

CO/WY - Battle Bulletin

4th Quarter Governor's Corner



Greetings Fellow Optimists!

As I write my final farewell to you all as Governor of the Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District, I contemplate my year and my goal to **"Fight the Good Fight"** with you. What an uplifting transformation it has been from the beginning of the year until now. **To see my fellow**

Optimists rise out of this world's troubles and lead the charge to renew & restore the Hope & Optimism of our communities has been my greatest pleasure. The inspiration you have given the kids, each other and myself has been nothing short of amazing. How blessed this world is to have Friends, Carers, Optimists like you.

"To fight the good fight is one of the bravest and noblest of life's experiences. Not the bloodshed and the battle of man with man, but the grappling with mental and spiritual adversaries that determines the inner caliber of the contestant. It is the quality of the struggle put forth by a man that proclaims to the world what manner of man he is far more than may be by the termination of the battle.

It matters not nearly so much to a man that he succeeds in winning some long-sought prize as it does that he has worked for it honestly and unfalteringly with all the force and energy there is in him. It is in the effort that the soul grows and asserts itself to the fullest extent of its possibilities, and he that has worked will, persevering in the face of all opposition and apparent failure, fairly and squarely endeavoring to perform his part to the utmost extent of his capabilities, may well look back upon his labor regardless of any seeming defeat in its result and say, "I have fought a good fight."

As you throw the weight of your influence on the side of the good, the true and the beautiful, your life will achieve an endless splendor. It will continue in the lives of others, higher, finer, nobler than you can even contemplate."

— Hugh B. Brown, American attorney, educator, author

I hope you all continue to **Fight the Good Fight** and helps us all leave this world better than when we were brought into it. It has been my honor serving you. **Nicole Powell**



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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, 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 OC

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/>

Convention Recap and Photos

Wow, what a fun and amazing convention in **Pueblo at the Courtyard by Marriott on August 19 & 20**. The hotel and Convention Center provided great meals and good service. Our members got to experience the **outdoor train museum and the DaVinci exhibit at the Santo de Christo Arts Center**. The highlight on Thursday was Dinner & "Redneck Ballroom" Dance at Willie's Pit Barbecue. A Southern dinner was prepared by Willie the owner who was 83 years young, and after dinner he taught ballroom dancing ending with a line dance. Great fun....thank you to our Pueblo club for arranging the evening.

The leadership training was informative for our members who are taking on leadership roles for their clubs. **Saturday's roast for our Gov. Nicole was funny**, with **Brian Zettel** doing a great job with a video. **Brian has done an amazing job for our district and was honored by Gov. Nicole for "Optimist of the Year", well deserved.**

As always the Hospitality room was enjoyed by all with **Kent Gloor with Kathy Vetter** helping him



A Friday excursion to the Arts Center for Leonardo DaVinci Exhibit. Mona grew a stash!



Gov Nicole took her roasting with a good humor. **Sam Bartley** led the roast!



Second Friday excursion to the Pueblo Railway Museum

Pre-banquet, these characters showed up: L-R **Joe Priester** as Gabby Hayes, **Brian Zettel** as Tommy Bahama, Starlet **Pearl Meulemans**, Mrs Doubtfire aka



Bonnie West, B.J. Burleigh as Dumbo, **Larry Brown** brought Lola, and **Kathy Vetter** as Cat in the Hat



Convention Photos— Procession of Incoming Leadership



Bonnie & Clyde
Linda Chasson & Jack Knudson



Marcus Aurelius & Escort
Tom Mehl & Sheryl Overton



Marilyn Monroe & Escort
Abigail Nichola & Kent Gloor



Annie Hall
Linda Williams



Eddie Fisher & Liz Taylor
Ken Kearney & Terri Kearney



Prince William & Princess Kate
Kevin & Mrs Keilbach



Robert DeNiro
Pat Bush



Grace Kelly & Prince Rainier
Mary Grace Wake & Bill Ashby



Allen & Baby Carlos
Jon Wachter



Movie Director & Starlet
Craig & Jean Baldwin



Tinker Bell & Peter Pan
Cali Zahn & Tony Carpenter



The Blues Brothers
Linda McDonald & Ron Benson

Convention Pics Of Installation Night



Pirates of the Caribbean
Gov Nicole Powell



Immediate Past Gov Terri Kearney recaps year



Gov Designate Tony
Carpenter Outlines next year



Incoming SW Region VP Linda McDonald oversees the installation of the JOI Gov designate Cali Zahn, Secretary Samantha Clark, Gov. Elect Jacqui Martinez-Flores, then the Lt Governors for next year and the incoming District Officers and Governor designate Tony Carpenter



Proud Ms Donna (Priester) and
the JOI Leaders for next year.

Gov Nicole Names Brian Zettel District Optimist of the Year

Brian received the Award at the 4th quarter convention in Pueblo at the Saturday installation dinner. He won the award because of his outstanding work with the Vista Ridge JOI students, being President of the Academy Optimist Club after only being a member for one and a half years, and for the countless amount of hours he spent on the Conferences, Convention & JOI Convention Audio/ Visual presentations.



Optimist International Foundation Update Jeanette Thompson, District DFR

It is not too late to give to the Optimist Foundation, but it must be in to the OI Foundation by September 30 to be included in the 21-22 Optimist year.



As of August 31, 2022 our District members have donated to the following campaigns:

Women's Philanthropy	1 member
Dime-a-Day	179 members
Presidents Club Roster	16 members
Childhood Cancer	\$250
Health & Wellness	\$500

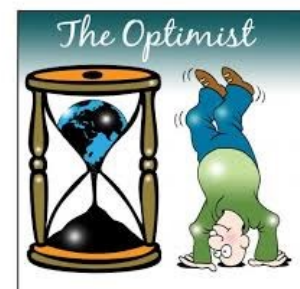
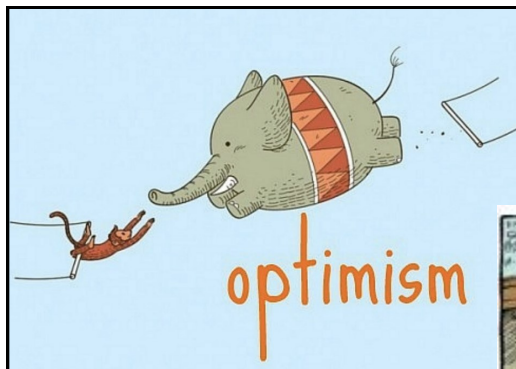
**Score Board for Unrestricted Donations, CO/WY ranked 12th with \$14,991.00
1,070 members in the District ranked at \$14.01 per member**

Club Donations:

Academy Optimist Club	\$250
Boulder Evening OC Christian D Larson	\$1,000
Heather Gardens Breakfast OC	\$100
Heather Gardens Breakfast OC	A dollar a day \$365
Tamarac OC	\$500
Arvada Lake Arbor OC	\$100
Lakewood Sunrise OC	\$300
Windsor Gardens Breakfast OC	\$500
DTC OC	\$300

Thank you for your generous donations!

Lighter Side.....



First Timer Speaks Out at Convention Barbara Dank

Thank you for a wonderful convention! When I signed up for the convention in August, I had no idea what to expect. I am new to the "Optimist World" and decided that going to the convention would be a great opportunity to meet new people and get new ideas for my club. I went with an open mind and open heart - and it was a phenomenal experience.



Everyone was so welcoming, kind, open, and I immediately felt at home. What a wonderful gift - I was surrounded by people who share the same philosophy and I was no longer alone. Who says Christmas can't come in August!! I felt free to be myself and share my hopes and dreams for my family, friends, and community. A true gift.

After the first evening, I really started to think about how optimism came into my life and how much personal strength it has brought to me. I realized that it was my grandfather, Harry Dank, who planted the seed and nourished it. From a very early age, my grandpa and I would listen to music together - and our all time favorite was Louis Armstrong and "It's a Wonderful World." He made sure I understood that nothing is promised in life and it is up to me to make my own happiness - take time to appreciate all the beauty in life.

My grandpa never lost his belief in a better tomorrow. As he lost his hearing and sight, he still lived life to the fullest with kindness and love. As I got older and had to deal with the reality of growing up - facing adult issues like domestic violence, sexual assault, and other roadblocks - I made it through all of it without bitterness because of the example of my Grandpa. I believe that tomorrow is always a new day for new beginnings. No matter what you go through, never give up who you are and what you believe.

With the Optimist Club, I have met so many people that share my philosophy of community and self. I want to be that person who cheers everyone on, takes time with others, and appreciates all the beautiful gifts of life and humanity. The convention provided the wake-up call I needed to refuel my spirit and go back into the community and make a difference.



Thank you all for making a difference in my life and reaffirming my faith in Optimism and humanity . May we all be able to be the hand that those in need reach for - and provide love and light to those in darkness.

Much Love, **Barb Dank** BLOC/BEOC

CO/WY District Fun & Fellowship Outings To Wyoming Charlie Neuman

The 3rd District Outing on June 25 was to the Terry Bison Ranch in Cheyenne where we enjoyed taking the train and **feeding** the bison. They had no fear of us feeding them, and most of us had our hands licked by these beautiful animals. The babies were so cute. Members brought their families to share in this fun outing. Special thank you to **Connie Hein** for arranging the tour and our luncheon where we gathered in the dining hall to eat bison and regular hamburgers. So much fun!

The 4th District Outing on July 23 was to Cheyenne Frontier Days with several members getting to see the historical parade and pageantry of cowboys, horses, fire trucks and Rodeo Queens. The highlight for many was the rodeo where we had covered seating and great seats. Again, huge thank you to **Connie Hein**. It was amazing to see the skill of the cowboys & cowgirls roping and barrel racing. What great fun to see our members bringing their grandchildren and friends to this event. Gov. Nicole bought everyone pink western type bandana's so we stood out in the crowd! After the rodeo was over we headed over to the **Indian Village** for music, storytelling and shopping. We hope that you join us on our next District Outing.



A New and Exciting Junior Optimist Year! Donna Priester

2022-2023 is starting out as a new and wonderful year for Junior Optimists (JOI) members.

Because so many schools are starting in August and definitely by September, our JOI Clubs are ahead of our Optimist Year that begins Oct. 1st !

That is okay, however, as it gives them time to check out what needs to be done in their communities, time to gather new members, and time to have fun meeting new members! We see lists of possible projects from so many clubs and many have started already to plan, implement, and begin their caring help!

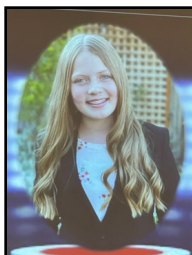
- ◆ **Bernie Nichter**, in northern Denver area is engulfed with clubs he started last year and new clubs he is working to establish!
- ◆ **Nataly and Elijah from Mile Hi** have clubs going and are working on and available to help build new clubs!
- ◆ **Windsor Gardens** is reviving Place Bridge Academy, which will begin in October.
- ◆ **Heather Gardens and Bob Schlageter** are working to continue to develop an elementary club.
- ◆ Of course, **Jon Wachter** is busy with Bradley Helping Hands Club, as usual!
- ◆ **George Steinke** is diligently working on his high school Club.
- ◆ **Arvada Lake Arbor** is engrossed in helping the Hidden Lake JOI Club move forward.
- ◆ **Purpose Driven with Kris and Terri** are into making JOI a priority!
- ◆ **Colorado Springs** has 6 of their 7 Clubs up and running and will soon have the 7th one! They have 2 elementary clubs, one middle school, 2 high schools, and a **Kidz Partnering** which is made up of kids whose moms are in a women's club!!
- ◆ **Buena Vista** is working to continue their JOI club initiative.
- ◆ **Summit Lake Dillon** has a new staff advisor and is getting things going for the year!

I may have missed a few, but as the year progresses we will have all the JOI Clubs listed. I know that **Boulder Evening** has some go-getum members who want to dive into JOI! I encourage all

Optimist Clubs to look at the schools and groups of youth that they deal with and see if a JOI Club is in the future. **Nicole Powell (JOI District Chair), Bernie Nichter, and Donna Priester** will help in any way possible! We are developing leaders and optimist to lead us in our future!!

JOI News

JOI Governor Emma Schlosser and JOI Governor-Designate Cali Zahn, members of the **Sand Creek Optimist Club**, visiting the **Horizon Middle School JOI Club** and giving them some inspiration at their first meeting of the 2022-2023 year.



Emma Schlosser



CO/WY JOI at International Convention in Reno! Donna Priester



All of these pictures are of events our JOI officers participated in at the JOI International Convention in Reno!

To the left: **Gov. Emma Schlosser and Secretary Lindsay Parr** at the closing Banquet and Dance with Donna Priester.

On the right: each girl has a team for a Guac-Off. Each team made a guacamole, but each team had a secret ingredient that they needed to incorporate. The judges decided which team had done the best Incorporation and which guac tasted best!



Left: The two girls, Emma and Lindsay were leading a "dance break" and all the attendees were dancing.



Above, kids were writing uplifting cards and some were making blankets for an underprivileged group of moms and kids.

Academy Provides Meals for Ronald McDonald House Ronda Riley

The Academy Optimist Club provides quarterly meals for the families who are staying at our local Ronald McDonald House. For our 3rd quarter meal, we created an old-fashioned summer picnic by grilling burgers and hot dogs, accompanied by potato salad, baked beans, chips, with brownies and sliced watermelon for dessert!

We were humbled when the staff presented us with a certificate of appreciation for another year of our involvement in the meal program. We love helping and will be back in the kitchen on October 31st!



Left Pic: Carl Howard, Larry Brown

Right Pic: Liz Farley, Larry Brown, Carol Brown, Carl Howard, Ronda Riley



Brent's Block Party - Happy Place to Volunteer Nancy DeNiro

After a two-year hiatus, **Tamarac OC** and **Monaco South** members enjoyed the return of Brent's Place Block Party - this time, in honor of 25 years of service, with a special Birthday Bash twist!

It was held at the **Anschutz Medical Campus Parade Grounds** on **July 23** to celebrate the **Legacy of Love and the community of families and supporters who have made this milestone possible**. Previously known as Kid's Cure, Block Party has long served as an opportunity for past and current Brent's Place families to share their experiences with the community that has supported them through a medical crisis.

As in past years, **Monaco South** members cooked the sausage and flipped pancakes, and **Tamarac** members and friends served them along with plenty of fruit on the side.



DTC Gives Respect for Law Awards 2022 Nancy DeNiro

Respect for Law presentations this year took place on Tuesday, August 16, at the Shiloh House family Resource Pavilion. Co-chair, **George Ackerman** solicited nominations from Sheridan Police Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and Parker Police Department. **Wade Hammond**, co-chair was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

DTC members, **Lt Governor Jon Wachter**, and **District Governor Nicole Powell**, and honored guests mingled before dinner, then had a buffet prepared by the Resource Pavilion catering staff.

Presentation of awards followed dinner with **Lt Mike Mitchell** from the Sheridan police department honored **Sergeant Jim Lopez** who has had an exemplary career working with youth. Then **Lt Rob McCune** from Douglas County Sheriff's Office honored **Deputy Daniel Palermo** for his many contributions to the citizens of DC. The third honoree, **Bri Rock** from the Parker Police Department was unable to attend the ceremonies



Windsor Gardens is in the Teddy Bear Club Bob Hamblin

Windsor Gardens Optimists recently partnered with KOSI-101 FM Radio in donating over 100 teddy bears and stuffed animals to Denver and Aurora first responders, including police, fire, and EMS. These stuffed animals will be provided by first responders to comfort children involved in traumatic situations. **Bob Hamblin** pictured.



Lake Arbor OC Writes Thank You Notes KiKi McCough

The LAOC took **Governor Nicole's** challenge seriously and wrote thank you notes to the Arvada and Westminster Police and Fire Departments. **Kathy and Kiki** delivered them to the departments with a special thanks from the club.



Forgetting the Mistakes of the Past - Bob Hamblin, President of Windsor Gardens OC

The power of the past. It exists only in our memory, yet it has the ability to overpower our present, dictate the course of our future, and, for better or worse, affect every part of our existence. At the forefront of so many painful truths I have come to learn in all my years on this planet is that regret is perhaps one of the most damaging emotions one can experience. Notwithstanding the pain, there exists a uniquely human urge to push that replay button in our mind over, and over, and over again. Like a torrential flood, painful memories overtake us, inflicting untold mental duress, and even causing physical harm to our bodies. Likewise, our innate tendency to worry about future possibilities over which we have little or no control is an equally damaging emotion. We allow our minds to envision a multitude of scenarios, with a seemingly endless range of outcomes. Again, the mental and physical toll this practice inflicts on ourselves and those we interface with can be immeasurable. **Sadly, one of the most subtle yet tragic consequences of regretting the past and worrying about the future is that we end up missing out on the joys of the present.**

As Optimists, we promise ourselves **“to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future”**. We learn from the past and thus plan for the future, but we can only live in the present. My friends, I believe one of **the most important lessons an Optimist can learn from the past is to forgive**. Forgiving ourselves for the mistakes we cannot erase. Forgiving others for the hurt they caused. When we continue to dwell on painful memories and regrets, our minds and our bodies respond as if the events are still happening, causing mental and physical anguish, sickness, depression, and a host of other problems. **If we can focus our energies on learning from past failures and using that knowledge to succeed in future endeavors, forgiveness becomes easier. The negative experience becomes a positive one.**

Even as infants, we began to learn what works and what doesn't. We quickly discovered which behaviors resulted in getting us what we wanted, and which brought disappointment. Letting go of the hurts from the past is never easy. Yet to replay those painful moments over and over in our minds is a choice. One which continues to inflict pain. **If we choose to replace bitterness with forgiveness, we'll be healthier, happier, and more Optimistic. And we can begin and end each day knowing that our own happiness is our own choice. “Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it” Mark Twain**

3 member award to Bob Hamblin Charlie Neumann/Awards & Achievements Chairperson

Bob Hamblin, President of Windsor Gardens Breakfast OC was honored for bringing in 3 new members to his club. His speech to the members was amazing on how to recruit potential guests into members.. Thank you for spreading the benefits of being a member and having fun in the process. Way to go! Bob, was awarded a \$50.00 gift card for Amazon.



Lake Arbor Optimist Club Has Many Projects Kiki McGough

LAOC celebrated the “reign” of our esteemed Governor Nicole at the CO/Wyoming Conference in Pueblo on August 20. Hollywood night saw our own Ken and Terri as Eddie Fisher and Elizabeth Taylor, Kathy Greb as Diane Keaton and Kiki McGough as her beloved childhood hero, Mister Roger.

We were also happy to honor our club member, Wendy Henry who passed this summer. Wendy was a new member and the beloved partner for life of club member, Floyd Nordstrom, one of the members of our bike team. Wendy was a former school bus driver so we are working with the Arvada Articulation area transportation director to honor a bus driver who has shown exemplary service with a sense of optimism and a sense of humor.

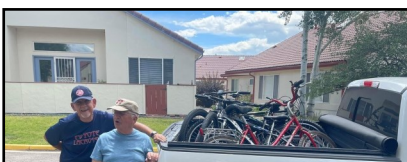
The club supported back to school for children by providing backpack supplies for the children on the reservations. We had also purchased summer toys and activities that went down with the Colorado Native Outreach Program in June.

We had 5 club members, Terri, Ken, Cliff, Kathy and Kiki, who helped Julia from Hope, Connection and Community prepare 150 backpacks filled with school supplies.



LAOC welcomed Bill Cassel from the Wheat Ridge Club on August 17 and helped assemble 50 autism kits in record time!

On July 13 the LAOC welcomed 3 new members: Jody Erwin, Julia Gutierrez Walker and Irene Betsuie. Our club is excited to continue supporting Julia’s nonprofit Hope, Connection and Community and Irene’s Colorado Native Outreach Project.



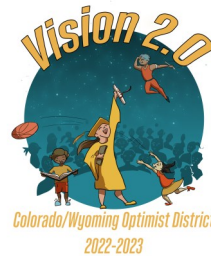
Steve Selle continues to work with the bike team to deliver bikes to youth in the community. He delivered 6 to our club member Irene to the Colorado Native Outreach Project for their trip to New Mexico. He will be starting back up with bikes for our local schools soon through his connection with our principals and family liaisons.



Save the Date for the 1st Quarter Conference

October 22, 2022

**Assistance League of
Denver Event Center
6265 E Evans Ave, Ste 15
Denver, CO 80222**



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



Upcoming Events (You can send your flyer to post in next newsletter)



WACKY GOLF FUNDRAISER

When: September 24, 2022 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Where: Robby Ferrufino Park
9001 W. 74th Ave, Arvada, CO**

Who: All ages welcome

**What to Bring: An optimistic attitude, all equipment
will be provided**

**Costs: Donations of \$5 per family to play; \$1 or more
gratefully accepted per Food and Drink item**

Attire: Wacky costumes encouraged, but not required

**Proceeds will benefit youth and seniors in our
community**

PRIZES!!

For more information

purposedrivenoptimistsclub@gmail.com

