



From the Editor

The best things in life are the people we love, the places we have been and the memories we have made along the way. Optimistic Irish Saying



Co-Presidents Corner

Tamarac Optimists Need You in Leadership

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors have been examining the duties of the President and President Elect. **As we plan for new officers for the future, and as our club continues to grow and do more and more service, the goals include:**

- To have enough leaders for the future,
- Not have the burden of leadership on one person,
- Utilize other Board members and general membership expertise to ease the workload of the president,
- Get members to commit to leadership roles and not be afraid of it being too much work/time, while fulfilling the needs of the club and
- Have leaders who are ready to serve.

Claire and I would agree it is a **very rewarding experience** to serve our Tamarac Optimists! We would also agree no one wants the leadership positions to be a burden on someone or take away from normal activities, such as travel and family time.

No, we don't know what our lives will be like 18 months from now. Of course, no one is going to force you to take that position if something changes your life direction. And no, there is never enough time to do everything you want to do, but **we do know you all are good managers.**

There are twelve positions on the Board of Directors and 3 of those are up for election this year. We also need a **President Elect**, someone who would be "in training" for a year and then serve the 2025-2026 year. **If two people work well together and want to share the presidency, that's fine.** But with the right structure, you shouldn't feel it has to be that way. **There are ways to share the workload,** make it happen and go very well. **What stands out with this group of women is, you all take on responsibilities and you carry them through. You all are so good; the club almost runs itself.** The leaders simply do a little leading, some communication and some organization.

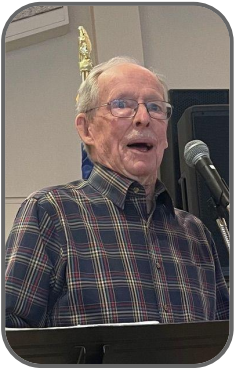
Let **Nancy DeNiro** ndeniro4@gmail.com know if you are interested or have any questions. You can also talk to **Sue Morgan, Bonnie West, Claire Merrill**, or any Board Member about serving your Tamarac Optimists.

Yours in optimism,,

Bonnie West and Claire Merrill

February Programs

Feb 1



Harry Fegley
African Adventure
w/Rovo Rail

Feb 8



**Linda Williams &
Sue Morgan**
Beta tested Game
for JOI Clubs

Feb 15

Sarah Waite
Denver Rescue
Mission



Feb 22



Monarch Accordion Band Concert

Welcome New Members - Roxann Fromm & Libby DeSpain

At the meeting on March 7, co-pres Claire Merrill inducted 2 new members. **Roxann Fromm sponsored by Bonnie West, and Libby DeSpain sponsored by Claire Young.**

Libby DeSpain grew up in Kentucky, lived for a time in Cincinnati in the late 1960's, and moved to Denver in 1971. Her husband was sent here with EPA. They raised their two children here, plus three grandchildren. A Great-Grand is set to arrive mid-April. Bob passed away 2 years ago after a long period of Parkinson's.



Claire M, Roxann, Bonnie, Claire Y, Libby

Libby taught elementary school science. She pursued a doctorate to become a principal, and car-pooled to Greeley with **Nancy O'Brien** who was on the same career path. **Pat Dutton** knows her as Principal Barb DeSpain from Lois Lensky Elementary in Littleton. Her hobbies include tennis, running, travel, and a great deal of family time.

Continued on page 3.....

New member cont....

Born and raised in Imperial Nebraska, **Roxann Fromm** moved here in 1982 to go to UNC where she earned a degree in music education and a master's in integrated arts. She taught in Cherry Creek Schools for her career and continues to substitute in high school special education classes for the highly impacted and autistic students. She loves cross stitch, singing, playing the piano, guitar and flute and walks in the neighborhood.

Roxann lives with her husband Adam who are parents to two boys, James, 24 and Anthony, 23. Both boys earned degrees in Jazz Studies and are jazz musicians. The family loves their summer fishing trips to Minnesota. Roxann says she is really enjoying the Optimists, loves the speakers, meeting all the great women and having the opportunity to volunteer with young children.

Girls On the GO (GOG) Schedule

March GOG

Legendary Ladies Women's History Performance Friday March 22 1:00-2:00pm

Malley Senior Center \$1355+Refreshments are included Contact Kathy Sullivan or Claire Merrill

April GOG

There will not be a Tamarac GOG. We would like you to join the District Fun and Fellowship Event

Tour of Empower Field and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, Saturday, April 13, Cost: \$25

Information and Registration Form are on the District Website. Contact Kathy Sullivan

May GOG

Fiddler's Green Marjorie Park Sculpture Gardens TBA

June GOG

Trucking in Trinidad - Info on page 6 of this newsletter

Friday June 7 -Sunday June 9

July GOG

Staunton State Park in Pine - Sasquatch Museum, Bailey TBA

Newborns In Need Team

Flower Repurposing Team



L-R: Robin Smith, Marilyn Hodges, Jan Dubrick, Suzie Malik, Loretta Blessinger, JoAnne Wingate, Joy Criminger

2/16/24

Patty Sherrod, Loretta Blessinger, 34 bouquets delivered to Clermont Park Nursing home & HighPointe Memory Center

100 flowers delivered to Eastern Star for residents occupational therapy flower arranging class



Invisible String Book at Samuels ES March 5th Sally Evans



Above: Barb Althouse, LuAnn Snyder, Beth Hewlett, Marilyn Bower, Beatriz Montoya, & Sally Evans Prepared to deliver the Invisible String Book to the kindergartners.

Upper Right: Beatriz and LuAnn reading in a classroom.

Lower Right: Enjoying Breakfast at Sam's 3 afterwards.



GOG Annual Getaway - Trucking Through Trinidad

Friday June 7-Sunday June 9

Make your reservations: **La Quinta at 2833 Toupal Dr., Trinidad - 719-845-0102**

**Reservations for the block is under Tamarac Optimist Club
Deadline for Reservations May 30**

Itinerary :

Ludlow Historic Monument: On April 20, 1914 the United Mine Workers were on strike, and they clashed with the Colorado National Guard. This massacre 20 lives lost.

Ave Maria Shrine: This shrine is located on a hillside and is one of the most beautiful and mysterious landmarks. Legend has it that in 1908 a physician was caught in a storm and he was led by a flickering light to a statue of the Virgin Mary that mysteriously appeared.

Mt. San Rafael Hospital to view the beautiful mural telling the History of Trinidad.

Tour Trinidad on the Trolley.

Trinidad History Museum and A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art

As your walk or ride through the town you can look for the faces of Trinidad's past carved or sculpted in bronze in the different types of architecture.

There will be time to explore the shops in Trinidad.

What about the food?

Cracker Barrel (in Pueblo)

Bob and Earl's Cafe

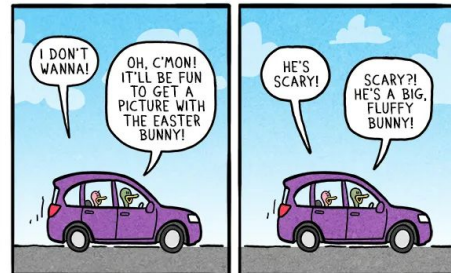
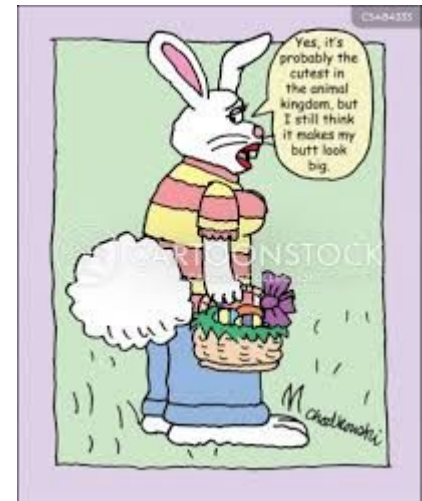
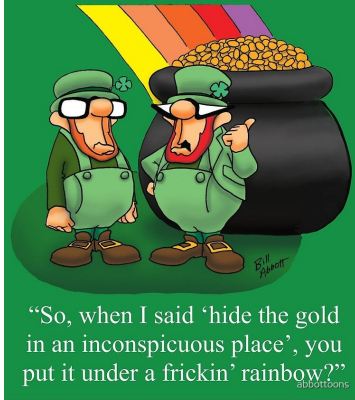
Tequila's Mexican Restaurant - Margaritas are good!

House of China

Saturday and Sunday Breakfast is at the hotel



Feel Good Page:



This is the editor's favorite