



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

May 1, 2009

Vol. 33, Issue 31

The Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Bill Walters



Good Morning Optimists! Standing Room Only Today!

All the News That's Fit to be Read

Invocation & Pledge

If you got there early, you could see **Tom McKee** and **Dick Cohen** were there even earlier to greet us, but they were overwhelmed by 6:50am. They were lost in this very lively crowd.

Donlie Smith reminded us that only we have the ability to control the presence of trouble in our own lives. He then lead us through *The Pledge of Allegiance* that was pronounced in harmony and with lots of vigor.

Guests

Hello **Steve Yates**. Good to see you back! Steve we need your updated email address.

Jim Brown's guest this morning was our former member Carl Brown. **Karl Geil** introduced Bill Gamby, who is one of the "brains" behind the *Brain Bowl*. Karl also told us about the third leg of the 2009 Brain Bowl, will take place in Colorado Springs Saturday morning. Colorado-Wyoming Governor-Elect, George Mills visited us and asked for our leadership in the upcoming year. Joyce Laman, from the Tamarac Optimist Club told us that the ladies of Tamarac are sponsoring a **KRAZY RACE** on Saturday, June 6th. You and three of your friends will

drive to the first of 10 stations in the Southeast Metro Denver area to perform a KRAZY tasks and get instructions for the second location, etc. A shot-gun start at 2:00pm gets all the action going. Cost is \$15 per person. Call Joyce at 303-757-2770 to sign up.

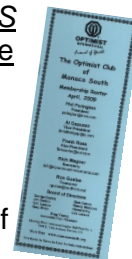
Utterings from Prez Phil

President Phil reported that the District meeting this past week at Castle Rock came off without a hitch and was a very good meeting. MSOCers present were **President Phil, George Buzick, Tom Overton, Paul Bernard, and Harry Fegley.**

A thank you letter from the History Club of East High School was read to the group. Monaco South Optimist Club gave money to the History Club for their trip to Washington DC for the National History Day. This is their third year to the Nationals. They are a very successful history club.

Announcements

Craig Eley passed out the latest OCMS Membership Roster and the Group Picture from the **2008 100% Day**. The roster is available free to all members and the framed group picture is only \$10, if you would like one see Craig. The new roster features one of Craig's great mug shots of each smiling member right next to his contact info. This version of the roster was compiled by Craig and **Tom Mauro**, and was printed through the courtesy of **Doug Morton**. Thanks!



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

Announcements continued

Hurry—only 2 weeks left until The Adult Golf Tournament to raise funds for **Junior Golf**, which takes place on May 13th at Flatirons Golf Club in Boulder. Only \$100 for golf, cart, lunch, and lots of fun; plus \$50 of that goes to **Junior Golf**. **Joe Marci** is in charge of this one. If interest in participating, please call Joe at 303-847-7844.

Andy McKean, who is President of Liberty Day, handed me a flyer stating Africa Agenda Presents The Cameroon Information and Education Day (CIED). This project consists of distributing 100,000 copies of the Cameroon Constitution in English and French to academic institutions, civil society groups, and individuals in order to spread knowledge about Cameroon and the concepts of constitutional democracy. Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission is free—Thursday, May 7th from 5 to 7 pm at The FORUM, Community College of Aurora, 16000 E. Centre Tech Parkway, Aurora.

Next week's meeting will be Musical Chairs reported **Frank Middleton**. You will have an opportunity to have breakfast with members you usually don't sit with and find really interesting stuff about your fellow MSOCers who you thought you really knew—more to come next week!

Essay Contest Winners

One of the reasons for all the excitement and large crowd this morning was because the Essay Contest Winners, their parents, the judges, and some teachers were here to be honored. Jake Hazen, the first place winner read his essay, which was entitled, "*The Power of Youth*." In 431 words, Jake expressed his feelings on the youth of today.

Jake is a polished speaker and did an outstanding job with this essay.

Sami and Robert Hazen, his parents looked on proudly.

The second place winner was Robin Emerson.

Her parents, Paula and Keith Emerson did

a great job raising a very talented young lady. This competition was very competitive and the top four winners were all close. There was a tie for third place. Asia Dorsey, with her mother, Clarice, and Michael DeGregori with his mother, Holly. All receive certificates. Our own **Joe Marci** always does a tremendous job on this project. Joe introduced two of the three Judges. Paula Kauffman and Jan



Joe, on the right, with the essay contest winners from TJ High School.

Photo by Don StJohn

Shellhammer were in attendance but Joe's daughter, Nicki Marci, had month-end duties at her work and couldn't make breakfast. Also in attendance were the long-time coordinators from Thomas Jefferson High School, Gordon Heaton and Scott Lessard, Assistant Principal.

Does **Cy Regan** do a great job or what? Today's Supermarket Sales amounted to \$1,775. King Sooper = \$1,025 and Safeway = \$750. We get 5%!

History of Korsoski Super Citizen

The Optimist Club of Monaco South is very proud to present this award in fond memory of Charlie Korsoski. Charlie originated the Super Citizenship program in 1982. The program began with only three elementary schools in Southeast Denver; Samuels, Southmoor and Holm. It later expanded to include Bradley International School, Most Precious Blood Catholic School, Hamilton Middle School in 1988, McMeen Elementary in 1992, Slavens Elementary and University Park Elementary in 2007, and Lowry Elementary in 2008.

Charlie was indeed a FRIEND OF YOUTH. The purpose of the Super Citizenship award is to reward good citizenship of students before their peers. Recipients are chosen by their teacher for improvement in academic grades, social skills, attitude, academic growth, good attendance, courtesy, helpfulness, cooperation, and improved behavioral skills. The Super Citizenship award includes a framed certificate, signed by the teacher, principal, Optimist Club of Monaco South club president, Mayor of Denver, and Chief of Police. A special "I AM A SUPER CITIZEN" T-shirt is also given out to each child during the assembly.



The Super Citizenship program received the special project award from Optimist International in 2007. The program has become the flagship project for the Optimist Club of Monaco South for its 26 years of dedication to the youth of Denver. The Club has issued an average of 540 awards each school year to students in these 9 schools.

Sadly, Charlie Korsoski passed away in January 1992, at the age of 84, but the program continues and includes many Optimist volunteers. Special recognition goes to Mr. Marlin Kent, who along with Charlie, kept records and took the picture of each student. These photos are given to the student and school. Mr. Gerald Davis willingly took over as coordinator of the program from 1992 to 2002, and still is an active volunteer in the program. Mr. Don Thomson is the current coordinator. Other fellow Optimists who give much time to the success of the program include Messrs. Marc Goodbody and Don St. John who share all the photography and development

Continued on next page

Speaker for Today

Janice Blanchard, our speaker, was introduced by Greg Young. Janice is Director of Bradley International School & Community Gardens. (Do you remember THAT Bradley International School in our neighborhood and one of our Super Citizen recipient schools? – the one that looked like a prison with high fence and dirt. GO SEE IT NOW!)



Photo by Don St. John

Janice is a gerontologist (look it up) and former director of the Mayor's Denver Office of Aging. She is also a national consultant on a new model called "Aging in Community" that helps older adults stay in their homes and connected to their communities. Well anyway, Janice is involved with a group that is putting GARDENS on the Bradley property. One reason Janice liked Bradley for this project is because they have an *All Day Kindergarten*. Janice shared that many kids don't really know where fruits, vegetables, meat, etc., come from these days. Getting involved in gardening helps kids work on a project from the start, nurture all the plants, work with the dirt, overcome problems like weeds, and see the results of their work. Bradley's kids are participating in Monaco South's Super Citizen program and love this program also. We are invited to participate in this Community Garden project if you would like to volunteer as a Garden Mentor. Great program you have Janice and thanks for your work with our kids! More can be learned at: <http://bradley.dpsk12.org/garden>.

History of Korsoski Super Citizen cont.

duties, and Dr. Robert Finkelmeier who does the computer work to prepare all the citizenship certificates.

This year's Korsoski award winner will receive a special certificate, in honor and memory of Charlie, a U.S. Savings Bond, and his/her name on a plaque displayed in his/her school hallway.

Furry Scurry

Pictures from Saturday's Furry Scurry. Thanks go out to Don St. John for his coordination of this event, and to all the early-bird MSOC volunteers.



Don St. John, chief GUMS photographer on right, with Greg Young, and some of the Furry Scurry mascots.

Monaco South Calendar

May 8	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Nathan Bale, Boy Scouts Denver Area Council
May 14	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School - Paul Bernard, presenter
May 15	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
May 16	Sat	10:00 am	Inner City Community Kids Fair
May 21	Thu	1:00/2:00 pm	Super Citizen, Lowry Elementary - Les Larson, presenter
May 22	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker Pending
May 27	Wed	11:00/11:30 am	Super Citizen, University Park Elementary - Sewell Black, presenter
May 28	Thu	12:30/1:30	Super Citizen, Samuels Elementary - Gray Strowbridge, presenter <small>This presentation was moved from April 29th.</small>
May 29	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Lisa Silva, Diesel Fuel Retrofit Program
Jun 28	Sun	All Day	MS150 Rest Stop
Jul 8-11			Optimist International Convention, Kissimmee Florida
Sep 11-13	Weekend		Honeymoon/Getaway Weekend-Colorado Arlberg Club-Winter Park
Sep 26	Sat	6:00 pm	Monaco South Year End Banquet— SAVE THE DATE!

Past Presidents of the Optimist Club of Monaco South

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

2008 - 2009 Officers

President	Phil Perington	303-832-4578
Vice President	Al Gapuzan	303-770-0499
Vice President	Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Secretary	Rich Wagner	303-362-5328
Treasurer	Ron Gustas	303-770-9640

Board of Directors

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Howard Fry	303-300-4466
Les Larson	303-755-1213
O.C. Larson	303-797-7432
Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Greg Young (Past Pres.)	303-759-3921

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS 2009: **MAY:** ROBERT WARDLAW, **JUNE:** RALPH PEDERSEN, **JULY:** GREG YOUNG, **AUGUST:** BILL WALTERS

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.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
AT DENVER, COLORADO AND

Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (USPS 401730)
Is published weekly for \$2.00 per year by the
Optimist Club of Monaco South at
4173 S. Rosemary Way, Denver, CO 80237
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
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P.O. Box 159
WHEATRIDGE, CO 80034-0159