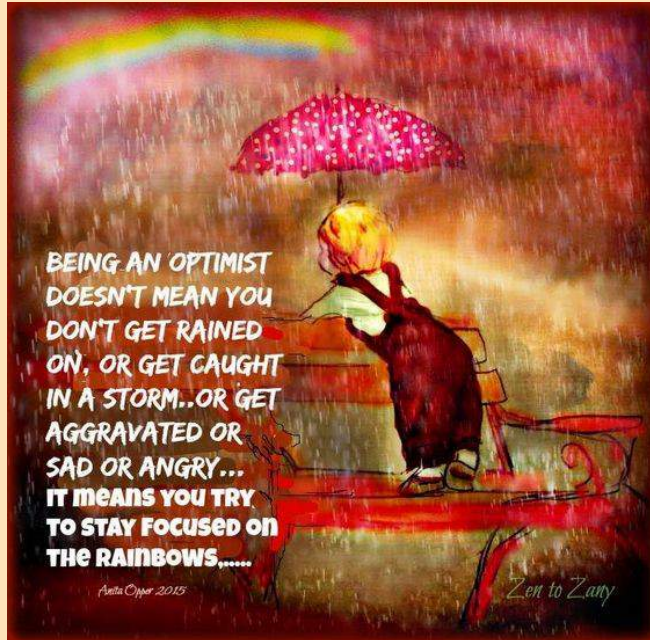


CO/WY - Battle Bulletin

**2nd Quarter Governor's Corner -
Nicole Powell 2021-2022**



Greetings Fellow Optimists!



This world has seen its share of rain and storms, but what *Rainbows* the Colorado/Wyoming Optimists are being!

Over this past quarter, I have seen Optimists from all of the District come out of the clouds and shine their colors for all the world to see! They are *Fighting the Good Fight* and showing up for a the kids and their communities! Clubs are putting on projects and fundraisers almost every week. Members and kids are being shown they are not forgotten.



I hope you all enjoy the photos and articles showing what our Colorado/Wyoming Optimists do best!!



Welcome to the Conference!
Pearl & Kathy



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District Officers

- Governor: Nicole Powell, Academy OC
- Secretary/Treasurer: Craig Baldwin, 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 Chasson, Cheyenne OC
- Zone 2: Bill Ashbee, Boulder Lunch OC
- Zone 3: Phil Perington, Manaca South & DTC
- Zone 4: Michael Chavez, Manaca South OC
- Zone 5: John Wachter, Manaca South OC
- Zone 6: Mary Grace Wake, Windsor Gardens OC
- Zone 7: Kevin Keilbach, Pueblo OC
- Zone 8: Ron Benson, Wheat Ridge OC

Important Websites

Optimist International:

www.optimist.org

OI Foundation: oifoundation.org/

CO/WY District: www.optimistcwoy.org/

CO/WY Brain Bowl: www.optimistbrainbowl.org/

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

3rd Quarter Conference Recap and Photos



Almost 100 participants



JOI Governor-Elect Cali Zahn



3 member award to Bob Hamblin



Optimist of the Quarter, Steve Selle



Fundraiser—prize box raffle



District Foundation Rep Jeanette Thompson



Tamarac OC receives Distinguisher Club Award for 2020-2021—Officers for that year: Co-Pres Linda Williams, Kathy Sullivan Treas Nancy DeNiro, Sec Loretta Blessinger (not pict)



Super Zone Time organized by Mary Grace Wake & Jon Wachter—3 tables pictured below



3rd Quarter Conference Recap and Photos



Keynote: Magician Dan Rogriguez had a great show!



Dan transformed 3 members into Stars Alive for contest: Dolly Parton (Tom Kramis), Michael Jackson (Connie Ackermann), Elton John (Brian Zettel)!



Magic trick with assistant Gov Nicole



Days Grand Finale was Corn Hole tournament to determine who represents the district at OI Tournament in Reno



That's all folks!
See you in
Pueblo at the
Convention for
more fun!
August 19-20,
2022

District Outing to Forney Transportation Museum Charlie Neumann

On May 1, 2022 there were 12 members and guests attending our 2nd District outing. We toured the amazing Forney Transportation Museum. There were airplanes, cars, trains, bikes and incredible memorabilia. **Greg Hurd** from Monaco South provided history on the "**Big Boy**" steam locomotive which was one of 25 built. It is the largest steam locomotive in the world.

One of the volunteers, Jay, gave us insight also to the history of the museum. A fan favorite was seeing **Amelia Earhart's car**. She was known to be a speeder, and poor driver! After the tour, the group headed over to Blue Moon Brewery for great food and of course good beer.

Our server, Chelsie, was amazing and great fun. The brewery will be offering tours which should be very interesting. Our team is planning the next district outing in Wyoming to the Terry Bison Ranch. Details were sent in an email from the District!, We hope you can attend. Great fellowship!



Optimist International Foundation Update Jeanette Thompson, District DFR

We had a very successful 3rd Quarter Conference and the OI Foundation also did well!



8 Dime-A-Day donations @ \$36.50 +
1 President's Club donation @ \$250
3 Annual Club Giving donations @ \$1015
\$80 cash donations (I'm still figuring out which campaign gets the donation)
Total=\$1560.50

Craig Boring, the OI Foundation Exec. Director was our guest from OI. He was impressed with the conference and the giving spirit of our District!

FYI: The OI Foundation funds 100% of the Optimist international scholarship programs for the Oratorical Contest, the Essay Contest and the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Foundation also supports JOOI, Optimist international's youth service and leadership programs, and Junior Golf. If that weren't enough, it also supports CLUBS through Pass Through Grants and Club Campaign funds. These initiatives aid clubs in maximizing their own programs.

Club reps.: Download forms for all the campaigns on the OI Foundation website: Dime-A-Day, Presidents Club, Christian D. Larson Partners, Women's Philanthropy, In Honor-In Memory-Veteran Banner Emblem.

Make Payment by Check or credit card to OI Foundation. Send to the address at the bottom of the form. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Craig Boring, the OI Foundation Exec Director Sends Note:

Governor Nichole, Gunar and Charlie,
Thank you so much for the awesome hospitality of the COWY District. It was fun, informative and enlightening. It gave me a great chance to meet many old Optimist friends and a several new ones. The COWY is a great example of how a District should be in these changing OI times.
Can't wait to make it back out there.

Thanks,
Craig Boring



District Oratorical 2022 Contest

By Steve Gorrell, Co Chairman

This year's Oratorical Contest topic was "**Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times**". This year there were 11 Clubs that held an Oratorical Contest. These 11 Clubs reached 91 contestants.

A BIG thank you to those 11 Clubs who took the time to hold an Oratorical Contest. Each Club was able to send up to 2 contestants to the District's Super Regionals. The Regionals were held on April 9th. The top 3 Contestants from the 2 Regionals then advanced to the District Finals. The District Finals were held on April 23rd. Both the Regionals and the Finals were done via Zoom. The District Finals were recorded and hopefully there are now on the District Web page. Take time to watch the Finals. The District Winner also presented her speech at the 3rd Quarter Conference. Hopefully you were at the Conference to see the District Winner give her speech.

Here are the District Finalists: **Valerie Sevilla** sponsored by Windsor Optimist Club
Athena Vimal sponsored by Littleton Breakfast Club
Isabelle Cordova sponsored by Pueblo Optimist Club

3rd Place winner of a \$1,000.00 Scholarship **Sydney Brooker** sponsored by the Heather Gardens Optimist Club

2nd Place winner of a \$1,500.00 Scholarship **Rose Webster** sponsored by the Littleton Breakfast Optimist Club

1st Place winner of a \$2,500.00 Scholarship **Isabella Miller** sponsored by the Westminster-Broomfield Optimist Club.

Isabella will now compete in the World Contest

July 21-22, 2022 at Saint Louis University located in Saint Louis, MO. She will compete 1st in the Southwest Region Contest at 3pm CDT on July 21st. If Isabella wins the Southwest Region, she will win a \$5,000.00 scholarship and then compete the next day in the World Championship 11:00 CDT.

The 1st place winner will win a \$15,000 scholarship. The 2nd place winner will win a \$10,000 scholarship. The 3rd place winner will win a \$5,000 scholarship. Contests on both days will be streamed. So tune in to watch Isabella compete the Oratorical World Championships. **GOOD LUCK to Isabella!**



I would like to point out that **both Isabella and Rose competed in last year's contest**. Rose was 2nd place last year and won a \$1,500 scholarship. That means she has won a total of \$3,000 in 2 years in scholarships. Since she graduated from High School this year she cannot compete next year. BUT if any of your Clubs contestants did not graduate from High School or reach the age of 19 before October 1, 2022, then they come back next year to compete. Club Chairpersons, make sure that your contestants come back to compete next year. **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 next year's contest to be held in



2023. I would like to thank the following people for their help on putting on the Regionals and the Finals: **Kris Gresl** **Curt Merrill** **Michael Chavez** **Charlie and Gunar Neumann** Without the help of these Optimist, there would not have been a District Oratorical contest. THANK YOU for your help!

CCDHH Communication Contest Joe Priester

Here in the Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District we actually hold two separate but equal contests, one for Oral (English) presenters and one for ASL (American Sign Language) presenters and each offers a scholarship of \$2,500 that can be used at any institution of higher learning.

But, of course, the devil is in the details and the Application form has all of those. Each step of the way, there is going to be an Optimist Club member to assist the students and their parents in understanding the rules. If an interpreter is needed one will be provided by the Optimist Club or District as required.

This year we had a great year, in spite of the fact that most clubs and schools were just coming out of the Pandemic and had not fully regained the use of facilities and student participation. In the beginning of the Pandemic we actually developed a new method of participation, most of you will know it by the name of 'Zoom' and our District "Zoomist", Sara Kennedy did a yeo(wo)man's job of making sure that the contestants had the correct equipment and positioning to deliver their presentation clearly and concisely with the proper spacing and lighting for a GREAT result.

The Oral contest was won by **Anneliese Mitchell of the Colorado Springs Homeschool Program Classical Conversations and sponsored by the Academy Optimist Club**, while the ASL contest was won by **Lily Blessing who attends the Rocky Mountain Deaf School and was sponsored by the Tamarac Optimist Club of Denver**. Each WINNER will be presented with a scholarship of \$2,500 that can be used in an institution of higher learning once they graduate from high school. In total there were nine students that qualified for the Finals representing six different schools including Home Schooled, Deaf Schools, Private Schools, and Mainstream Schools.

We also recognized two Finalists in each category who were presented with a personalized plaque: In the Oral contest **Cameron Richter of St Mary's High School was sponsored by the Academy Club** and **Asha Federico of Lakewood High School was sponsored by the Gateway Optimist Club**; In the ASL contest **Alejo Martinez of the RM Deaf School was sponsored by the Tamarac Club** and **Luke Benham of the CO School for the Deaf and Blind in Colorado Springs was sponsored by the Academy Club**.

Not to be forgotten are the judges, six of them in all, three for each contest: Jennifer Thomas, Shauna Moden and Valerie Weimer for the Oral presenters, and Colleen Erdman, Cathy Cortese and Megan Thomas for the ASL presenters.

"Thank you" one and all for a very difficult but rewarding experience. Now, let's all look forward to next year and another rewarding and exciting Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



Anneliese Mitchell
Oral Contest Winner



Lily Blessing
ASL Contest Winner

CO/WY District Optimist Junior Golf Program Bob Meyer



Optimist Junior Golf recently announced the junior golfers of the 2022 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team. Those making the team exemplified an impressive balance of academics, golf and community service. After reviewing the qualifications of impressive applicants, the Optimist Junior Golf Committee selected the following exceptional student athlete for the team:



Community Service Award Winner

Katelyn Lehigh: Loveland, Colorado

Katelyn Lehigh will be graduating this year from Loveland High School in Loveland, Colorado.

Katelyn has been golfing since she was four years old and has been playing tournament golf since she was nine.

Since she started playing golf, Katelyn's achievements at the Optimist District Qualifiers, Optimist Junior Tour events, Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado (JGAC) and Colorado Junior Golf Association (CJGA) tournaments, and local and regional Drive, Chip, and Putt competitions have surpassed others in her age group since 2013.

In 2018, Katelyn again won the Harmony Club Junior Championship, shooting a personal best 64. In 2019, Katelyn competed on the Colorado State High School Championship team from Loveland High School and placed T8 individually. She was the only Freshman named to the Northern Colorado All-Area Team. She won the "Unsung Hero" award for her high school team, voted on by teammates and coaching staff; was a Colorado High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) 3-sport athlete; and was All-Conference and All-State in golf.

Katelyn has been captain of the Loveland High School Girls' Golf Team and a letter recipient in golf during her Sophomore, Junior, and Senior seasons.

The 2020 golf season was cancelled because of the COVID pandemic.

In 2021, Katelyn was the individual CHSAA Class 5A Girls' Golf State Champion and was on the CHSAA Class 5A Girls' Championship Team. She was named CHSAA Girls' Golfer of the Year and the Loveland Reporter-Herald Girls' Golfer of the Year. She was on the 2021 Colorado Girls' Junior America's Cup Team and competed in the 2021 USGA Girls' Junior Tournament.

At THE 2019 OPTIMIST, Katelyn qualified for the Girls' 15 – 18 age group Long Drive Championship.

Katelyn is in her sixth year in the Hale Irwin Elite Player Program volunteering with the CGA Community and Wellness Programs. Besides her golfing prowess, Katelyn has also been a letter recipient of the Loveland High School Girls' Track and Girls' Basketball Teams since her Freshman year. She also serves as Team Manager for the Loveland High School Boys' Golf Team.

In her "spare time", Katelyn volunteers with Habitat for Humanity; Boulder Ironman Competition; Wreaths Across America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Another of her passions is fly-tying. Katelyn is a Master Fly-tyer and for the last nine years has participated in fly-tying clinics with a number of different Trout Unlimited chapters and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. (a program dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings).

Junior Golf continued...

If it's even possible, Katelyn's academic achievements surpass her golfing achievements and community service activities.

During her elementary and middle school years, Katelyn was in the Gifted and Talented Program. She has had a 4.0 cumulative GPA (unweighted) since the 8th grade in an academically rigorous curriculum of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. She is ranked # 1 in her Senior class. She has been on the Loveland High School honor roll since her Freshman year, and won four Presidential Academic Excellence Awards.

From 2014 – 2021, Katelyn has been a JGAC Academic All-Star. From 2019 – 2021, she has been Academic All-State in golf and basketball. In 2021, she was a member of the Girls' Golf Team that was named Academic All-State with the highest combined GPA in Colorado. For the last three years, she has been a member of the National Honor Society at Loveland High School, and scored a 1330 on the SAT.

Katelyn is a confident, charming, self-assured, well-spoken young lady with unlimited potential in any future endeavor she chooses.

Report on the Junior Golf Fundraiser

We had a total of 38 golfers at Meadow Hills on Thursday, May 26, for the Junior Golf Fundraiser.

Between entry fees and the silent auction, we netted about **\$3,500** in our efforts to send 71 junior golfers to THE 2022 OPTIMIST at Trump Doral Resort in Miami FL.

The weather was awesome. Everyone agreed they had a great time.

We still need more donations to send those 71 junior golfers to THE 2022 OPTIMIST.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTION 2022 May 7th at La Foret in Black Forest Colorado Springs Donna Priester

JOI members were so excited to finally be able to hold the Convention in person this year! JOI **Governor Emma used a Hawaiian Theme to bring color, warmth, and excitement to us! Gov. Emma and Secretary Treasurer, Lindsay**, created the decorations and were at La Foret early to set up and decorate. Members of the Academy Optimist Club were there to help and to set up treats and lunch. **Ms. Liz Farley is shown in her Hawaiian dress** setting up the tables for lunch!

Governor Emma greeted all with excitement and Optimist smiles! After the Pledge, Emma explained the agenda and the day began with much enthusiasm. We had members come from many schools and were thrilled to have Optimist JOI Advisors join us as well! They met new JOI members and made friends throughout the day!

Emma had scheduled the installation of the new members for the Kidz Partnering JOI Club and administered the oath to them in front of the Convention. All were excited and supported by the attending JOI members of the District.

We needed to elect a new Governor and Governor-Elect for the 2022-23 JOI year, as we were unable to have a convention last year. We had one nominee who filled out the official paperwork and then nominations from the floor. **Continued with pics on next page....**

JOI Convention continued...

Those who were running for office then prepared a few comments to let JOI members know their experience and what they would like to bring to JOI this coming year. The election was held during the lunch period.

Cali Zahn from Horizon Middle School (going into Sand Creek High School next year) was elected as Governor for this coming 2022-23 year. She has been a JOI member during her middle school years. **Jacqui Martinez-Flores was elected as Governor- Elect and will become Governor in the 2023-24 year.** She is from the Kidz Partnering JOI Club and has been a member for many years. They are both excited about being able to help JOI to grow and continue to provide service to the communities in which they serve.

The attendees had two service projects planned by Gov. Emma – They water-colored cards, and after they dried, JOI members wrote inside a positive message to a senior citizen. These card were taken and distributed to a senior citizens home; the 2nd project was making cat toys for the Humane Society. All were having fun with these projects and making new friends along the way!

CO/WY Optimist Governor Nicole had provided the speaker for the day. Rich Locke, Mental Health Counselor/Therapist spoke to the group on “Mental Health and Kindness”! He was a great speaker and engage the JOI members in his presentation! All gained new insights into the importance of kindness and helping others when they need a friend or help.

Lunch was delicious and all in all, the day was wonderful! Lots of great learning, fellowship, and service which is what Optimism and JOI are all about! We look forward to next year and all that we can accomplish!



Pics clockwise—Old and New Team, Installation of Kidz Partnering Club, Prize winner, Convention in session



Cat Toy Project



It's Never Too Late by Bob Hamblin, Pres. Windsor Gardens OC

I hated grade school. I suffered from feelings of insecurity, worthlessness, and stupidity. It was a self-perpetuating burden that I carried. I was told by parents and teachers alike that I was dumb, lazy, and a bad person. Sadly, I believed them. The result was poor grades, shame, no friends, and bullying. Even into adulthood I struggled with severe depression, lack of confidence, and anger. Eventually I married a loving, wonderful lady, raised two amazing kids of my own, and had a nice life. Yet I always carried that old stigma with me that affected my whole outlook.

One day in my late fifties I was attending a business seminar when a woman came up to me and asked, "aren't you Bob Hamblin"? When I said yes, a big smile came across her face. A beautiful smile I instantly recognized from fifty years before. We had been classmates in grade school! We chatted for a while, then agreed to meet for lunch soon and further catch up on our lives. A couple of weeks later found us reminiscing about our school days. I somehow found the courage to voice many of my negative feelings from back then, even admitting my grateful surprise that she would want to have lunch with the dumbest kid in the class. She looked at me intently, then said, "Oh Bob, I always thought you were one of the nicest, smartest kids in the school. I wanted so much to get to know you better. You were just really shy, that's all! At that moment, a half-century of worthlessness began to lift off my shoulders.

Someone from my childhood finally said that they had always believed in me. Even admired me! My whole outlook on life began to change. And as crazy as it sounds, for the first time in my life I began to believe in myself. We talked a few more times after that, until one day I learned she had passed away. But I will forever be grateful to her for teaching me this undeniable truth: It's never too late
"To Make All Your Friends Feel That There is Something in Them"

Ramadan Celebration for Children in Jordan Linda Williams

The **Hand in Hand Optimist Club** in Jordan held a **charity iftar*** meal on April 27th with children and some of their mothers to break their Ramadan fast at sunset that day. Approximately 50 children and mothers from the Jabal el-Hussein Camp for refugees shared a meal of rice with vegetables, roasted chicken, water, juice, dates and dessert. There was also entertainment, a clown, games, dancing and competitions for the children. The dinner was held at the Lod Charitable Society located inside the el-Hussein United Nations camp, which was established in 1948.



The Hand in Hand Club is Tamarac's newly sponsored club in Amman, Jordan and TOC sent approximately \$300 to them to help defray the costs of the food and entertainment for this Ramadan event. Hand in Hand was very grateful for help with this special event.

Windsor Gardens Optimist Club Host Visual Arts Contest Bob Hamblin

The Optimist Club of Windsor Gardens hosted a Visual Arts Contest and presented scholarship awards to students at Lowery Elementary and Place Bridge



District Essay Contest Winner Reads at Q3 Conference

District Essay Contest winner, Taylor Witte, was sponsored by the Littleton Optimist Club.



Lake Arbor Optimist Club Has Many Projects Kiki McGough

The Lake Arbor Optimist Club was very excited to have our longtime member, **Steve Selle**, recognized at the Third Quarter Conference for his tireless work providing bicycles to youth in our community. He works with the Golden Club and the Arvada Police Department to collect, refurbish and deliver bikes to students in our Title One Schools. We have had many community speakers during April and May to recognize the work they do for youth during Child Abuse and Mental Health Awareness month.

We partnered with Jim and Kathy Carroll to plant a Pinwheel Garden at their office in old Town Arvada to support the Ralston House.

(Below top left) We heard from **Jefferson Center for Mental Health and Second Wind Foundation** on services to address mental health needs and suicide prevention. We had a breakfast meeting at the Hope House along with an informative tour finding out about the comprehensive support they offer for teen moms.

This month we honored tLt. Tony Commimiello. The Arvada Firefighter of the Year. Our officers will be staying on for next year as we continue to connect with programs and supports in our community. We are looking forward to the Fourth Quarter Conference in Pueblo and the International Conference in Reno at the end of the month.



Our officers: Ralph, Kiki, Cliff and Kathy with Michelle from Second Wind Foundation.



Our very own Steve Selle recognized at the Third Quarter Conference for his work distributing bikes to our Title One schools and youth in the community.



June 7, 2022 Arvada Firefighter of the Year, Lt. Tony Commimiello.



The pinwheel garden to prevent child abuse at our Optimist member Jim Carroll's office in Old Town Arvada.

Candidate Qualifications Committee Accepting Applications

Official Notification:

The Candidate Qualifications committee is now accepting applications for the position of Governor-Elect 2022-2023.

If you are interested, please contact Governor-Elect Tony Carpenter at tonyc82891@aol.com.

**Save the Date for the Annual
Convention August 19-20, 2022
Pueblo Convention Center
320 Central Main St
Pueblo, CO 81003**

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

