



September 14, 2007  
Vol. 31, Issue 50

# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



## The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976

Denver, Colorado

[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for this Issue - - Craig Eley ([craig@eley.net](mailto:craig@eley.net))

### Monaco South's 31st Installation Banquet

Last Saturday a big crowd of Club members, spouses and friends showed up at Blossoms Restaurant at Heather Gardens for Monaco South's annual awards and installation extravaganza. The event was beautifully put together by **Immediate Past President Donlie Smith**, and went off like clockwork. Despite its ominous name, the Chicken Oscar was delicious, as was the steak. A Power Point presentation (reportedly created by **Bill Litchfield** before he ran out of town) left



Ralph Pedersen (right), the recipient of the Marlin Kent Eternal Optimist Award, with Marlin Kent.

the crowd laughing, after which **Lt. Gov. Bryce Slaby** swore in the new officers and Board members. New Board member Bill Wells took the occasion to point out that he could actually win an election.

Award recipients were too numerous to mention here, since so many MSOCers contribute so much each year to the Club. A couple warrant special mention, however. The Marlin Kent Eternal Optimist Award, which

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#### Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1  
5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado  
Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.

## Proceedings of the Meeting of September 14, 2007

### Invocation & Pledge

**Frank Middleton** led us in the invocation, and asked us to pray that his closing would go well later in the day. Then he had the temerity to take a breath before leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance, during which half the Club started reciting the pledge. The other half waited until Frank was ready, which resulted in an unrecognizable meshing of the two recitations, each three seconds out of sync with the other. Frank observed that it sounded worse than the Club's version of "Happy Birthday." We hope the closing went better than the opening.

### Special Guest

**Curt Boell** brought his wife, **Sharon**, a neonatologist at Denver Health (she apparently has nothing to do with neon, but is



a doctor who deals with newborns). She thanked the Club for its annual assistance in the March of Dimes Mud Volleyball fundraiser. She gave some

information about the March of Dimes, telling us that after the organization's research led to the eradication of polio in the US, it looked for another challenge. Today that challenge is preventing birth defects and helping with the problems of premature infants. Sharon said that the priorities of the March of Dimes with any disease or condition is: 1) help those who have it, 2) find the cause, and 3) prevent it.

### Another Guest

**Craig Eley** brought former member **Mark Westlund**. Mark didn't say, but maybe he attended because he heard about the

burgeoning pot.

### This Day in History

As is his wont (and we hope the next president won't), **President Paul Bernard** regaled us with more tidbits from days past. Of particular interest to Club members was the first prefrontal lobotomy, performed on September 14, 1956. Someone reported that **Oscar Sorensen** has already had two!

### Duck, Duck, Goosed!

**Pete Dimond** had the nerve to tell the Club that after all the tickets he sold to Monaco South members, not one of us won any of the prize money in last Sunday's Ft. Lupton Optimist Club Duck Race (do you think those Ft. Lupton hayseeds are laughing up their bib overalls at us city slickers?). As Broncos fans say, "Just wait 'til next year!"

### Let Them Entertain You

In case the meeting was not entertaining enough, **Joe Marci** showed up loaded down with Entertainment Books. He will be selling them for \$25 each, with the proceeds being split 50-50 between our Junior Golf program and the Bob Sullivan scholarships.

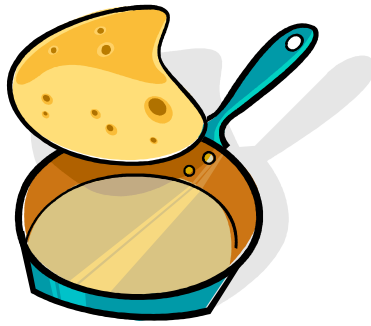
### Comedy Club

**President Paul Bernard** made the mistake of mentioning that there were a few extra minutes remaining before the speaker was scheduled to start (you would think that by now he would know better) and so **John Young** and **Phil Perington** felt compelled to fill the dead air with a couple of jokes. When they were done, shouts of "Bring back Bryce!" emanated from the crowd, which explains more eloquently than your editor ever could the audience's appreciation of their humor.



## Pans

The pans the Club used to whip up pancake breakfasts at the Furry Scurry this past May are missing, and **Don St. John** wants to know where they are. If you know their whereabouts, leave Don an anonymous message at 303-757-2170, and no one gets hurt.



## Pots

The 8 of Clubs was the card that needed to be drawn in order to win the \$120 pot at the end of the meeting. With only three cards remaining in the deck, these three worthies were chosen by lottery to try their luck; **Jim Rumer, Dick Zolman, and Don Thomson**. Unbelievably, all three drew the 5 of Diamonds.

## 100% Day is Next Friday

The pot will be \$130, and the odds of drawing the winning card will be 50-50. If that doesn't entice every single Monaco South member to get to the meeting next week, nothing will. Let's make this the best 100% day ever, with all 130 of us joining in what will undoubtedly be a fun, boisterous and (at least for one member) profitable gathering to give a send-off to **President Paul Bernard** and make it a great day in history!

## Speaker

The speaker for the September 14, 2007 meeting of The Optimist Club of Monaco South was member **Craig Eley**. Noting that this upcoming Monday was Constitution Day, his topic was "Constitutional Quirks," during which he gave Club members ammunition to throw at the Liberty Day kids the next time they are confronted by them at a Rockies game.

Rhode Island and North Carolina, Craig mentioned, refused to approve the Constitution (in fact, it was voted down 10-1 in a popular vote in Rhode Island) and so were not part of the United States until more than a year after ratification of the Constitution. Thus, they missed out on voting in the first presidential election, so George Washington had to win unanimously without their votes. Once these two states realized that they would not be able to go it alone, they joined up.

There have been more than 10,000 Constitutional amendments introduced into Congress over the centuries, but only 33 have obtained the required two-thirds vote of both houses and been referred to the states. Of those, six have failed to pass.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which outlawed slavery, was not approved by Mississippi until 1995, although Mississippi, like all other states, was bound by it when it was ratified in 1865. Other examples of states being late to the party were Tennessee, which did not approve the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (giving former male slaves the right to vote) until 10 years ago, in 1997, and Mississippi (again) not approving the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (women's suffrage) until 1984.

The most recent amendment, the 27<sup>th</sup>, prohibits Congress from passing a law to raise its pay unless the raise becomes effective only after the next election. This was proposed with the original 10 amendments

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recognizes a member for a lifetime of dedication to the cause of Optimism and being a friend of youth, was bestowed upon **Ralph Pedersen**. It was a special moment as Marlin was there to congratulate Ralph.



**Cy Regan (left) and Don St. John (right) receive Optimist of the Decade Awards from John Young (center).**

**John Young** presented a new award, the Optimist of the Decade Award, to a couple of Monaco South members who he called the

“Twin Powers,” **Cy Regan and Don St. John.**

The Club was honored to have 2006-07 Colo/Wyo **District Governor Sherman Phillips** present, as well as Club member and incoming 2007-08 **District Governor George Buzick**. George began his remarks with “As Henry VIII said to each of his wives, ‘I won’t keep you long.’” George was true to his word, but mentioned that the slogan for his year as

Governor will be “Be a hero, save a kid.”

The Club heard a retrospective of the year from outgoing **President Paul Bernard** and a look to the future from **President-Elect Greg Young**. Greg’s motto will be “It’s a great time to be an Optimist.”

Club member and **Past Governor Tom Overton** presented the traditional blue President’s Jacket to Paul Bernard, while all the former presidents who were present put theirs on and came forward to congratulate



**Incoming 2007-08 District Governor George Buzick revealed his slogan: “Be a hero, save a kid.”**

Paul on an outstanding year. It was, indeed, a great time to be an Optimist!



**Incoming President Greg Young looks toward the future.**



**2006-07 President Paul Bernard tries on the traditional Blue Jacket while past presidents look on.**

*All photos courtesy of Don St. John*

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but was not ratified by enough states until 1992, 203 years later. This unprecedented delay between proposal and passage came about after Greg Watson, a Texas college student, came across the moribund amendment in 1982 while looking for a research paper topic. He noticed that the amendment contained no deadline for ratification, so he wrote a paper on the premise that it could still be ratified if enough states approved it. His teacher was unimpressed by his argument and gave him a "C," noting that Greg's premise was "improbable."

While this grade would have been welcomed by most Monaco South members, Greg was not satisfied. Over the ensuing decade he contacted state legislatures and persisted until the amendment was approved by enough states to gain ratification in 1992.

Greg might have won the battle but lost the war, however, as Congress has managed to ignore the amendment. His teacher, however, who was contacted by reporters when the amendment gained ratification, did apologize for the "C."

Another bit of Constitutional trivia revealed by Craig was the fact that there is one part of the Constitution which cannot, by its terms, be amended. This appears in Article V, which

provides that a state's voting power in the Senate cannot be reduced without its consent, and that this provision is not subject to amendment. This was intended to prevent states from ganging up on another state and stripping it of its voting rights. Quite a suspicious bunch, the Founding Fathers.



Craig related that Constitution Day was created when Senator Robert Byrd (who reportedly keeps a copy of the Constitution in his pocket at all times) slipped a provision into a funding bill in 2004. It not only made September 17 Constitution Day, but

requires that all schools that receive federal funds teach the Constitution on September 17 of each year. Sen. Byrd, however, included no penalty for not teaching the Constitution, nor provided any funding to help schools teach it. Thus, the requirement is often ignored.

Because the 10th Amendment reserves to the states those powers not specifically granted to the federal government, and since the Constitution does not mention anything about education, Craig reported that there are those scholars who have suggested that the Constitution Day teaching requirement is, itself, unconstitutional.



**Next Meeting is 100% Day!**

## Monaco South Calendar

- |               |             |  |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| <b>Sep 21</b> | Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - <b>100% Day</b> - Mark McMillan, Denver Health. |
| <b>Sep 27</b> | Thu 6:30 pm | Board Meeting - Eley office, 3515 S. Tamarac Dr., # 200.               |
| <b>Sep 28</b> | Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day.                                |
| <b>Oct 5</b>  | Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Scott Henke, Computers & the Internet.          |

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

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

**2005 - 2006 Officers**

President	Paul Bernard	303-721-0811
Vice President	Phil Perington	303-832-4578
Vice President & President-Elect	Greg Young	303-759-3921
Secretary	Nick Newey	720-981-9552
Treasurer	George Buzick	303-985-0655

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Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Scott Walker	303-517-1862
Todd Olson	303-759-4228
Bill Litchfield	303-782-0465
John Young	303-692-8202
Carl Brown	303-758-8355
Donlie Smith (Past Pres.)	303-759-0380

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Marc Goodbody	303-202-1610	mgoodbod@gmail.com
Marlin Kent	303-779-0778	
Jim Leuschner	720-851-7102	flyleusch@aol.com

**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.

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