



CO/WY - Reaching Out



Governor's Corner

Greetings CO/WY Optimists.

I want to take this opportunity to promote OI programs like Junior Golf and OI Scholarship programs such as the Oratorical contest, and Essay contest, You will not only highlight OI and Optimist International Foundation's impact but also encourage more youth involvement. Since our district already donates significant funds to the Optimist Foundation, it's a perfect opportunity to showcase how those funds are being put to good use.

I want to thank **Bob Meyer**, Monaco South, Optimist Junior Gold Chair, **Kris Gresl**, LAPD, Scholarship Programs Chair, **Steve Gorrell**, Westminster-Broomfield, Oratorical Contest Chair, and **Jeff Gartz**, DTC, Essay Contest Chair. Good luck to all the competitors.

Bill Ashbee

District Governor, 2024-25

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District Officers

- ☐ Governor— Bill Ashbee,
Boulder Luncheon OC
- ☐ Governor— Elect — Gary Banninga,
Windsor OC
- ☐ Secretary: Earleen Oswalt,
Fort Morgan Sunrise OC
- ☐ Treasurer: Laura Mitchell
DTC Optimist Club
- ☐ Immediate Past Gov: Mary Grace
Wake, Windsor Gardens OC

Lt. Governors

- ☐ Zone 1: Cameron Banninga, Windsor
- ☐ Zone 2: Earleen Oswalt, Ft Morgan Sunrise OC
- ☐ Zone 3: open
- ☐ Zone 4: Bob Hamblin, Windsor Gardens OC
- ☐ Zone 5: Douglas Smith, Littleton OC
- ☐ Zone 6: Linda Williams, Tamarac OC
- ☐ Zone 7: Tom Mehl, Gateway, OC
- ☐ Zone 8: George Buzick, MSOC

Important Websites

Optimist International:
www.optimist.org

OI Foundation: oifoundation.org/

CO/WY District:

www.optimistcowy.org/

CO/WY Brain Bowl:

www.optimistbrainbowl.org/

Synopsis of the 2nd Quarter Gathering - Game On! Linda Williams

Imagine that your club has 5 new members. Imagine that your club can help more youth. Imagine that Optimists are known throughout Colorado and Wyoming.

Imagining a brighter future for Colorado/Wyoming Optimists was the first activity of the 2nd Quarter Gathering. Our speaker was **Dianne Maloney, founder of the Imagine Project**. The Imagine Project was established to give kids and teens the opportunity to work through difficult life circumstances through expressive writing. Dianne led us through the steps the kids use to imagine a brighter future for themselves; however, we applied the steps to Optimist Clubs. The feedback from the participants was glowing for both Dianne as a speaker and the process we went through.



Throughout the day we found out what was happening in the District. Topics covered were the Essay Contest, the Oratorical Contest, Junior Golf, Brain Bowl, the Club Grant Program, our 3rd Quarter Gathering and the International Conference.

We also learned about special projects from some of the District Clubs. **Michael Chavez** talked about the Boys and Girls Club Thanksgiving Dinners that Monaco South gives each year. **Governor-elect Gary Banninga** wore his duck hat to explain about Windsor's Duck Race fundraiser and Club President James Sites showed us the large crowd participating in Erie's Eerie 5K & 10K Race.

In the afternoon we had a panel discussion on Building Membership and New Clubs. The moderator was Club President **Abigail Nicholas** and the panel members were **Regional Growth Chair Frank Middleton, District Growth Chair Terri Kearney, and Past Governor Linda McDonald**. They all shared ideas on how we gain new members.

Congratulations go to the DTC Optimists for being an Honor Club last year and District Clubs received recognition for contributing to the OI Foundation last year.

The big event of the afternoon was the bagging of all the shoes that had been collected so far in the District. At the end of the fun sorting event, we had 30 bags containing 25 pairs of shoes each.

NOTE: the shoe fundraiser will continue until April 26, the date of the 3rd Quarter Gathering. We are halfway to our goal, so keep up the good work.

It was a day filled with good ideas, good people, and good work.

More pics on next page...

Q2 Gathering Photo Album



Gov Bill Ashbee



Keynote speaker Dianne Maloney



Past Gov Mary Grace Wake presents DTC Past Pres George Buzick with Honor Club certificate for last year. DTC was only Honor Club in the District



Local Lady golfers discussed their experience at the International Tournament in Florida



Past, Past Gov Tony Carpenter, now SW Region Vice President



Meet our Governor-elect, Gary Banninga, also past president of the Optimist Club of Windsor. He is inviting everyone to their fundraiser Windsor Duck Race. His shirt invites people to "Ask me about my duck"



Are You Still Collecting Shoes?



[This Photo](#)

The CO/WY District Fundraising project needs more shoes. We are halfway to our goal. This is a fundraiser for the District to support Jr Golf, our grants to clubs, our Convention, and other expenses. A company, Funds2org collects the shoes and distributes them to micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries. We receive money for our shoes. More information on www.Funds2org.com.

How you asked your church, your other social groups, and your neighborhood? Everyone has gently worn shoes and boots of all sizes. Items which we will not take are ski boots, skates, boarding boots, cycling shoes with clips.

Your club President has more information. Please bring your shoes to the 3rd Q Gathering April 26th at the Family Resource Pavilion.

Questions or if you want a pickup of your shoes, contact Chair Mary Grace Wake mgwake695@gmail.com.

Reach out to your family and friends. The more shoes we collect, the more money we make. We are raising money for Jr. Golf, for our club grant program and for the convention.

Did you know that 300 million shoes are thrown away every year? We want several piles of shoes like this! Bring your shoes to 3Q Gathering April 26.



Membership Growth is taking off in the Colorado Wyoming District.

The top clubs for taking in new members during the period October 1, 2024 and March 6, 2025 are:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Club President</u>	<u># New Members</u>
Monaco South	Andy Towt	7
Heather Gardens	Sue Brandreth	6
Littleton Breakfast	Connie Ackerman	5
Tamarac	Suzanne Morgan	4
Gateway	Sheila Woolfolk	4
Pueblo	Tricia Cordova	3
Fort Lupton	Steve Moore	3
Windsor Gardens	Jennifer Powers	2
Mile Hi	Katrina Smith	1
Academy	Donna Priester	1
Windsor	Andrew Stanger	1
Cheyenne	Katherine Van Dell	1
Westminster	James Figg	1
Longmont	Kathleen Glenn	1
FOO	Andy Towt	1
<u>Total new members</u>		41



This is terrific. Congratulation to these clubs. To all clubs in the Colorado Wyoming District lets all grow our membership together to make Optimists even greater.

Outstanding Optimists for Bringing in New Members this year

Congratulations to the following Optimists that have brought in New Members this year.

This is a fantastic list. As an incentive our Optimist District awards an Optimist who brings in 3 New Members during the Optimist year with a cash Reward of \$50.00. Bring in 6 New Members and receive \$100.00. Go team go!

<u>Name</u>	<u># New Members</u>
Mark Metevia	2
Connie Ackerman	2
Hank Wyeno	2
Claire Young	2
Ev Sequeira	2
Frank Middleton	2



The following are to be congratulated for bringing in one new member this year: Steve Gorrell, Nataly Cans, Bob Reichardt, Robert Krech, Katherine Van Dell, Carol Booth, Dick Quinlan, Jennifer Powers, Sally Westerberg, Carolyn Bamford, Abigail Nicholas, Jordan Dunn, Mary Ellen LeBlanc, Steve Moore, Bob Avery, Tom Glazier, Terry Hawkins, Kevin Keilbach, Helen Kneigh, and Andrew Stanger

Lieutenant Governors with the most New Members for the period October 1, 2024 to March 6, 2025

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Lieutenant Governor</u>	<u># New Members</u>
1	6	Linda Williams	12
2	7	Tom Mehl	12
3	5	Doug Smith	5
4	4	Bob Hamblin	4
5	2	Earleen Oswalt	3
6	1	Cameron Banninga	2
7	8	George Buzick	1
8			1
	FOO	George Buzick	41
	Total New Members in CO WY District		



This is good growth all across Colorado and Wyoming. Congratulations to the Lieutenant

Mile Hi Denver JOI Club Activities Nataly Cano

Originally known as the “Chocolate Chip” J.O.I Club at Everitt Middle School, the members have decided to rename themselves to “LaborJoi Club of Everitt Middle School” in tribute to their school mascot, the loyal golden Labrador.

They manage their club with minimal adult involvement. **President Kennedy** encourages her fellow Optimists to engage, share ideas, and take initiative. The effort these students have dedicated to their projects is commendable. Their initiatives include selling chips and Gatorade at basketball games to gather funds for Valentine's Day treats for their teachers (transforming delays into opportunities for growth and teamwork) and selling hot chocolate during a chilly choir performance, with proceeds benefiting Make-a-Wish. Their collaboration, ability to secure permissions, commitment to optimism, and dedication to their community are truly motivating and a pleasure to observe. Both **Kathy Kinnard** and I have enjoyed witnessing these young women lead their club and emerge as community role models!



SAVE THE DATE

Our 77th Annual Convention will be in Loveland at the Embassy Suites, August 22-33, 2025

The Convention Committee is making plans and we want to hear from you. What type of speakers, learning opportunities, entertainment, and fun activities would you like to have at the Convention? Let me know: Convention Chair Mary Grace Wake mgwake695@gmail.com. We are in the planning stages now and will be opening early registration for the hotel in February. The best things happen when you plan early!

Mark Your Calendar for the 3rd Quarter Gathering Mary Grace Wake

Inspiring Words from our Youth

The highlight of our 3rd Quarter Gathering is the Oratorical Contest and the Essay Contest.

Our youth will inspire us as they talk about “**How Optimism has guided them through troubled times.**” Members will also have an opportunity to learn about the successful **robotics program sponsored by Longmont Optimist Club**. Plus, there will be an opportunity to socialize and bag shoes for the shoe drive.

The Q3 Gathering is **Saturday, April 26th at the Family Resource Pavilion, 9700 E Easter Ln, Centennial, CO 80112**. The Board of Directors Meeting begins at 7:45am All are invited to attend. At 8:30am Breakfast is served and at 9:15 the Gathering commences. It will conclude at 1:00pm with the option of staying to bag shoes for our fundraising project.

Watch for information about registration by the end of March.

See you at The Gathering.

District Oratorical 2025

The Oratorical Contest is open to students who have not reached the age of 19 before October 1, 2024, 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 Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying 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 12, 2025.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place Regional winners will then go to the District Finals being held on April 26, 2025 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.

The Club contest must be completed on or before March 24, 2025. 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, 2025 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.

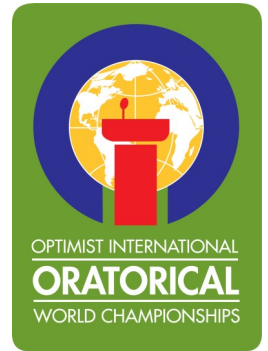
You can go to www.optimist.org. Programs-scholarship contests-oratorical contest. From there you can download the rules and application for the contest.

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

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, Kris Gresl (414-915-2236), or me.

**Steve Gorrell
Colorado-Wyoming
District Oratorical Chairperson
2024-2025
Sgorrell1@yahoo.com
303-920-2366**



Optimist Jr Golf Prepares For 2025 Season **Bob Meyer**

The Colorado/Wyoming District Junior Golf Program is getting ready for 2025 season.

COLORADO-WYOMING
OPTIMIST



District Qualifiers will be held as follows:

Boys 16 – 18 Common Ground Golf Course Thursday, May 29

Boys 10 – 11, 12 – 13, 14 – 15 Overland Park Golf Course Tuesday, June 3

Girls 10 – 12, 13 – 14, 15 – 18 Meadow Hills Golf Course Wednesday, June 11

We are soliciting donations to be a hole sponsor (or more) at the District Qualifiers. A Sponsorship Opportunities flyer is attached.

An adult scramble fundraiser tournament will be held Wednesday, May 28, at Meadow Hills Golf Course. An entry form for the fundraiser is attached.

We have set up a "crowdfunding" account on GoFundMe.com to raise additional funds. Please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/cowy-district-optimist-jr-golf> to make an online donation.

Another fundraiser will be an online auction of donated golf foursomes, golf equipment, and fine wine. Please go to <https://sites.google.com/site/cowyoptimistgolf/fundraiser-information> for more information about the online auction.

We had a booth at the **Colorado Golf Expo** held March 7 – 9. A photo of the booth and volunteers **Joe Marci, Tom Overton, and Bob Meyer** to the right.. A lot of our former and future District Qualifier junior golfers visited the booth, and all indicated that they were looking forward to the District Qualifiers, hoping to make it to the 2025 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships (commonly referred to as THE 2025 OPTIMIST) to be held the last two weeks in July at Trump National Doral Resort in Miami FL.



We have 49 slots for THE 2025 OPTIMIST and will provide financial assistance of at least \$ 500 to the 49 junior golfers who qualify. We need to raise in excess of \$ 25,000 to provide that financial assistance, so please continue to support the Colorado/Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Meyer at 303-919-4532 or at meyerrob@comcast.net. Bob can also visit your Club to talk about the Junior Golf Program.

THE OPTIMIST

International Junior Golf Championships



LEADERBOARD

	i	Pos.	Player	Total To Par Gross	Thru Today	To Par Gross Today	R1	R2	R3
★	1		BRAYDEN DESTEFANO 2027, United States	-4	FBLUE	-4	73BLUE	70GOLD	68
★	2		CREW FITZGERALD 2027, United States	+1	FBLUE	-2	72BLUE	74GOLD	70



One of the premier Junior Golf Tournaments in the world.

A unique opportunity for junior golfers from around the globe. The Optimist is unique from all junior tournaments. Junior golfers and family enjoy golf, parent-child tournament, off-course activities, meals and housing all on one property.

At more than 50 qualifying tournaments, Optimists reach out into their own communities to involve children in the game of golf. Each year 3,000 junior golfers, ages 10-18, participate in Optimist sponsored events. The top 600 junior golfers advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship each summer.

Local Qualifier Information

BOYS 16-18	CommonGround	Thursday, May 29
BOYS 10-11, 12-13, 14-15	Overland Park	Tuesday, June 3
GIRLS 10-12, 13-14, 15-18	Meadow Hills	Wednesday, June 11



Doral Resort and Spa (Miami, FL) - legendary resort and world-class destination is conveniently 8 miles from Miami International Airport. The prestigious resort boasts four championship golf courses – the legendary Blue Monster, Gold Palm, Red Tiger and Silver Fox.

Nationally ranked by the Junior Golf Scoreboard and Golfweek, World Amateur Golf and included in the AJGA Performance Based Entry Process and attracts over 30 College coaches each year.



Contact the Optimist Junior Golf Office for information on qualifying tournaments in your area.
(800) 500-8130 ext. 207 • golf@optimist.org • www.optimist.org/golf • www.facebook.com/optimist.golf

Windsor Gardens OC Collects Hats for the Homeless



Windsor Gardens Optimist Club with partnership with the Leetsdale Cop Shop and Warm up America, collected new and gently used hats , gloves, and scarfs for the Metro Area Homeless population in December.

These items that were donated by all of our members, were then given to the Crisis Intervention Response Unit (CIRU) Co- Responder Program on January 16, 2025.

The Optimists Club of Windsor Gardens enjoyed working as partners to the Cop Shop and our members really donated a lot of these items for this great cause which was appreciated by the Crisis Intervention Response Unit and the homeless they serve. The total of items received was 684, many were handmade. 390 hats, 102 pairs of gloves, 49 pairs of socks and 100 scarves.

Gateway OC Supports Youth with Many Programs Karen Gold

Who does Gateway Optimist Club help? What programs do we support to help local kids?

#Brain Bowl (Jan. - Feb.) #Childhood Cancer (year-round with donations) **#Children of Mission Viejo** (quarterly collections of food and clothing, sponsorship of a family at Christmas) **#Collection of books, coats, shoes, socks, food, toiletries** for those in need **#Communication Contests for the deaf and hard of hearing (CCDHH)** **#Denver Children's Home** (Christmas time and now throughout the summer) **# Essay Contests (Feb.) #Friends of St. Andrews # Junior Golf (May) # Junior Optimist Clubs JOI** (currently at Gateway and Grandview High Schools) **# Oratorical Contests (March) # Respect for Law # Sweet Dream in a Bag** (currently collecting beanie babies or like sized stuffed animals) **# Wreaths Across America** (ceremony this year is Dec. 14) **#FIRST Robotics (Sept. – Feb.) #Reading Partners** (currently involved) **# ARK backpacks** for first responders and anyone in need (to Mission Viejo and Anshutz Campus security) **# Heart of the World Christian Center #Fathers in the Field #Lotus School of Excellence # Pen Pal programs** with Heather Gardens OC and Del Mar Academy.

Pictures on next page....

Gateway Optimist Club on the Go Karen Gold



Barb Dank presents the check to GOC for our work helping with parking duty at the CU Football games in Boulder. We luv ya, Barb! And it's not just cuz of the money. Also pictured are Ev Sequeira and Sheila Woolfolk



Some project presentations from FIRST LEGO league...Karen Gold Volunteers to be judge reviewer



Participants, spectators, and lifeguard at the 2nd Annual Aqua Jogging Contest



FIRST Robotics Competition at School of Mines...GOC's Introduction to the FIRST World



Representing GOC t the Aurora Spirit Awards



Some of the winners at FIRST Robotics

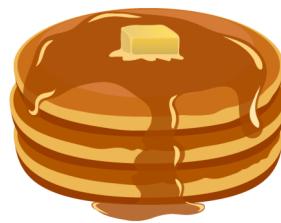
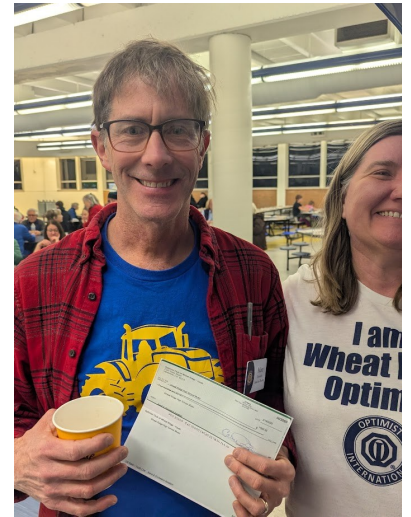
A huge THANK YOU to Papa John's for helping us feed the kids at Denver Children's Home!

13 Jan, 2025, [No comments](#)

With the help of 3 local stores and the Director of Marketing, Catering & Recruiting, we were able to feed the kids at Denver Children's Home on Dec. 20, 2024. The kids got a wonderful lunch with their favorite foods! And Papa Johns has done business exactly the way companies should operate. Integrity and professionalism abound at this company, and they are more than willing to help non-profits. That's why my business and more business from Gateway Optimist Club will go to Papa Johns.

PAPAJOHNS®

Wheat Ridge OC Pancake Supper in Photos



DTC Members at the Ronald McDonald House in Aurora

Ten DTC members, led by chef-member Tom Kramis prepared and served fajitas to 50+ residents at the Ronald McDonald House in Aurora. The food was delicious and there were plenty of leftovers to make plates for them to take to their apartments for later. RMH really appreciates the participation of the Optimists in this way. **Pictured L-R: Phil Perington, Jeff Gartz, and Vickie Nelson.**



Optimist Club of Windsor Promotes Kindness Week with Town of Windsor

Lisa Banninga

The Optimist Club of Windsor working with the Town of Windsor promotes **Kindness Week** each year. Starting on the second Sunday of February, each of the seven days has a segment of the community targeted for random acts of kindness. They are;

Sunday; good deeds or acts of service

Monday; be nice to senior citizens

Tuesday; give a word of encouragement

Wednesday; pay it forward

Thursday; thank an educator

Friday; thank a first responder or a veteran

Saturday; be kind to your neighbor



In past years our club put up posters and fliers at various business, public and school locations. This year we decided to add to those actions we added steps to promote Kindness to a broader spectrum of our community.

We purchased 540 Kind bars, added a tag to each bar with a short note, our club name and QR code to our web page on Kindness week. Severance and Windsor Middle schools each received 180 bars. So the teachers and administration staff could reward students for performing random acts of kindness. This was a big hit with the teachers and other staff members.

In addition we shared about 100 bars with senior citizens who have lunch at the Windsor Community Recreation Center.

The remainder of the bars were provided to club members to give to those that they saw performing various acts of kindness.

Club members gathered on February 1, 2024 to assemble the bars, a good way to celebrate Optimist Day. Thanks to all of our club members who helped with this rewarding project



Pic shows our assembly line to make up the bars and notes from our club

Support Heather Gardens OC at Two Events



Heather Gardens Optimist Club
Welcomes You To Our

Pancake Breakfast

Heather Gardens at Rendezvous Restaurant
2888 S Heather Gardens Way
Saturday – March 22, 2025
8am to 10am



\$10.00 Per Person

Pancakes, sausage, coffee, orange juice

**All proceeds go to support
To Be Decided**

**You may purchase tickets at the door or from any
Heather Gardens Optimist.**

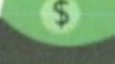
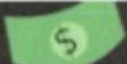
SAVE THE DATE

 **2nd Hand Rose** 



A Fashion Show

Featuring Thrift Store Treasures
Sponsored By the
Heather Gardens Optimist Club
TUESDAY, MAY 13TH, 2025
AT THE HEATHER GARDENS AUDITORIUM



**ANY CLUB MEMBER WHO
SIGNS UP
3 NEW MEMBERS
BY 9/30/2025
RECEIVES**

 **\$50.00 CASH!!!**