

CO/WY - The Bandwagon



Governor's Corner - Tony Carpenter 2022-2023

Read the headlines and it's apparent that the youth in our communities need us more today than ever before.

Everything that happens in our organization happens at through you and your club. We need you and we need you to just invite someone...to a club project or to a club gathering.

Who do you know that would also benefit by what we have to offer? Just Ask!

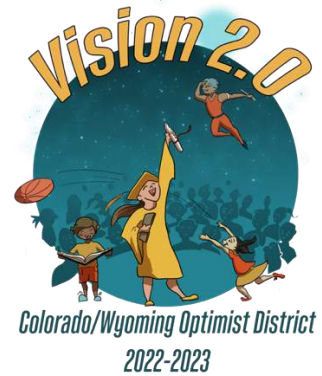
The 3rd Quarter Gathering held on Saturday April 29th at The Family Resource Pavilion was all about celebrating our youth.

For the first time since the pandemic, we were able to host a live Oratorical Contest finals. The topic was "Discovering the Optimism within me" and all the presentations were both moving and inspiring.

We were also treated to presentation by the winners of the Oratorical Contest and the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). (See pictures on page 2)

This is just a sample of how we are working to improve the lives of our youth. As a group of strong, committed individuals' we Optimists have the ability to serve our communities now and far into the future.

**Tony Carpenter
Colorado/Wyoming Governor 2022-2023**



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District Officers

- Governor: Tony Carpenter, Wheat Ridge OC
- Governor— Elect: Mary Grace Wake, Windsor Gardens OC
- Secretary: Pat Bush, Monaco South OC
- Treasurer: Bill Ashbee, Boulder Luncheon OC
- Immediate Past Gov: Nicole Powell, Academy OC

Lt. Governors

- Zone 1: Linda Chasson, Cheyenne OC
- Zone 2: Bill Ashbee, Boulder Luncheon OC
- Zone 3: Burke Kaiser, Buena Vista OC
- Zone 4: Tom Mehl, Gateway OC
- Zone 5: Abigail Nicolas, Tamarac & DTC
- Zone 6: Linda Williams, Tamarac
- Zone 7: Kevin Keilbach, Pueblo OC
- Zone 9: Terri Kearney, Arvada Lake Arbor



CO/WY District 3rd Quarter District Gathering

.3rd Quarter Gathering was held at the "Family Resource Pavilion.

A wonderful attended 3rd Quarter conference from our members. There was great support from families and friends for the contestants who participated in the Oratorical & Essay & CCDHH contests.

The Family Resource Event Coordinator Evan Carroll and his team did an amazing job with the homemade pastries and fresh fruit with great coffee service. The feedback was that they enjoyed the beautifully prepared lunch and dessert.

Kudos to the team who assisted in putting together the "Gathering" - **Charlie & Gunar Neumann, Abigail Nicholas, Pearl Meulemans, Wade Hammond, Bob Hamblin.** The team of **Steve Gorrell & Kris Gresl** prepared a well organized Oratorical contest. **Joe Priester** and the CCDHH contestants who shared their stories moved many to tears. The 1st place Essay contestant was a remarkable young woman with a bright future. We are proud to have these type scholarship winners be awarded this amount of money. Way to Go!!

Information was given about the upcoming Convention in Fort Morgan please join us in supporting our District and getting to know our Fort Morgan Clubs.....they are great people and we are looking at have a great time. Details to follow in June 2023 of the fun planned activities.



CCCDH Contest Winners



Kylee Lynn First Place \$2500 Scholarship



Alejo Martinez Second Place \$1500 Scholarship



Group picture of winners with their parents. There was tremendous show of support for these kids from their families.



Andrea Keller (with her parents) Third Place \$1000 Scholarship

CO/WY District 3rd Quarter District Gathering

Gov Tony with Oratorical Chair, Steve Gorrell, presents all winners of the Oratorical Contest with their plaques. Complete story on page 4..



1st Place: **Danielle Schultz** sponsored by the Cheyenne Optimist Club.



2nd Place: **Phoenix Gregg** sponsored by the Golden Optimist Club



3rd Place: **Ellie Sedaghat** sponsored by the Windsor Optimist Club



Oratorical Judges L-R: **Barb Pinkas, Rick Sutton, Michelle Krawchick & Sharon Forte**



District Finalists

Rosie Zubrod was the Essay winner from the Cheyenne OC and received a plaque from **Jeff Gartz, Essay Chair**



3 Member Awards Winners: Congratulations to All

Windsor Gardens: **Bob Hamblin** (6) Members

Heather Gardens: **Darlene Park** (3) Members

Tamarac Club: **Sandy Middleton** (3) Members

Tamarac Club: **Lt. Gov Linda Williams** (3) Members

Monaco South **Frank Middleton** (3) Members

District Oratorical 2023 Contest Steve Gorrell, District Chairman

This year's Oratorical Contest topic was "Discovering the Optimism within Me". This year there were 12 Clubs that held an Oratorical Contest. These 12 Clubs reached 95 contestants. We had 1 more Club and we reached 3 more contestants.

A BIG thank you to those 12 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 15th. The top 3 Contestants from the 2 Regionals then advanced to the District Finals. The District Finals were held live on April 29th. The 2 Regional contests were done via Zoom. The District Finals were held live at the 3rd Quarter Gathering.

Here are the results of this year's contest:

District Finalist: Itavianna Brown sponsored by Monaco South OC
Emma Troxell sponsored by Westminster-Broomfield OC
Joy Amaoko sponsored by Tamarac OC

3rd Place winner of a \$1,000.00 Scholarship **Ellie Sedaghat** sponsored by the Windsor Optimist Club
2nd Place winner of a \$1,500.00 Scholarship **Phoenix Gregg** sponsored by the Golden Optimist Club
1st Place winner of a \$2,500.00 Scholarship **Danielle Schultz** sponsored by the Cheyenne Optimist Club.

Danielle will now compete in the World Contest July 20-21 2023 at Saint Louis University located in Saint Louis, MO. She will compete 1st in the Southwest Region Contest at 2:30pm CDT on July 20th. If Danielle 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.

Contest on both days will be streamed. So tune in to watch Danielle compete in the Oratorical World Championships. GOOD LUCK to Danielle!

If any of your Clubs contestants did not graduate from High School or reach the age of 19 before October 1, 2023, or win the World Regional contest, then they come back next year to compete. Club Chairpersons, make sure that your contestants come back to compete next year.

You can start planning for the contest to be held in 2024.

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 2024.

I would like to thank the following people for their help on putting on the Regionals and the District Finals:

Kris Gresl

Curt Merrill

Michael Chavez

Charlie and Gunar Neumann

JOI at Everitt Middle School - Wheat Ridge, Colorado

In JOI club this year **we all agreed to help the homeless** by making bags with clothes, food, water, toiletries, hand sanitizer/wipes, and thermal blankets. In order to make these bags we had to run some fundraisers to raise money. Some of the fundraisers we did were; hat day, booth at fall festival, and a bake sale. Even though it has been hard to get everyone to cooperate and focus we got to our goal and got the bags out.

Some of the problems we had was having enough money, having kids not on their phone or computer, but then after we did the fundraisers we were able to get the stuff. Then for the other problems we set rules. Thanks to our advisors **KK, Elijah and Nataly** we were very successful.

Hope and Drew Avila



Windsor Gardens OC Sponsors Kids at Place Bridge **Bob Hamblin**



Eight girls at Place Bridge Academy of Denver recently became charter members of the new **Place Bridge Academy Junior Optimist Club** sponsored by the Optimist Club of Windsor Gardens!

And at Lowry ES

The Optimist Club of Windsor Gardens recently sponsored a **visual arts contest at Lowry Elementary School of Denver** and awarded cash prizes to three outstanding young artists!

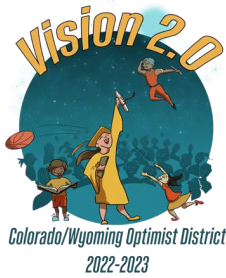


Colorado Feeding Kids Is A Favorite Hangout for DTC OC



One Saturday a month, DTC Optimists try to volunteer to pack meals at CO Feeding Kids. No one seems to mind the hairnets, gloves, being on their feet for 2+ hours, when the outcome is thousands of meals are packed up to ship to food banks or other distribution sources.

Pic shows DTC crew on cloud-9 after a day at CFK!



**SAVE THE DATE for the Annual
CO/WY Convention
Watch your email for information
about the Convention in
Fort Morgan, August 18-19, 2023**



Registration form and Agenda Is Coming Soon!

Expecting Only the Best By Bob Hamblin, President The OC of Windsor Gardens

A carpenter who was nearing retirement told his boss that he was ready to end his career and spend the rest of his time with his wife and family. He would miss his work, but he felt it was time to be with the people who were important to him. His boss understood, but was sad to hear the news, because this man had been a good, reliable, and highly skilled employee for many years. But he asked the carpenter before he retired to perform one final favor: to build just one last house.

The carpenter reluctantly agreed and he began to work, even though his passion for building quality houses was now gone. His normal work ethic faded and his efforts were mediocre at best. He used cheap and inferior materials, and cut corners wherever he could. But he didn't care. After all, it was the last time he would ever have to do this. It was a shameful finish to such an honorable and proud career.

When the carpenter was finally finished, his boss came out to inspect it. Then he handed the keys to the carpenter and said, "This house is my gift to you for all the hard work you have done for me over the years." The carpenter was astonished. What a generous gift this was from his boss! But now he was upset with himself. If he had known this house would be his, he would have put forth his best effort into creating the finest home he could possibly build.

The same idea applies to how we build our lives. As Optimists, every new day gives us the opportunity to think only of the best, and work only for the best. Yet all too often we end up doing a mediocre job, saving our best for another day. Then the time comes when we wake up and realize our life didn't turn out the way we thought it would. We expect only the best, but are disappointed when our lackluster efforts fail to deliver. Life is a "do it yourself" project. Our attitude and choices today help build the life we will lead tomorrow. Think only of the best. Work only for the best. And when we do, my friends, we can proudly and deservedly expect only the best.



Brighton OC Holds Fishing Derby Mary Grace Wake

Despite the rain, Brighton Optimist Club held it's Annual Fishing Derby for kids of all ages. The fish are measured and weighted but everyone receives a prize.



District's Fun & Fellowship Trip to the Historic Elitch Gardens Theater

April 15th 15 about the history of the Park and the Theater, plus all the actors who came to Denver to Perform in the Summer Stock Productions at the Elitch Gardens Theater After the tour they walked over to Javier's Diner for an early dinner.



Windsor Gardens Optimist Club Charters a New JOI Club

On the right: Eight girls at Place Bridge Academy of Denver recently became charter members of a new Junior Optimist Club sponsored by the Optimist Club of Windsor Gar-



Visual Arts Contest Winners at Lowry Elementary School

The Optimist Club of Windsor Gardens recently sponsored a visual arts contest at Lowry Elementary School of Denver and awarded cash prizes to three outstanding young artists!

Tamarac OC Celebrates Their 30th Anniversary

100+ members, past members, spouses, and friends gathered in the fellowship hall of Bethany Lutheran Church to celebrate the 30th birthday/anniversary of Tamarac OC. Delicious hor d'oeuvres prepared by the Friendship Committee accompanied with wine, ice tea and lemonade. There were many current and past members and other district members visiting, until everyone filled their plates and settled in awaiting the program. Piano background music, and streaming slideshow from 2015-2022 kept everyone entertained. Linda Williams served as MC, and introduced the BOD, and anyone who has played a role in TOC's success.

Tamarac received a proclamation from **Bob McFadyen, OI President**, recognizing and honoring the club for 20 years of dedicated service to its community. A framed copy was presented to the 'fathers' of Tamarac, **John Young** and **Kent Gloor**. Also pictured are 4 charter members who were in attendance at the party, **Claire Young, Cindy Eley, Sheryl Overton, and Pat Dutton**.

