

June 14, 2013 – Vol. 38, Issue 37

Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 36 Years

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Pat Bush



Good Morning Optimist

On this Friday, the start of the Father's Day weekend, we were welcomed by the smiling faces of **Al Gapuzan** and **John Oss** this morning.

Invocation & Pledge

President **Paul Simon** called on **Mark Metevia** to deliver the invocation. Mark asked that we remember all those affected by the Colorado wild fires. He then led us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Guests

We had a couple of guests this morning. **Prez Paul** handed the microphone to **Paul Stratton** who introduced **Scott O'Conner** and **Alex Benko**. Welcome gentlemen! We hope you enjoyed the meeting and will visit us again in the near future.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Prez Paul reminded members that the club's monthly board meeting will be Wednesday, June 19th at the office of Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann. The address is 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. As always, all members are welcome to come and see what is discussed behind those closed doors.

Thank you Note

Prez Paul read a thank you note from Morgan VanDeriet. Morgan had been recently presented with the *Charlie Korsoski Award* for Highline Academy.

Super Citizen Swan Song

The presentation of this year's *Charlie Korsoski Awards* at each of the sponsored schools puts a wrap on a long and accomplished reign over this program. **Don Thomson** is retiring from the chairmanship of the

Cont. next page

History of Father's Day

Father's Day was established in the early 20th century and patterned after Mother's Day. The holiday was considered casually by many people, but the main innovator was Sonora Dodd. Dodd held the first significant Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington in 1910, held at the Spokane YMCA center. Dodd's own father fought in the Civil War and then raised six children on his own in Spokane. When Dodd listened to a Mother's Day sermon at her church, she considered the absence of her own mother, who had died in childbirth delivering her sixth child, and her Father's valiant efforts of raising the children on his own, believing there deserved to be a holiday honoring fathers. President Woodrow Wilson wished to make the holiday official, speaking at the 1916 celebration in Spokane, but its commercial nature caused Congress to not pass the bill. President Coolidge also made an attempt. It was not until Margaret Chase Smith, a senator from Maine, stated that it was unfair to honor mothers, and not fathers in 1957. President Johnson finally issued a proclamation in 1966 and Nixon made the holiday official in 1972.



These are excerpts from a posting on wilstar.com.

Quiet Please



Quiet Please: There is concern once again regarding chatter and noise from the audience when guests and others are speaking. Please be considerate of those holding the floor. Thank you!

Meeting Place
American Legion Hall Post 1
5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado
Every Friday Morning, 7:00 – 8:00 am
****INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN****

Super Citizen Swan Song Continued

Super Citizen program. Don extended thanks to many other Optimists for lending help with the program. He wanted to recognize **Joe Marci** for scheduling the presenters and Dr. **Bob Finkelmeier** for help with printing over 826 certificates, letters to parents, and



Don Thomson facilitating the Super Citizen Program at McMeen in April.

Photo John Oss

congratulatory letters from Governor Hickenlooper, plus updating the schedules. Don also thanked the photographers: **John Oss, Marc Goodbody, Greg Young, Les Larson, and Wyatt McCallie**. He extended special thanks to the school representatives; **Randy Marcove** with Bradley International, **Tom Mauro** and **Karl Geil** at Hamilton Middle School, **Jim Easton** for Highline Academy, **Donlie Smith** at Holm Elementary, **Paul Stratton** for Lowry Elementary, **Pat Sullivan** with Most Precious Blood, **Kent Gloor** at Samuels Elementary, **Tom Hoch** with Slavens Elementary, **Bob Avery** and **Jack Rife** at University Park Elementary, and himself representing McMeen Elementary. Don now passes the baton to **Robert Wardlaw**. The Monaco South Optimist Club thanks you, Don. You have done a great job with the program!

Announcements

HOBY Leadership Conference: The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership conference was held last weekend at Colorado Christian University. This was a chance for the membership to get to meet some of the country's emerging youth leaders. **Paul Bernard** reported that several members took that opportunity. They were **Mark Metevia, Karl Geil, Ron Cisco, Rich Wagner, George Buzick, and Ed Collins**. Karl reported that he met two delegates who revealed that they were past Super Citizen winners.

Tamarac Optimist Club's 20th Anniversary: **John Young** reminded us that the 20th anniversary of the Tamarac Optimist Club is coming up this Tuesday evening, June 18th. He says 120 people are expected to attend the affair. RSVP, see the party invitation attached to the GUMS distribution email.

Community Picnic: The Council District 4 Community Picnic is next Saturday, June 22nd at Bible Park. **Greg Young** announced that Monaco South Optimist will be helping with the children's activities. The event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be free food and beverages and the Denver Municipal Band will give a performance. Please let Greg know if you can help out during the picnic.



HELP US TO HELP YOU

Please help us the newsletter editors get it accurately. If you will just write a small summary of your announcement, we can make sure that the articles published in the newsletter are accurate. Showing up at your project at Bible Park with all your help going to Cook Park is not a fun experience. Even if you just answer the 5 W's, it will help. Let us know who, what, when, where, and why, and we'll help you insure your project is a success.

Thank you in advance, your editor, Pat Bush, Paul Stratton, John Oss, George Buzick, Robert Wardlaw, and Robert Finkelmeier.

Optimist Junior Golf: **Ron Cisco** reminded us that the CO-WY District Junior Golf Tournaments will be held this week. The younger competitors will tee it up on Tuesday, June 18th at Fitzsimmons Golf Course in Aurora and the older kids will play on Thursday, June 20th at the Flatirons Course in Boulder. Ron said we have the Fitzsimmons Tournament well covered but we still need scorers for the Boulder date. He asked that even if we could not show until noon, the help with scoring would be of great help. Let Ron know if you can make it out.



Closing Bell

The lucky drawing winners this week were **Allen Yockey, Jack Rife, Tom Hoch, Russ Paul, Allen Yockey** (Again), **Karl Geil, Oscar Sorensen**, and **Eldon Strong**. **Karl Geil's** name was drawn for a chance at the big pot but no luck. Wait a minute; there is another bonus drawing, but the tickets were already discarded so the bonus will be saved until next week. Bet you can't guess the bonus prize. Yep another bobble head.

Member Spotlight, Jim Vander Kamp

Article & photo by Craig Eley

Jim Vander Kamp is probably unique among Monaco South members in that he has worked the last 39 years for the same employer. One reason for this may be that Jim considers his tenure at Roundup Fellowship to more than just employment – it is his calling.



Jim was born and grew up in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. He attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he met and married Elaine. During his later years of education he supported himself by working for a steel company and on a garbage truck. Upon graduation from Calvin, they moved to Elaine's home town of Lynden, Washington, where Jim obtained employment at Lynden Christian High School, teaching church history and sociology. He pursued a graduate degree during this time, earning a Master's in sociology in 1974. In that year he and Elaine moved to Denver, where they became house parents for Roundup Fellowship.

Roundup Fellowship was incorporated as a non-profit the year before, in 1973, by a group of people who saw a need to help troubled and abused boys.

Cont. next page

Our Speaker, Walker Stapleton, Colorado State Treasurer

It's For The Kids; Or Is It?

Our speaker this morning was Colorado State Treasurer, Walker Stapleton. Walker talked about the duties of the state treasurer's office. He feels that one of the most important duties is to invest the taxpayer's money wisely while insuring safety and liquidity. To date, the State of Colorado has been able to balance its budget as required by the Colorado Constitution; however, it is getting more difficult to do so.



Walker Stapleton
Photo Don StJohn

Walker is concerned about the growth of funding in three areas that are putting greater strains on the state budget. These are the expansion of Medicare coverage under ObamaCare, the Public Employee's Retirement Funds, and K through 12 education. This fall Colorado Taxpayers will be asked for tax increases that will amount to more than one billion dollars. It will be argued that this tax increase is needed to update classroom technology and reduce student/teacher ratios; however, nothing prevents it from going into the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA). Currently the school districts have to contribute over 20% of a teacher's salary budget to PERA (an astronomical

amount when compared to the private sector) and nothing limit's the future growth of that contribution in this legislation.

The required PERA contributions that school districts are compelled to make have been raised twice over the last ten years. The current contribution is based on an assumed 8% annual rate of return on PERA's investments. Most financial analysts feel this is overly optimistic and that school districts will be asked for larger contributions in the future to keep PERA solvent. That will mean diverting even more money away from the classrooms.

Walker has asked lawmakers to cap the school districts PERA contributions at the current 20% level. He would like to see 15% in order to assure that the proposed tax increase stays in the classrooms but that request has not been granted. Walker likens this situation to a state budget boat that is sinking because of three large holes in the bottom of the boat and nothing is being done to repair the holes. The Colorado taxpayer is just being asked to put more water into the lake.

Vander Kamp continued

During the following two years they opened three group homes in the Denver metropolitan area and purchased a 4,000 acre ranch near Ramah, Colorado (29 miles southwest of Limon on U.S. 24).

As houseparent's, Jim and Elaine took care of up to 12 boys, 24 hours a day during a six-day work week. For this they were compensated \$550 per month between them [author's note: before you feel too sorry for Jim and Elaine, remember that 48¢ an hour went a lot further then than it does now].

Jim worked about every job there was in the organization, and in 1979 was named Roundup Fellowship's Executive Director, a position he continues to hold. By that time, the focus of the non-profit had changed to helping boys and girls with developmental disabilities, with a goal of bringing dignity to their lives while helping them to become as independent and productive as possible.

Today, these clients include adults and children with conditions such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and those who display physical aggression or self-abusiveness.

During their life together Jim and Elaine took in a number of foster children and had four children of their own. Jim enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and spending time with their six grandchildren.

Jim was brought into Monaco South by a co-worker, former member Terry Boxer, who was a childhood friend of Fred Pasternack. Given his life-long passion for helping children, it was probably inevitable that Jim would become a member of a club whose motto is "Friend of Youth."



Weekly Greeters	
Date	Greeters
6/21/13	Ralph Pederson & Bryce Slaby
6/28/13	Russ Paul & Ron Carlson
7/5/13	Pat Bush & Les Larson
7/12/13	Frank Ross & Bob Avery
7/19/13	Leo Hagele & Barry Barker
7/26/13	Mark Metevia & Fred Pasternack

Monaco South Calendar

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|---|
| June 18 | Tues | Optimist Junior Golf, Fitzsimmons Golf Course |
| June 18 | Tues 5:30 pm | Tamarac 20 th Anniversary, Franciscan Event Center |
| June 19 | Wed 6:30 pm | Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102 |
| June 20 | Thur | Optimist Junior Golf, Flatirons Golf Course |
| June 21 | Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day |
| June 22 | Sat 11:00 am | Community Picnic, Bible Park |

**Past Presidents of the
Optimist Club of Monaco South**

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Mark Metevia	1994-95
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Bob Safe	1995-96
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Tom Overton	1996-97
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Cy Regan	1999-00
John Young	1982-83	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Pat Bush	1983-84	Don St. John	2001-02
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Jack Rife	2002-03
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Karl Geil	2003-04
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Bob Avery	1989-90	Greg Young	2007-08
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bill Walters	1991-92	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Ed Collins	2010-11
Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Randy Marcove	2011-12

2012 - 2013 Officers

President	Paul Simon	303-300-9940
Vice President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	Jon Wachter	303-204-5645
Secretary	Jack Rife	303-349-1280
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Barry Barker	813-545-4533
Par Bush	720-747-5482
Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
John Oss	720-210-8056
Allen Pierce	303-833-8506
Michael Short	970-261-6012
Scott Walker	303-517-1862
Randy Marcove (Past Pres.)	303-667-3663

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Ralph Petersen	303-759-3384	r.pedersen2658@comcast.net
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jpiccinelli@earthlink.net	John Oss	720-210-8056	john.oss4us@gmail.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.com	Paul Stratton	303-366-6375	pcstratton@comcast.net
George Buzick	303-803-2268	gtbuzick@comcast.net	Pat Bush	720-254-3741	pbush@bushreese.com
Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	rlawardlaw@gmail.com	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	craigceley@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Jun Pat Bush, Jul Paul Stratton, Aug John Oss

THE OPTIMIST CREED — Promise Yourself . . .

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.