband, daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren that help me to value the optimism that is part of our lives and family.



Tony Carpenter, District Governor Elect Leadership, Wheat Ridge OC, Joint Venture OC Contact info: 303-431-0770 tonyc82891@aol.com I'm a 5th generation Colorado Native, and I'm still flying on the Trapeze!



Jeanette Thompson—District Foundation Rep (DFR) for OI Foundation Club & Membership Health, District OI Foundation Rep. Member of Tamarac Club of Denver and Denver Tech. Center Club Contact info.: [jt.jeanettethompson@gmail.com], phone: 303-750-0792

I was born in Topeka, Ks. and have 4 brothers and 5 sisters. Family and friends are to treasure! My Dad's favorite saying was: "The impossible just takes a little bit longer to achieve!"



Steve Gorrell (Yoda) - Parliamentarian, Oratorical Chair District Committees--Oratorical, Finance, Policies, Parliamentarian, Conferences & Planning Council. Belong to Westminister-Broomfield Optimist Club. Best contact # 303-920-2366--email--sgorrell1@yahoo.com.

I joined my 1st Optimist Club December 1976. Now known as Yoda!



Joe Priester - CCDHH Chair (Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
Belongs to Academy OC Contact info: <u>joepriester@hotmail.com</u>, Phone—719-648-0935



Jeff Gartz - Essay Contest Chair Belong to the DTC OC, Contact information: email is jeffgartz@gmail.com phone 303-842-6680 I was in the heavy construction equipment sales business working for International Harvester and Caterpillar for 41 years. In that time I was relocated to 10 different Cities all over the western half of the US. It's great to be home for good!!



Paul Bernard - HOBY Liaison, Denver Tech Center, Monaco South, pxbernard@gmail.com 720-339-8025

Something Interesting: While in high school (at TJ) I was in a folk singing group with a guy named Frank Welker. Frank went on to Hollywood and had an incredibly successful career as an actor and voice actor, having over 860 film, television, and video game credits. Google him.



Larry Brown - Director of Professional Development Program (PDP) Personal Growth & Involvement Academy Optimist Club and Joint Venture Virtual Optimist Club. Committee Chair. Best contact number and/or email: (719) 502-0752 Email: slvrfox1940@comcast.net CO/WY District Lt. Governor 6 times, Club President 3 times, once as Distinguished Club President, Builder of Excellence Award, Personal Growth & Involvement (PGI) Level 10 and OI Leadership Academy 2017



Wade Hammond - Captain at Arms and Supply Belongs to Wheat Ridge OC and the DTC OC. Contact info loki22451@hotmail.com Cell: 303-956-5828



Kathy Sullivan - Fun & Fellowship Committee Club: Tamarac Phone Number: 303-758-9526 Please leave a message Email: rksullivan11@aol.com
This committee is perfect for me. I enjoy being the activities director. Missed my calling and should have been a travel agent.



Brian Zettel - **Audio/Visual Technology** Co-Webmaster AV Specialist, Presentation Master Conference & Convention Planning Council, Academy Optimist Club (AOC) brian@academyoptimist.org, I love multi-week back country motorcycle adventure riding. I just finished a 4,200 mile, 23 day ride along the Continental divide and throughout New Mexico & Colorado.



Tracie Peterson - Social Media Belongs to Cheyenne OC, contact info: cell 307-421-6801 tpeterson1200@gmail.com



Nancy DeNiro - Bulletin/Newsletter Editor, Brain Bowl Volunteers I am Treasurer for the Tamarac OC, and a member in the DTC OC. I also am volunteer coordinator for the Brain Bowl. Have been an optimist for 10 years, after 35 years in nursing. My contact info is ndeniro4@gmail.com, 720-232-6048. Originally from Pueblo, I have 3 beautiful daughters and 6 grands (17-26). My oldest grandson (26) and his wife just gave me my first great-granddaughter! Keep those pics and articles coming for the quarterly newsletter!



Connie Ackerman - Webmaster and Co-Chair Brain Bowl Current president of DTC OC, member of Littleton Breakfast OC. Contact info: connieackerman@comcast.net Phone: 303-688-4496



Rich Urbanowski - Co-Chair Brain Bowl Belong to Sunrise Optimist Club of Lakewood. Contact by email: mrurban3@gmail.com or phone - Home: 303-986-0964. I don't find myself all that interesting. I was captain of my high school football team, but also a gymnast. I've broken at least 12 bones - over active and under cautious. I am a retired civil engineer - hydrologist







Bob Meyer - Junior Golf Committee Tri-chairs (L-R) Bob Meyer, Joe Marci, Ron Cisco Monaco South for all, Best contact numbers and/or emails Bob Meyer 303-919-4532 meyerrob@comcast.net Joe Marci 303-771-3748 <u>imarci899@gmail.com</u> Ron Cisco 303-794-0749 ciscoron@msn.com I got my first hole-in-one on Election Day, 2020, at the Golf Club at Bear Dance...Bob Meyer





John and Susan Swanborg - Respect for Law Wstminster-Broomfield Club, Contact 303-466-5631 orjohnswanborg@gmail.com We have been Optimist for close to 20 years. We were married in July of 1967 and have two boys, Robert & Grant.





Phil White Co-Chair Tri Star Basketball Phil is a member of the Greeley Luncheon OC Contact him at phil955@frii.net Cell:970-534-0360 Jovce Laman - Co-Chair Tri Star Basketball

Joyce belongs to Tamarac OC Contact her at joycelaman@comcast.net Ph: 303-9037607



Bill Cassel - Co-Chair Childhood Health and Wellness Bill belongs to Wheat Ridge OC, The big project he is leading is Noah's ARK Autism Rescue Kits supplied to first responders to help victims with autism.

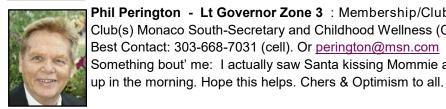
CO/WY District Lt Governors for 2021-2022



Linda Chasson - Lt. Governor, Zone 1, Fund Raising Co-Chair Member and past president of Cheyenne OC Contact info: lchasson@msn.com Cell: 307-631-1872



Bill Ashbee - Lt Governor Zone 2 Belong to Boulder Luncheon, Best contact number and/or email are 720-208-8401 (cell, text best) email: w.ashbee@comcast.net I spent 21 years as a youth baseball coach; high school basketball official (doing this had a very profound effect on me as a person in a very positive way.



Phil Perington - Lt Governor Zone 3: Membership/Club Building. Volunteer/Childhood Wellness. Club(s) Monaco South-Secretary and Childhood Wellness (CCC)Chair. DTC-Childhood Wellness. Best Contact: 303-668-7031 (cell). Or perington@msn.com Something bout' me: I actually saw Santa kissing Mommie and was afraid to tell my Dad when we all got



Michael Chavez - Lt Governor Zone 4 Member of Monaco South OC, Contact info: 303-960-5304 email: mikeart9@me.com Has been a realtor for many years.



Jon Wachter - Lt Governor Zone 5 Belong to Monaco South and University Hills O.C.'s My best contact

number is 303-204-5645 and email <u>Jon_wachter@msn.com</u> District committee I think I run the Bradley Helping Hands JOI Club for 5th graders. Been a Realtor for 21 years, and originally from St. Louis Missouri



Mary Grace Wake - Lt Governor Zone 6 Windsor Gardens Optimist Club, mgwake695@gmail.com, Of all the positions I have had, I love being an Lt Governor. Optimists are the best people to associate with and projects serving the kids is so rewarding. Prior to being active in Optimists, I was an occupational therapist for over 50 years. My family consists of 2 daughters, Kathryn in Denver and Liz in California and 4 grandsons. One of my grandson's from CA is now at CSU. Kathryn works for a nonprofit educational consulting firm and is a great speaker about equity in education.



Kevin Keilbach - Lt Governor Zone 7 I'm Kevin Keilbach, Lt. Gov for the Mighty Zone 7.

My clubs are the Optimist Club of Pueblo, Academy Optimist Club, Alamosa Optimist Club, and Joint Venture Optimist Club. Best contact number for me is 719-429-7965 (cell) and kevin.keilbach@hubinternational.com Something interesting about me is that I got to play basketball against some NBA Hall of Famers (including Shaquille O'Neill) in the basketball comedy movie Uncle Drew.



Ron Benson - Lt Governor Zone 8

Current Clubs: Wheatridge, Cheyenne(FOO), Mile High(FOO)

730-879-3927, ronbenson777@gmail.com Past OI Vice President(2018-19), Past Colo/Wyo Optimist Governor(2010-11), Current member/OI International Growth Committee

Ron Benson Receives Distinguished DFR Status

Craig Boring, current President of the Foundation sent this announcement.

On behalf of Past OIF President Jan Oord Graves and the OIF Board of
Directors, we want to congratulate you on reaching the Distinguished
District Foundation Representative level for 2020/2021. The past year was
a very special milestone for OIF, being the 50th anniversary. A great chance to celebrate and
raise funds for the Optimist Mission. Your energy, creativity and hard work was greatly
appreciated. The support by your District through the challenging year we faced with the
pandemic was awesome. Reaching the Distinguished District Foundation Representative level
is truly deserving.

The OIF Board and Staff are very appreciative of your hard work and dedication.

A huge thank you to you and the COWY Optimists for your continued generosity!

Our Colorado/Wyoming District was 5th overall for OI Foundation Fundraising out od 40 Oi Districts around the world.

CO/WY District was also 2nd in the Dime-A-Day Memorial pins sold, only behind the Michigan District by 2 pins. (CO/WY District has 1,350 members compared to the Michigan District, which has over 3,000 members!)

The 2020-21 total funds raised was approximately \$30,000, counting the Dime-A-Day pins, Presidents Club, general donations, etc.

Congratulations, Ron! And CO/WY District!

Oratorical Contest Information for 2021-2022 Steve Gorrell

The Oratorical Contest is open to students who have not reached the age of 19 before October 1, 2021, and are not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution.

This year's topic is: "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times"

All contest will be Combined Gender

Clubs will send their 1st and 2nd place winners to the Regional Contest. The **Regional Contests will be held via Zoom on April 9, 2022**.



1st, 2nd and 3rd place Regional winners will then go to the District Finals being held April 23, 2022 via zoom. The District 1st place winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and then will be able to go to the Regional/World Championships Contest at St Louis University in St Louis, MO. Where the possibility to win up to additional 20,000 in scholarships. 2nd place District winner will receive a 1,500 scholarship and 3rd place District winner will receive a 1,000 scholarship.

The Club contest must be completed on or before March 26,2022. Clubs must submit all Oratorical paperwork, with Club's check made out to the Colorado-Wyoming District in the amount of \$20.00. per contestant to: Steve Gorrell. 14734 Vine Street, Thornton, CO 80602 by April 2, 2022 for the Regional Contest

All contestants must speak on the official topic in the first sentence of the speech. Timing will begin with the first spoken word.

You can go to www.optimist.org. Programs-scholarship contests-oratorical contest. From there you can download the rules and application for the contest.

You may hold your Club's contest in person or via Zoom. If your Club decides to hold your contest via Zoom and you want to know how. You need to send me an email that you would be interested on how to put on a Club Zoom contest. I will then be setting up 2 Zoom training sessions after the 1st of the year.

Last year 31% of the District Clubs held an Oratorical Contest with 113 students taking part in the Contest. This year, I hope that we get at least 50% or more of the Clubs holding a Oratorical Contest.

Schools are starting. Now is the time to contact your local schools to get them involved in the Oratorical Contest!

If you have any questions, contact your Lt Governor or me.

Steve Gorrell
District Oratorical Chairperson
2020-2021
Sgorrell1@yahoo.com
303-920-2366



First Fun & Fellowship Trip To US Olympic and Para-Olympic Museum in Colorado Springs on November 7, 2021.



Seventeen optimists enthusiastically toured the museum, and some of the Interactive displays. (You better keep your day jobs!)

After the tour, a group of the 'tourists' gathered for dinner. A great time was reported by everyone!





Purpose Driven OC Welcomes Vibrant New Member!

A big welcome to **Lillie Smallwood**, who just joined the Purpose Driven Optimist Club about a month ago. She brought another new member the second time she came, and within the first two visits wants to have an event that she will oversee! She's calling it "Back Down Memory Lane". She already is working on decorations, flyers, tickets etc. She said she knows she'll be bringing 60 people!

Lillie's energy is endless! Optimism needs more members like Lillie!



Brain Bowl Is Coming!

The Committee has planned in-person tournaments this year, and North (1/22/2022) and Central (1/29/2022)

tournaments have confirmed dates and sites. The website is active with all the information. There will be virtual contingency plans if the Covid status changes.

www.optimistbrainbowl.org

In order to make this happen, we need to have sufficient volunteers, realizing that a lot can change between now and January. If you are willing to be a **regular volunteer** in person this year, please let **Nancy DeNiro** know (ndeniro4@gmail.com) **Readers** should reply to **Gunar Neumann**. (gunarneumann@comcast.net)

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

