

CO/WY - The Bandwagon



Governor's Corner -

Tony Carpenter 2022-2023

The Governor's Farewell address.

The Optimist year and "Vision 2.0" is rapidly coming to a close, and now it's time to bid you farewell.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Governor for the 2nd time in three years. That was a rare honor and certainly a privilege.

Over those two terms, I had the opportunity to visit many clubs and meet with most of our members. I happily learned that our District is blessed with talented, **Optimistic members who are committed to following the Optimist Mission of providing hope and positive vision to our youth, to our communities, and to ourselves.**

The services that you provide and the relationships that you build are doing much to bring badly needed Optimism to the world.

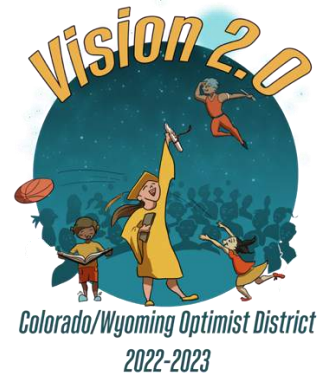
When this year began on October 1st, our District had 1030 members. As of this writing, we have 997. That's a nearly 97% retention rate! An impressive statistic to be sure, but one that leaves room for improvement. **"How" do you ask?**

Well... If being an Optimist has improved your life, consider sharing that experience. Ask someone you know to help you out with a club project. Consider introducing them to some amazing friends who are helping to make the world a better place. It's easy because you already know how becoming an Optimist will help improve their community and the quality of their lives!

As we prepare for the next chapter in the storied history of the Colorado/Wyoming District, **I want to again Thank you all for a wonderful year!**

Tony Carpenter

Link to Ft Morgan Newspaper report on the convention
[75th annual Optimist International Convention held in Fort Morgan – The Fort Morgan Times](#)



Inside this issue

- Conference review.....2-5
- District Training Info.....6
- Club News.....5-7
- Oratorical Info.....9
- Jr Golf Review.....10-11

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 Annual Convention Ft Morgan

Fort Morgan Convention Highlights

Submitted: Charlie Neumann/Conference & Convention Chairperson

Special thank you to the following: Fort Morgan Evening Club & Fort Morgan Sunrise Club. They provided help with getting the convention organized and helped during the convention. A Big Thank You!

Convention Team: Abigail Nicholas, Pearl Meulemans, Gunar Neumann, Bob Hamblin.

Amazing effort to work on making our convention a success

Emcee: Abigail Nicholas brought us cowboy poetry in the spirit of the past. She puts a lot of love and thought into being our Emcee.

Tap Restaurant on August 17 was enjoyed by 19 Optimist Members and the Prime Rib dinner was wonderful.

Country Road & Vines event on August 18 was enjoyed by 74 Optimist members who enjoyed a great barbeque and wine.

Country Kick-Up a Line Dancing group entertained us or rather we entertained them with our dancing ability. These young women were so much fun!

Mosqueda Delicacies Ice Cream Shop was immensely enjoyed by everyone with some of our members going twice a day. If you visit Fort Morgan please stop in and enjoy the best Ice Cream. Gov. Tony Carpenter hosted 11 Past Governor's at the Home Plate Restaurant August 19 a fun time was had by all.

Sweet Dream In a Bag: Thank you to Susie & Wayne Fox for the gifting of 12 bags of bedding. Our District has a great relationship with this incredible organization.

Mayor Lin Deal graced up with her presence and gave us a look into the process of the "Home Town Take Over". They spent 2 million dollars to revitalize the town. She was so touched by the Optimist Organization that she asked if she could come back to witness the donation to the Morgan Family Center.

Fort Morgan Times: Freelance reporter Robin Northrup came to report on the gifting event and also asked if she could come back to document our Installation dinner. She has done a video for our event and will look forward to sharing it with you all. A big thank you to Robin!

Our 1 ½ Convention was a 1st time event for our district and though we had a lot going on we think it went great. The Mayor of Fort Morgan Lyn Deal made a special appearance and she explained how the "Home Town Takeover" revitalized their community. There were 18 homes and businesses that were redone. A self-guided tour is available if you want to go see the amazing venues in Fort Morgan. There is a QRC code that is available on their website. **Our Keynote Speaker "The Drill**

Sargent of Life" Beatrice Bruno was fun and spoke of things that we can incorporate into our lives. Truly and honor to have her present her story and give encouraging words to our JOI Kids.

Morgan County Family Center: Silvia Barajas spoke about the community they serve and the needs of their families. She was so happy and amazed at the donations we provided:

\$1250.00 from out Optimist Clubs: U-Hills, Purpose Driven, Fort Morgan Evening, Tamarac, Denver South, Erie, Westminster, Mile Hi, Wheatridge, Monaco South

Personal donors: Tom Kramis

Continued next page....

CO/WY District Convention in Pictures

Members: A special thank you for those who brought toiletries for their Hygiene bags
AV Guy: Gunar Neumann did an amazing presentation for the convention. Kudos Gunar!
 Thank you to all of those who filled out the survey. Your comments help the team create a very informative conference and to have fun filled events!



Abigail Nicholas, Emcee



First Timers to the District Convention: Linda Williams and Terri Kearney Sponsors, Ruth Bajer, Karen Gutjahr, Sally Westerberg, Alex Strauss, Carol Foes



Lin Deal, Mayor of Ft Morgan



Mary Grace, Incoming District Governor



Bill Ashbee, District Governor-Elect



Keynote Speaker "The Drill Sargent of Life" Beatrice Bruno



Linda McDonald, Southwest Region OI Vice President



Abigail received Tony's Governors Award for 2023



Bill Cassel received Optimist of the Year Award for a 2023

CO/WY District Convention in Pictures



Debra Gachne Pres Ft Morgan Sunrise OC, Sam Romero, Pres Ft Morgan Evening OC



Julie Stiewig, Event Coordinator The Block



Morgan County Family Center: Silvia Barajas accepts check for \$1,250, and 10 Sweet Dream Bags for the Center



Samantha Clark, JOI Sec/Treas



Cali Zahn, JOI District Governor



Ron Benson DFR 2023 introduces DFR for 2023-2024 Bob Hamblin



The eldest sister is Jacqui aka our JOI Governor-elect (part of Kidz Partnering JOI Club) and the little sister is Kidz Partnering JOI Member (and unofficial District JOI "Mascot") Dayday



Convention Security Detail, Woody, AKA Andrew Stanger



Some brave 'soles' learning how to line dance!



Mary Grace, Lin Deal, Mayor Ft Morgan, Gov Tony and Sam Romero, Pres Ft Morgan evening club

CO/WY District Convention in Pictures cont...



Installation of new District Governor, **Mary Grace Wake, Gov-elect, Bill Ashbee, Treasurer, Pearl Meulemans, Secretary, Earleen Oswalt, Lt Governors that were present, Gary Banniga, Linda Chasson, Linda Williams, Tom Overton, Tom Mehl, and Kathy Greb.** JOI Officers, **Cali and Samantha** were also installed,



Notes of Gratitude from Ft Morgan

Hello Charlie it was a pleasure to meet you and the fabulous people from the Optimist International Colorado Wyoming district. Wonderful people doing wonderful things for others that is what is impactful for me, and for that reason I want to extend my gratitude to you and all the people involved with their donations to **Morgan County Family Center. The donations will help Morgan County people to support several programs offered by Morgan County Family Center.**

Silvia Barajas, Access Manager

Charlie, Thank you so much for using us to cater such an important event. It was a pleasure working with you! **I'll always remember the group that gave us a standing ovation.**

Thanks again, **Sue Baldwin, Mav Tap House**

Charlie, **What a fabulous District conference!** You and your committee did an outstanding job. Sounds like the Optimist members and spouses had a great training and meeting. **Thank you for letting us be a part of the function.** You were a dream to work with.

Please come out and see us if you are ever in the area. Thanks again, **Daniel and Sharon Kauffman, Country Road Vines and Wines**

Hi Charlie, Hope you have gotten home safely and recharged a bit. You did an amazing job coordinating the convention and we are so blessed that you chose to use so many of our suggestions, along with hosting it at The Block. Thank you for everything and hope to work with you again in the future! If there are any suggestions or tips that could've made anything better, I am all ears.

Take care, **Julie, Zazzy's Coffee**

Officer Training at Fort Morgan Convention Linda Williams, Leadership Chairperson

The Convention in Fort Morgan was scheduled for 1 ½ days instead of the usual 2-3 days. The actual Convention was all day on Saturday, August 19th, and officer training took place for ½ day on the 18th. Twenty-five District officer-elects participated in a joint session for lunch and then divided into their respective groups for specific training. **Gunar Neumann and Bill Ashbee led the Secretary/Treasurer group, Mary Grace Wake led the Presidents' discussion, and Linda Williams led the Lt. Governor conversation.**

Each group had interactive sessions designed for their future tasks.

Note to officers who could not attend:

For the Secretary/Treasurer officers who could not attend, the presentation will be on the District website. (see next article)

Club Presidents who missed the session will receive their notebooks from their Lt. Governors.

All officers will receive a Zoom link for Mary Grace's office hours at the end of September.

Every Monday from 11-12 starting on October 3, Mary Grace will be available to answer questions and discuss issues.

"The following .pdf presentations have been posted to the CO/WY Optimist District website:

- **"International Convention Presentation"** (posted under the "CONFERENCES" section). This is the presentation Gunar Neumann provided to the District Convention attendees in Fort Morgan on Saturday, 19 AUG 2023.
- **"2023-2024 Club & District Officers Training - OI & District Websites & Policies"** (posted under the "MEMBERS", "FORMS", "**Training Presentations**" section). This is the training Gunar Neumann provided to the 2023-2024 Club and District Officers in Fort Morgan on Friday, 18 AUG 2023.
- **"2023-2024 Club Secretary Training"** (posted under the "MEMBERS", "FORMS", "**Training Presentations**" section). This is the training Gunar Neumann provided to the 2023-2024 Club Secretaries in Fort Morgan on Friday, 18 AUG 2023, and includes the training on OI & District Websites & Policies.
- **"2023-2024 Club Treasurer Training"** (posted under the "MEMBERS", "FORMS", "**Training Presentations**" section). This is the training Gunar Neumann provided to the 2023-2024 Club Treasurers in Fort Morgan on Friday, 18 AUG 2023, and includes the training on OI & District Websites & Policies.

"2023-2024 OI & District Websites & Policies Summary (posted under the "MEMBERS", "FORMS", "**Training Presentations**" section).

Access to the "MEMBERS" tab is password-protected, so please contact Gunar Neumann if you need this password."

Being Enthusiastic About The Success of Others By Bob Hamblin, DFR

I recently returned from a trip to Oklahoma City, where I had the privilege of watching my first granddaughter, Abby, graduate from high school. What a joyful time it was. And how proud I was for her.

The commencement speaker was a pastor and the grandfather of one of the graduates. In his address, he spoke of another commencement speech given years before by **Fred Rogers at Dartmouth University**, where he himself had been a student in the late 1940's. In his address, **Mr. Rogers** recalled a story from the **Special Olympics** held in Seattle, Washington.

There were nine contestants for the 100 yard dash. All of them were in some way physically or mentally disabled. All nine of them assembled at the starting line, and at the sound of the gun, they took off. But not long afterward, **one little boy stumbled, fell**, and hurt his knee. He began to cry. When the other eight children heard him crying, they slowed down, turned around, and ran back to him. Every single one of them stopped running, and went to help their competitor. One little girl with Downs Syndrome bent down, kissed the boy on his knee, and said, "this will make it better". The others all helped the little boy up, and then they did something even more incredible. Linking their arms together, all nine contestants joyfully walked to the finish line and crossed over at the same time.

They all had won, not as individuals, but as a single, united team. And when they did, everyone in the stadium stood up and cheered, clapped, and yes, cried. People who were there are still telling the story with great delight. And do you know why? **Because deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves.** What really matters is helping others win too. Even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then. That's why it's part of our Optimist Creed: **"To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own."**

The last of the great Roman philosophers, **Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius**, (how's that for a name) was the first of the scholastics of the middle ages 1500 years ago. He wrote the following: **"Oh happy race of mortals, if your hearts are ruled, as is the universe, by love.**

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Receives Support for Students John Swanborg

With the financial support of the **Westminster-Broomfield Optimist Club, Optimist International, I CAS Hisatsinom members and Montezuma County residence**, the Swanborg's were able to purchase backpacks, and all of the school supplies need for 45 non-enrolled students of the **Ute Mountain Ute Tribe**. A non-enrolled child is a child who is less than 50% Ute heritage and does not receive any federal funding. This is the fourth consecutive year doing this project and we are hoping that it will continue for many more. **Thanks to those of you who have supported us and continue to do so.**



Message from Bill Ashbee, Gov-Elect 2023-2024

Subject: Going Paperless

To: All club presidents and treasurers, officers, committee members, and Lt governors.

For this coming year we will be moving to a paperless operation for all transactions including invoices, conference registrations, and vouchers. This includes all payments as well. We will provide more information as we develop the schedule for these changes.

We are also looking at the possibility of combining the OI and District dues into a single payment. This is supported by OI and has been in use for several years. I would like to hear your feedback about this capability. Please contact me email: w.ashbee@comcast.net or text to 720-208-8401

District's Fun & Fellowship Trip to the Lazy B Chuckwagon Kathy Sullivan

HOWDY

The Fun and Fellowship event for July was held at the Lazy B Chuckwagon in Estes Park. We had 30 people from around the district, representing about 10 clubs.

The meal was served Chuckwagon style, consisting of Beef Brisket and Pulled Pork., Baked Beans, Baked Potato, Spiced Peach, Biscuit and Brownies. Everything was Good.

After the meal, the **Lazy B Wrangler's** entertained us with the songs from the Old West, New Country and a variety of music. Of course, they did Streets of Laredo, Ghost Riders in the Sky and Colorado. All favorites of this cowgirl. The group was TOP NOTCH entertainment.

Mother Nature gave us a Beautiful Colorado Day.



District Oratorical 2023-2024 Contest Steve Gorrell,

The Oratorical Contest is open to students who have not reached the age of 19 before October 1, 2023, and are not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution or have not won the OI Regional Contest in St Louis.

This year's topic is: **"How to Change the World with Optimism"**

All contest will be Combined Gender

The Club contest must be completed on or before March 23,2024.

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 1, 2024 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.

Clubs will send their 1st and 2nd place winners to the Regional Contest. The Regional Contests will be held via Zoom on April 13, 2024.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place Regional winners will then go to the District Finals being held on April 27,2024 at Family Resource Pavilion, 9700 E Easter Ln, Centennial, CO 80112 at the 3rd Quarter Conference. The District's 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.

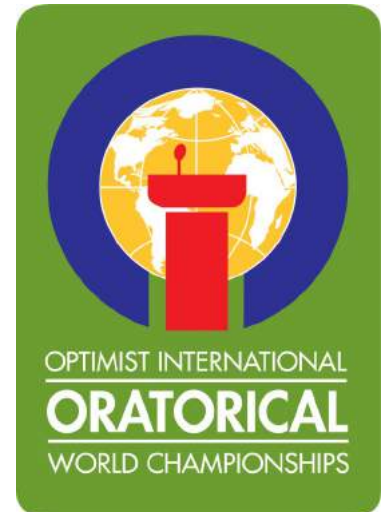
You can go to www.optimist.org. Programs-scholarship contests-oratorical contest. From there you can download the rules and application for the contest.

You may hold your Club's contest in person or via Zoom.

Schools have started. ***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
Colorado-Wyoming
District Oratorical Chairperson
2023-2024
Sgorrell1@yahoo.com
303-920-2366**



2023 Junior Golf Summary Bob Meyer Co-Chair

The Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program had another successful year in 2023.

We had three District Qualifiers in June 2023 and an Optimist Junior Tour event in October 2022, all of which qualified a total of 60 junior golfers for the **2023 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship (commonly referred to as THE OPTIMIST)**, held at Trump National Doral Resort, in Miami FL.



We had 86 junior golfers compete in October 2022 at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club for the 2022 Colorado Optimist Junior Tour event.

We had 102 boys ages 10 – 15 compete in the June 2023 District Qualifier at Flatirons Golf Course.

We originally had 115 boys ages 16 – 18 scheduled to compete that same day at Flatirons Golf Course; however, a lightning storm settled over the course shortly after play had started, and we had to reschedule the boys 16 – 18 on a later date, when only 85 boys were able to rearrange their busy summer golf schedule.

We had 50 girls ages 10 – 18 compete in the June 2023 District Qualifier at Meadow Hills Golf Course. All told, 323 junior golfers were competing for spots in **THE 2023 OPTIMIST**.

As has been the case for the last six years, this is more junior golfers than any other District in all of Optimist International. The Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program continues to be the number 1 junior golf program in all of OI.

In July, **THE 2023 OPTIMIST** started with 620 junior golfers, representing 28 countries, battle it out to see who could take home the trophies.

There are three separate phases at **THE OPTIMIST**. Girls 10 – 12 and Boys 10 – 11 and 12 – 13 are in Phase 1. Girls 13 – 14 and Boys 14 – 15 are in Phase 2. Girls 15 – 18 and Boys 16 – 18 are in Phase 3.

As you might expect in South Florida in late July, weather is a concern, and the safety of the players is our number one concern. Phases 1 and 2 were great tournaments, although the heat was brutal.

As we have done in previous years, **we provided financial assistance to all 60 of our junior golfers**. The seven age group winners had their entire \$ 670 registration fee paid, while the remaining 53 golfers had \$ 500 of their registration fee paid.

The junior golfers get quite a package included in their registration fee. They receive five nights accommodation at Trump National Doral Resort, along with three tournament rounds, and a meal badge good for five breakfasts and four dinners, all served buffet style.

It's no wonder that we continue to send more junior golfers to **THE OPTIMIST** than any other District in OI. No other District provides the amount of financial assistance that the **Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District Junior Golf Program** does. In 2023, we provided more than \$ 31,000 in total financial assistance.

The **District Junior Golf Program relies on donations** from Optimist Clubs and their members; the District; from area businesses and golf courses; and from friends and parents of the junior golfers. We also hold a fund-raising adult golf scramble, followed by a silent auction of donated golf packages from area golf courses.

Donations to the District Junior Golf Program in 2023 were off a little bit from previous years. We are now accepting donations for 2024. Please consider donating to the number one junior golf program in all of OI.

Pictures on next page.....

2023 Junior Golf Pictures

Bob Meyer Co-Chair

Phase 1 Tournament



Phases 1 and 2 were great tournaments, although the heat was brutal.

Phase 3 was very different. What started out as a 54-hole tournament ended up as an 18-hole event. Mother Nature wasn't a fan of ours this year for Phase 3. We evacuated three courses almost twice a day. Day two, and we immediately started the second 18 holes. Again, storms hit, pulling everyone off the courses, and not everyone finished. Day three started...again with early morning storms.

We do not take safety lightly and were willing to try anything to get in at least 36 holes, but it wasn't to be. We were able to get 18 holes completed and crown a champion in each division.

Phase 2 Tournament



Phase 3 Tournament



SAVE THE DATE

We hope you can attend our 1st Quarter Conference

October 28, 2023 at the Schoolhouse Parker, CO
20000 Pikes Peak Ave, Parker, CO

Come Connect!

