



CO/WY - The Connection



Governor's Corner

Dear Optimists,

Endings and Beginnings

September 30 ends the optimist year and also my term as Governor. But it is a new beginning for many clubs. New officers, new projects, new members make this a bright beginning. Set goals for the year, try a new project/fundraising, excite a new member, and engage all your members. A busy and exciting time!

**Connect with Optimism
Communication, Care and Celebrate.**

Reflecting on this year, our District has been inspired to increase connections between the District, clubs, the community, and members. Our achievements include increased communication with newsletters, visits and Zoom meetings. District leaders listened and cared about clubs' status and concerns of members. Clubs and the District celebrated with joy our installations, our conferences and social events. (See article about Governor's awards.)

I hope you feel more connected and also feel optimism, with a capital "O".

As we start our new year, the road map suggested by Cheryl Brenn, Executive Director is to: Support Retention; Focus on Continuity; Care and C.A.R.E. program; Live and Breathe the Core Values, OPTIMISM, INTEGRITY, and GLOBAL COMMUNITY; Respect the past and work towards a better future.

It has been an honor serving as your Governor.

The District is in good hands with Governor Designate Bill Ashbee and Governor Elect Gary Banninga.

Thank you for your support and involvement.

Inside this issue

- Conference review.....2-6
- District Info.....5-6
- Oratorical/CCCDH..... 7
- Jr Golf.....8
- Club News.....11-14

District Officers

- Governor: Mary Grace Wake, Windsor Gardens OC
- Governor— Elect: Bill Ashbee, Boulder Luncheon OC
- Secretary: Earleen Oswalt, Fort Morgan Sunrise OC
- Treasurer: Pearl Meulemans, Tamarac & University Hills OC
- Immediate Past Gov: Tony Carpenter Wheat Ridge OC

Lt. Governors

- Zone 1: Linda Chasson, Cheyenne
- Zone 2: Gary Banninga, Windsor OC
- Zone 3: Burke Kaiser, Buena Vista
- Zone 4: Tom Mehl, Gateway OC
- Zone 5: Linda Williams, Tamarac OC
- Zone 6: Jon Wachter, MSOC
- Zone 7: Tom Overton, MSOC
- Zone 8: Kathy Greb, Arvada Lake Arbor

Important Websites

Optimist International:
www.optimist.org

OI Foundation: oifoundation.org/

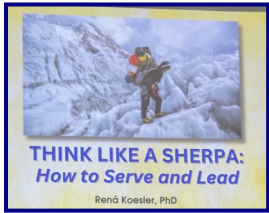
CO/WY District:
www.optimistcowy.org/

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

CO/WY Convention Highlights



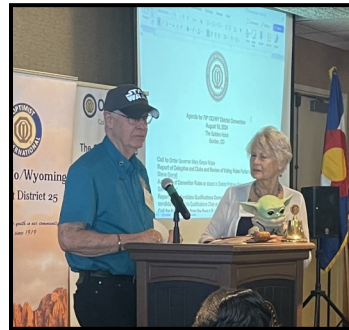
Panorama of attendees



Keynote Speaker:
Rena Krjewski
 "Think Lie a Sherpa:
 How to Serve and
 Lead"



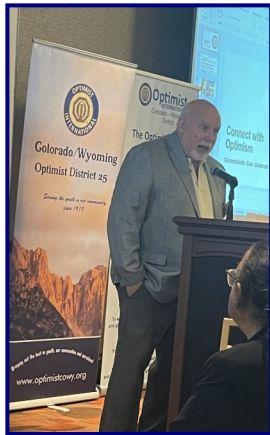
Emcee Abigail Nicholas



**Steve Gorrell goes over
 Convention rules with Mary
 Grace and baby Yoda**



**Terry Kearney, OI SE
 Region Vice President**



**Left: Craig Baker,
 Golden Optimist Club
 welcomes
 Everyone**

Right: Linda Williams



**Yoda is sizing up our new
 Governor-elect, Gary Banninga**



**Cocktails on the patio prior to the
 Installation Banquet. Raining hard
 outside!**



Parade and Installation of New Officers



**Bob Hamblin, wife Linda,
Tom Mehl**



**George Buzick, escort
Kathy Greb**



**Linda Williams, escort
Kent Gloor**



**Gary Banninga, Barb Dank,
Gov Designate Bill Ashbee**



**Gunar & Charlie
Neumann**



Terry & Ken Kearney



**Kathryn VanDell &
Tom Mehl**



Gary & Lisa Banninga



Mary Grace, escort Craig Baker

**Thank you Mary Grace for
your leadership this year!**



**Almost past-governor
Mary Grace Wake**



**Governor-
designate,
Bill Ashbee**

Governor's Awards

Governor Mary Grace Wake presented awards following her theme for the year, **Connect with Optimism Communicate, Care, Celebrate.**

The awards are:

COMMUNICATION: **Joe Priestler** for his years as Chair of the CCDHH contest. **Nancy DeNiro** for being the Editor of the District newsletter and producing other District communications.

CARE: **Windsor Optimist Club** for their Kindness week project. **District JOI Advisor Bank Dank and Sara Tanner** for their dedication to the Justice Phoenix JOI club. **Lt Governor Tom Mehl** for his relentless caring towards clubs in his Zone. **Lt Governor Kathy Greb** for exceptional caring by frequent visits and help provided to the clubs in her Zone, and for being an excellent JOI advisor.

CELEBRATE: **The Brain Bowl Team, and Marketing Chair Connie Ackerman** for continually producing this outstanding event year after year. This project has more volunteers and serves 800 kids in the District. Plus, Connie Ackerman is an outstanding Marketing Chair. **Conference/ Convention Chair Charlie Neumann** for the planning and organization of the exceptional conferences and convention.

CONNECT WITH OPTIMISM AWARD: **Lt Governor Linda Williams** for all she did for the District. This included being a Lt Governor, Leadership Chair, member of the Policy Committee, Officer Trainer and she had time to develop a game for JOI clubs. Among her accomplishments are connecting clubs for projects, handling the details of speakers at conferences, and initiating and organizing the Connections Forums. Plus, she has always been available to me as a sounding board or doing extra tasks.

District Awards Given at Convention Jeanette Thompson



Boulder Luncheon Optimist Club: Established JOI Club

Barb Dank partnered with **Sara Tanner** (not present) to establish the first JOI Club in Boulder County. In addition to organizing the JOI Club, they provided a series of workshops to educate the students on financial management topics.



Tamarac Optimist Club: New Member Honored

Beth Hewlett—In the first 10 months, Beth has participated in almost every volunteer activity TOC does, as well as many social events. She strives to meet as many members as possible. Beth demonstrates the spirit of the Optimist Creed.



Tamarac Optimist Club: Team Project

Nancy Kennedy has successfully coordinated a Fundraising Trivia Night for 2 years. It required 20 members to staff and coordinate the event. There were 64 participants plus a bake sale and together the event raised over \$1,000.

Is Your Club Using the Catch and Release or Catch and Engage Method for Member Retention?

By Abigail Nicholas - District Membership Retention Chair for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
Optimist International-Membership Growth Team-Southwest Region Chair 2024-2025

STRIVE TO MAKE ALL GUESTS AND MEMBERS FEEL WELCOME AND IMPORTANT:

Celebrate guests with applause and a moment to tell who they are and why they might be interested in joining.

Celebrate new members with applause and then *make sure you install them as soon as possible*; give them a new member packet; present them with a gift (mug with flowers, candy, small gift card for ice cream or something else with the Creed on it); take a picture of the new member and their sponsor for your newsletter or weekly email to members.

Celebrate, recognize and appreciate all your members on a regular basis. They have plenty to offer and giving them a “pat on the back” with perhaps achievement awards, small gifts (\$5 Starbucks or Dairy Queen gift card), etc. for jobs well done.

DEFINITELY MENTOR NEW MEMBERS AND DISCOVER WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER:

Assign a mentor (someone other than the sponsor) immediately. Even if you don't have a Mentor Chair or Committee, find someone who is willing and happy to be a mentor for at least three months and at best six months.

Make sure they complete an interest sheet...this could be done with the mentor.

Invite them immediately to join in on a project or fundraiser...this can also be done with the mentor and sponsor too.

BE DILIGENT IN KEEPING LONG-TERM MEMBERS ENGAGED AND LETTING THEM KNOW THEY ARE STILL AND ALWAYS WILL BE VALUED. RECOGNIZE ALL THE GREAT THINGS THEY HAVE DONE OVER THE YEARS FOR THE CLUB AND COMMUNITY:

Check with your Chairs and find out if they are reaching the burn out stage or if they are still enjoying what they are doing for the club. Gently insist that they have a Co-Chair to help when needed.

Celebrate your Club leaders...let them know you truly appreciate them. Don't wait till the end of the year to thank them! Let them know how valued they are throughout the Optimist year. Spontaneously thank your presidents, officers, and board members.

At least once per year give members an opportunity to speak up with ideas, thoughts, and visions of the future of their club. Never turn down a member's idea without thoroughly discussing and seeing if there is a good project or fundraiser that perhaps just needs some tweaking to make it work.

CELEBRATE THE JOY YOUR CLUB BRINGS TO THEIR MEMBERS AND YOUR COMMUNITY:

Plan a party instead of a meeting at least once a year...even better once per quarter and talk about the great things your club brings to the Community.

Continued from previous page:

Have members relive some of their best memories of a project or fundraiser. Look at pictures or give a slide show of your projects and fundraisers. In doing so, all your members will find their joy in being an Optimist!

TO SUM UP, I BELIEVE THAT YOUR CLUB CAN GUARANTEE IMPROVEMENT IN MANY WAYS AND BE AN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE AND APPRECIATED MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY IF YOU DO THE FOLLOWING:

- **make sure all visiting guests, new members, and current members are welcomed and important;**
- ***truly mentor* new members and really discover who they are and what they have to offer;**
- **that if your club keeps long-term members engaged and lets them know they are still and always will be valued; and if you *celebrate the joy* that your club brings to their members and your community!**

Giving Time to the Improvement of Yourself

By Bob Hamblin, District Foundation Representative / Lieutenant Governor

My friends, I'll be the first to admit a hard bit of reality I've come to embrace since becoming an Optimist; one which I'm sure we've all felt at one time or another: Being a full-time, optimistic person doesn't come easily.

The truth is, it takes real dedication and lots of hard work. But here's the caveat: If we're not careful, it can take a gradual, destructive toll on our own well-being. Life is full of challenges. Learning to overcome adversity and dealing with setbacks doesn't just happen simply because we choose to call ourselves Optimists. I believe it starts with developing our own self-awareness and peace of mind.

Perhaps the first step involves tuning into the present, becoming aware of your thoughts, your surroundings, and your feelings. All too often we find ourselves focusing on our shortcomings, regarding them as failures rather than opportunities for growth. "Forgetting the mistakes of the past" can help to create resilience, allowing us to learn from our previous errors, and hopefully, to develop a more optimistic (and perhaps realistic) belief in ourselves, our strengths, and our potential. Only then can we "press on to the greater achievements of the future."

There's nothing selfish about making a habit of scheduling some quiet time each day just for you. Do a little self-introspection, perhaps writing down your thoughts, memories, or ideas. What would you do differently? What do you want to see happen? Be honest, and be realistic. Who knows? We all just might find ourselves becoming a little more tolerant and forgiving of our own limitations and imperfections, enabling us to develop more reasonable and attainable goals and aspirations. Hopefully we'll come to enjoy greater satisfaction in our victories, and to experience a little less disappointment when we fall short.

Dear friends, I honestly believe that as Optimists, the simple, unselfish practice of giving "so much time to the improvement of yourself" will naturally enable us to more effectively carry on our mission of providing hope and positive vision, bringing out the best in youth, our communities, and, ultimately, ourselves.

District Oratorical 2024-2025 Contest Info Steve Gorrell, District Chairman

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 Junior Golf Bob Meyer

COLORADO-WYOMING
OPTIMIST



Phase I Orientation



Phase 2 Opening Ceremonies



Phase 3 Opening Ceremonies



Tracy Huxley with Phase 2 Awards

The OI Junior Golf Championships is one of OI's major youth programs for boys and girls ages 10 – 18 and is one of the largest and best-known junior golf events in the world. More than 3,000 boys and girls across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and several dozen other foreign countries compete in official Optimist qualifying tournaments.

We had 186 junior golfers compete in the District Qualifiers in May and June and sent 55 of them pictured above to the 2024 Optimist Junior International Golf Championships . Our Colorado junior golfers made up almost 10% of the international field of 600 junior golfers from 28 countries.

We had some truly outstanding results from our Colorado Junior Golfers at THE 2024 OPTIMIST.

In the Girls 13 – 14 age group Championship Flight, **Landry Frost from Colorado Springs** finished 2nd.

In the Boys 14 – 15 age group Championship Flight, **Brayden Destefano from Peyton** finished 1st, and **Crew Fitzgerald from Parker** finished 2nd.

In the Boys 14 – 15 age group Consolation Flight, **Cooper Kelly from Centennial** finished 2nd, and **Murphy Rowen from Denver** finished 4th.

In the Boys 16 – 18 age group Championship Flight, **Henry Starr from Englewood** finished 3rd.

In the Girls 15 – 18 age group Consolation Flight, **Tess Morris from Franktown** finished 3rd, and **Aja Blankenship from Highlands Ranch** finished 4th.

In other fun golfing activities at THE 2024 OPTIMIST, **Chance and Jason Witczak of Parker** won the Phase 2 Parent-Child Tournament, and **Wyatt and Trent Isrig of Greenwood Village** finished 2nd in the Phase 3 Parent-Child Tournament.

Lev Abramson of Denver and **Mason Conrad of Castle Pines** received exemptions into THE 2024 OPTIMIST plus \$ 1,000 scholarships to the university of their choice. We received "Thank You" notes from many of the 55 junior golfers who attended THE 2024 OPTIMIST.

Here is one of those "Thank You" notes: "It was such an honor to represent Team Colorado at THE OPTIMIST. Even though I didn't play as well as I would have liked, I gained a lifetime of knowledge and friendships. I can't tell you how excited I am to try and qualify again and represent Colorado in the future."

Sincerely, Tatum Irwin (PGA Legend Hale Irwin's Grand-daughter)

Tool to Recruit New Members Linda Williams

This card, with the Optimist Creed on the back, is intended for Optimist members to give to potential members. **The QR code will take them to the District website where they will find information about Optimists in general and our District in particular.** Scan the QR code for yourself to see the landing page and the Find a Club page with its Google map of all the Clubs in the District.

FYI...Your Club can get these cards from **Connie Ackerman** at the low cost of \$26.00 per 100 to hand out at your next community event.

Each club can also have cards with QR codes that send people to the Club's website rather than the District website. Contact Connie Ackerman to start the process and work with Vista Print to get started spreading more information to potential members.

Connie's information: 303-688-4496 and connieackerman@comcast.net.

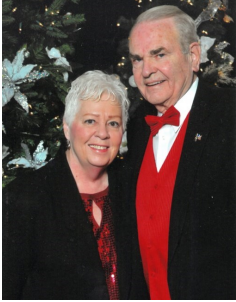


Get Connected on October 8, 2024 Linda Williams

Please join us the second Tuesday of each month for our Connections Forum, which meets over Zoom from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Enjoy important topics and follow-up discussions. The topic for October is CLUB PROGRAMS 101, speaker will be Charlie Neumann

If you can't reorganize your schedule to be part of the original meeting, you can always watch the recording of the event by going to the District website <https://www.optimistcowy.org/> . The Connections Forum previous events can be found in the MEMBERS section of the website. Our previous topics have been Membership Engagement, Strategic Planning, Tips and Traps of Club Leadership, and Identifying and Growing Leaders. Check out these topics and bring the information to your club to further the conversations. Connect your club to other clubs' ideas in these forums.

Craig E Baldwin October 3, 1937 – August 25, 2024 Charlie Neumann



**Craig Baldwin
with wife Jean**

Craig passed away unexpectedly August 25 after a brief illness surrounded by loved ones.

Our CO/WY Optimist District was honored to have the dedication and passion that Craig Baldwin gave to us for 3 years as our District Treasurer. No task was too small or too big for him to complete the duties of being a leader in the District. I had the opportunity to meet Craig & Jean at an International Convention and found them to be kind and generous of their time and passion for Optimism.

He truly loved being the District Treasurer and would say that it was an honor to serve. He also recruited many new Optimists and was recognized by the District for his efforts. Craig Baldwin was an amazing person and a class act. Craig will be greatly missed by his many friends and family.

GET READY, GET SET, GAME ON, LET'S RECLAIM THE PASSION

CO/WY District Optimist 1st Q Gathering will be on **Saturday, October 26th** at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church 10000 E. Belleview Greenwood Village

This will be a chance to learn, to share ideas, meet new optimists, and have fun. There will be speakers including students, an opportunity to be creative with your marketing, hear from other service organizations and play games.

Watch for registration information soon.

Tamarac OC Sponsored OI Regional Contest Winner - Hana Ahmednur

Tamarac sponsored the first contest at a high school in Aurora. In a twist of fate Hana went all the way to St Louis. She took 1st place in the Overland High School contest and went on to place 4th in the Zone contest. The 3rd place winner could not compete in the next phase, so Hana had the opportunity to take her place and finished in 2nd place with a District scholarship for \$1500.

The 1st place District winner could not go to the finals in Louisville KY in June, so Hana went and represented the Colorado/Wyoming District in the Regional finals! She is thrilled to have won a **\$5,000 scholarship**. She is pictured here presenting her speech to the TOC.



Monaco South All in a Days Pleasure

George Buzick



Thomas Jefferson High School Jazz Band plays for Friday morning meeting



Induction of 3 new members to the biggest club in the Colo/Wyoming District.



Monaco South members have private Denver Zoo tour with Harry Fegley (President-Elect) as their guide. (Harry volunteers at the Zoo)



Super Citizen Program at Holm Elementary School in SE Denver



Monaco South Eagle Scout Awards Program



MSOC sells raffle tickets to fund programs



Famous MSOC Tree Lot - Hundreds of trees downloaded from truck by helpful firemen, then prepped, sold and delivered to shopper's cars



Boulder Luncheon Optimist Club Respect for law

Officer Karla Sandoval, of the Lafayette Police Department, was awarded the Respect for Law Award presented by the Boulder Luncheon Optimist Club. It is an annual award promoted by Optimist International to recognize someone who exemplifies distinguished commitment, honor and service while protecting Boulder County. The award was presented by President Toby Leonard and Chair Catherine Médal.



Excerpts from Karla's bio:

My name is Karla Sandoval, I was born in Acapulco Mexico. My mother brought me to the United States at just 3 years old without knowing a word of English. I grew up here in the lovely City of Boulder, Colorado (I'm a Boulder girl!)

I am a survivor of domestic violence who in a cycle of 8 years I finally escaped. I survived the lowest point of my life because I was optimistic. Although I did not know what life would look like, I was optimistic, my children were my strength, because while I hurt, they had no idea what I was going on. Their smiles kept me going.

At the age of 14, I entered my 9th grade year at Fairview High school where the early childhood education program was located. Angel went to their daycare while I was in class. The program then transferred to Arapahoe Ridge High School where I continued my 10th grade until graduation. In high school my goal was to graduate because I wanted to defeat the odds of teenage dropout rates.

In 2012 my mother and I had a life changing event, my mother was detained and sent to the immigration detention center because of her legal status. Being only 16 years old, I did not have a job nor money to buy food. It felt as if my dreams and my goals were crushed. For 20 days I did not have my mother, my rock, my support. Every day was hard, sitting at home crying wondering if I would ever be able to hug my only parent. 20 days later she was released by immigration and was allowed to come back home to Angel and me.

In 2019, I graduated from the Metropolitan State University of Denver with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and criminology! It took me 6 long years to complete. Again, my optimism should tell you, something is better than nothing. College felt like it took forever, however, the reward was beyond amazing.

Throughout my journey of a couple jobs after graduation, in 2021 I was hired by the Lafayette Police Department which I hold with big honor and pride to work for.

I'm thankful to my mother who is my rock and guide, my children Angel (14) Maria (11) for being my motivation, my fiancé who continues to show me what healthy love is and to my department, who treats me with fairness and respect, every day they make me feel like I belong, they make me feel like I have a voice.

I am optimistic, because there's a verse I hold close to my heart, "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

I am optimistic because I have faith, and believe that everywhere I go, I am blessed. "Because blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called children of God."

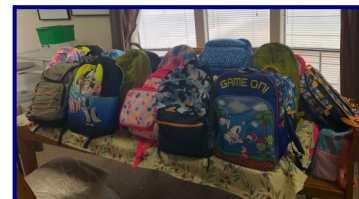
Although I am optimistic, I am also an adult full of mistakes and worries. I tried out for SWAT, the physical part was extremely hard. Harder than the police academy. I did not get selected for this, but I finished it all, and I did not give up, I will not quit. When I was not selected, I told my Commander will continue to be the best officer I can be. I was proud of myself for pushing my body the way I did. Of course, failure hurts, it hurts our egos. But knowing that the time and effort you put into something was all you ever could is the optimism one has to continue building and holding strong.

I'll conclude by saying; I have been employed with the City of Lafayette Police for three years. Throughout my career I have been in the top third for traffic citations, the top two for the most case reports in my department and being nominated for the Beth Haynes Memorial Award. In 2022, I had the honor of being selected Officer of the year out of 50 police officers in my department.

I am Officer Karla Sandoval.

Westminster-Broomfield OC Has Been Busy! Sandy McKenzie

In August, **John and Susan Swanborg** distributed 45 backpacks filled with school supplies to parents of certain students enrolled in the **Ute Mountain Ute school in southwestern Colorado**. Children of Ute heritage that are less than 50% Ute blood do not receive federal funding for their education. To ensure every child in the school starts off the year with the supplies they need, the Westminster-Broomfield Optimist club has raised funds for supplying backpacks for these non-enrolled students since 2018. Contributions to the **Backpack Fund** come from individual Optimists, Optimist Clubs, grants and folks beyond the Optimist clubs who want to help. We're ready to start our fundraising now for next year!



The Westminster-Broomfield Optimist Club continues a 43-year tradition of holding a Clown Contest

on Saturday, September 21, 2024 during Broomfield Days. This year we have extended the contest to include dressing up as a super-hero as well! Each child dresses up and is given the opportunity to sing, dance, tell a joke or do a short skit. The top two winners in each age group (1-4, 5-6, 7-9) get a new bike or scooter. Every entrant gets a stuffed animal! Debbie Cooper-George is the mastermind behind this project. She juggles about a million things to make this contest happen!



At their gala on August 9, Mile High Behavioral Health awarded a 2024 Miracle Maker award to the Westminster-Broomfield Optimist Club. John Elliott accepted the award on behalf of the club, for their support of the Aspen House, a residential facility for new moms recovering from addiction. **Here is the citation with the award:**

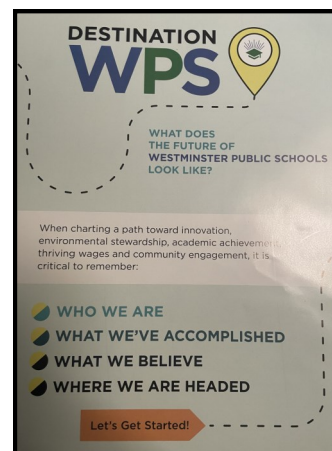


The Westminster-Broomfield Optimist Club has been with the Aspen Center since the beginning. Every year they sprinkle a dash of enchantment into our holidays -- from Easter candies and baskets to Halloween pumpkins and carving kits, they've got it covered. As the air begins to nibble with a chill, they ensure every woman has a jacket to ward off the cold. Christmas time? They replenish our kitchen with new pots, pans, blenders, utensils --- you name it, they've thought of it. Our liaison with this club is John, a dedicated member for the past 20 years, who's been instrumental in transforming lives. We are filled with gratitude for this enduring partnership and are thrilled to present the Westminster-Broomfield Club with the Miracle Maker award this year.

The Westminster-Broomfield Optimist Club recognizes students every year who have overcome obstacles to excel in some manner, not necessarily academic. This is one of the Students-of-the-year recognized by the club this year. Students are nominated by the school and/or teachers and receive a gift card and a certificate. The presentation is made by the student's teacher. **Congratulations to Angel!**



Fairview K-8 Student Angel Duran received the Westminster/Broomfield Optimist Club's Student of the Year award.



Gateway Optimist Club on the Go Karen Gold



How close was Bob Krech to winning the Kitty ?

With only 16 cards remaining, Bob had his hand on the winning Ace of Hearts, but then abruptly changed his mind losing out on the \$\$ pot! Did Bob ever win the pot?



Handmade Thank you cards received from teen residents at the Denver Children's Home after a day of friendly board games competitions against GOC Members. Games, snacks and fun for all



Ruth Reiley serving as ticket taker greeter at our pancake fundraiser.

"Flapjacks for a Cause" – she served as greeter and accountant for a successful fundraiser directed to the Denver Children's Home.



Respect for Law Day... honoring Michaela Canzona 2024 GOC Respect for Law Day Recipient Michaela Canzona, CU Anschutz Police Officer shown here after being honored by her Commanding Officers and the GOC for Michaela's community good will endeavors.



Our president, Sheila Woolfolk, photo-bombing Sue Mehl and Kasey. We're loading supplies on the yellow school bus trip to Mexico City Restaurant! **The gang at Mexico City Restaurant for our NOW gathering.** GOC Traveled to 'Mexico City', the one 3 blocks from Coors field, for the club's 5th Wednesday NOW event.

Finally replaced our old felt banners!



The Intro to Reading Partners is our first foray into the program. I took online training to help those in our club who would want to tutor kids online and help them to read better. Bob Reichardt and Ruth Reiley have signed up to be online tutors already!



Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ December 14, 2024 ★


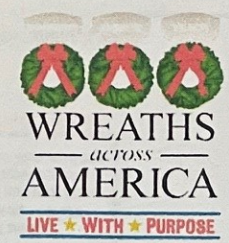
National Wreaths Across America Day



Help Gateway Optimist Club honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Fairmount Cemetery - Denver.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CO0141P

Year-Round Sponsorship Fundraiser for Gateway Optimist Club