



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



February 19, 2016 – Vol. 40, Issue 21

Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 39 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Phil Perington



Good Morning Optimists

In the afterglow of the Wives & Friends to Brunch and the 2016 Super Bowl Championship, we were greeted this morning by Past Prez **John Oss** and Charter Member **Ralph Pedersen**. Both were in full bloom and greeting everyone happily.

Editors Observations

Wearing a bold CU jacket, the ever dapper **Tom Mauro** was eagerly delivering Girl Scout Cookies. **Lynn Jones**, who always backs his truck into a parking space, was enjoying his breakfast a little more than usual this morning. New member **John Scarborough** was visiting and being welcomed by **Frank Middleton** and **Bob Avery**. **Paul Simon**, back from Governor-Elect training in St. Louis was proudly wearing his new Optimist International shirt, wrinkles and all. Strolling about, still wearing all his Bronco stuff (pajamas?) **Jon Wachter** was grinning ear to ear. There was a group of Past Governors huddled in a far corner that included **Tom Overton**, **George Buzick** and **Ron Cisco** discussing who knows what. Ironman **Mike** (*Chewbacca to be dripping*) **McMahon** was working the room getting contributors for his upcoming plunge into Aurora Reservoir. Our best dressed guy of the day, **Ricardo Ortiz** was looking very dapper. **Wyatt McCallie** and **Paul Stratton** were lost in loud animated conversation apparently discussing hearing loss associated with advancing aging.

A hot and delicious breakfast was served this morning of fresh cantaloupe, pastries, juice, scrambled eggs, hash browns, sliced Virginia ham, salsa, coffee and assorted tea. Of course health rolled oats and doughnuts could also be found if you talked with **Gary Miller**, who playing cashier.

First Bell

President **Mike Chavez** gaveled the bell at 7 a.m. sharp and reflected on his thoughts of how the Creed inspires us all to be Optimists. The invocation was presented by **Carl Brown**, highlighting *Respect for Law* and to urge the youth we serve to do likewise. The Pledge followed by the first rousing "Play Ball!" Note: Starting today the *Colorado Rockies* pitchers and Catchers are currently at Spring Practice. It indeed is the start of the season!



From the Prez

Prez Michael then reported the 2016 Nominating Committee was chosen at the Thursday evening board meeting, for the upcoming new officers election. He also shared that 1,310 trees were sold and we grossed approximately \$42,000, netting the Club, after expenses a very solid \$35,000. The thanked everyone for their hard work, which was led by Commander-in-Chief **Joe Marci**. He also congratulated **Craig and Cindy Eley** for the success of the Wives to Breakfast and Magical Mystery Tour soiree.

Announcements

Club Oratorical Contest: **Prez Michael** started the announcements by stating that MSOC will hold our Club Oratorical Contest on March 23rd and needs two more volunteers and a Committee Chairman. If interested in assisting with this, please see Michael. Following by saying Optimist International will convene the First World Oratorical Championship with a winner's prize of \$10,000 in St. Louis. The CO-WY District deadline to submit the our winner information to Optimist International is May 15, 2016.

Brain Bowl: **Karl Geil** says by the time you read this, we will have conducted our Optimist Brain Bowl Championship Tournament on Saturday, February 20, at Hamilton Middle School. So far, we have served approximately 1,090 kids who participated in this event this year. There have been a total of 218 teams (89 at North, 86 at Central, and 43 at South) from 55 different schools (25 at North, 19 at Central, and 11 at South) throughout Colorado and Wyoming. Thanks to all who volunteered this year. And for those who have not yet experienced an Optimist Brain Bowl, what are you waiting for? We'll be back again next year with plans to be bigger and better than ever.

Post Note: Here is the link to Tom Hoch's video clip of this year's event: <https://vimeo.com/album/2654384/video/156123339>.



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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

2016 Eagle Scout Recognition: Donlie Smith reported that this evening Monaco South will be at the 17th Annual Eagle Scout Dinner. He also presented the actual trophy winning Eagle Scouts which will be presented, designed and created by our own **John Young**. There have been 135 of these magnificent rewards presented to date and to sit on many mantels. This program evolved from a MSOC dinner celebration organized by Donlie Smith.

John Oss who attended the dinner provided these pictures. On stage are the recipients, **Michael Chavez**, and **Donlie Smith**.



Below a few of the trophies to be presented.



Super Citizen Presentations: Robert Wardlaw 581 Super Citizens have been recognized thus far this year at 10 elementary and middle schools. He urges members to please get involved and experience the Super Citizen Program first hand. See Dr. **Rob Gardner** for presentation dates available in March and April.

JDRF Gala Wine Cork Pull: The annual JDRF Dream Gala will be held on Saturday, April 17th at the Downtown Sheraton. **Dick Cohen** asked OCMS members for wine donations for the Gala "Wine Pull." This is where a Gala patron for a \$25 donation can buy a cork with a number on it and that number is then matched to a bottle of donated wine. If you have any bottles of wine that you can donate, please bring them to a meeting and give to either Dick or **Ron Gustas**. JDRF asks that wine donations be worth a minimum of \$25. You can receive a tax deduction for your donations. Proceeds from the Gala help finance JDRF funded research seeking a cure for and improved treatment options of Type 1 Diabetes. Contact Dick at 513-600-9961 or email at rmcohen234@gmail.com.

Tri-Star Basketball: John Bamford said the Tri-Star Basketball competition was held Wednesday, February 17th at will be held at the Cope Boys and Girls Club. Those in attendance were **John Bamford**, **Michael Chavez**, **John Young**, **Gary Strowbridge**, **Ron Cisco**, **Mark Metevia**, **John Greene**, **Don Thomson**, **Joe Marci**, **Don Roth**, and **Al Gapuzan**.



Becoming a Member: John Scarborough pronounced his excitement and anticipation of being an active member of MSOC. He is currently involved in a school tech training program, that teaches programming skills to interested 10 to

15 year-old students. The sessions are held two days a week and for a total of 18 hours. He noted there are over 600,000 open computer jobs available nationally, and welcomes any club member to volunteer. John can be reached at Silicon STEM Academy, 303-800-0012.

Hamilton Middle School Super Bowl Reading Challenge: **Steve Kady** mentioned Hamilton Middle School is the overwhelming winner in the Super Bowl Reading contest. The students read a certified 60,970 pages of literature, which exceeded the competition by over 50,000 pages. Denver Bronco **David Bruton**, **Jon Wachter**, **Michael Chavez**, **Tom Hoch**, **Karl Geil**, and Steve visited students on Friday afternoon to congratulate and embrace their effort as Champions. In an email from **Carolyn Leahy**, a Hamilton Librarian, she wrote: "This afternoon's assembly with Mr. Burton was a once in a lifetime experience for our kids. Thank you so much for making this happen! I've attached a photo of the view of the full auditorium from where I sat on the stage. What a view!"

Thank you and all of the members of the Optimist Club for reminding our students of what they can achieve."



Left, A full auditorium for the Friday's presentation.

Right, Jon Wachter with #30 of the Denver Broncos, David Bruton.



Special Olympics Polar Plunge: Mike McMahon said on Saturday at 1 p.m. he, as disguised as the infamous "Chewy" Chewbacca will make the plunge into Aurora Reservoir to raise money for Special Olympics. Over \$2,000 has been pledged to the cause so far. Funding is used to help students who cannot afford the cost of equipment and fees to participate in their favorite sports program.

CO-WY Optimist at Denver Golf Expo: Joe Marci reminded us that 20 volunteers will be working at Denver Merchandise Mart for the Denver Gold Expo this weekend. So far \$200 was raised for Jr. Golf on Super Bowl Pools. Winners have been paid and everyone, except the losers, are happy. He then held the drawing for the 2016 Free Christmas Tree winner (MSOC members are not eligible) and the lucky name drawn was **Meg Blair**. She was not in the room and will be notified. The tree will delivered in December.

Hello Dolly Production: Proud **John Oss** encouraged all to attend the Thomas Jefferson High School production of Hello Dolly taking place March 16 through 19th at 7 p.m. in the TJ auditorium. The actor and actress roles rotate among 50 students; however, his granddaughter, Anya Oss is Dolly in one of the Plays.

CO-WY 2nd Qtr. Conference: Lt Governor **Jon Wachter** reminded us that the 2nd Qtr. Conference is Saturday, February 27th at the Denver Bookbinding Building and to please sign up. This is a one-day conference and easy to get to. See the GUMS distribution email.

University Park SC Program: Bob Avery gave a big thank you to new guy **Bob Trout** for his help with the Super Citizen Program. He then reported the CCI (Colorado Corrections Industries) tour date has not yet been determined, and the Ski-day is set for Monday, March 14th.

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Dianne Tramutola-Lawson
Colorado-CURE State Chapter Leader

Dianne Tramutola-Lawson, is a volunteer community activist and member of Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE). CURE was founded in 1975 using a using Texas Post Office mailing address, to which an employee once observed when told what the acronym meant said, "Well, the whole world could join that group." After 10 years in Texas the organization relocated to Washington D.C.

Their new quarters was a small bedroom at St. Aloysius Church that had been inhabited by Father Horace McKenna. The mission of the Church has been a long tradition of assisting the poor, including prisoners who-having served their sentences struggle to move on with their lives. Colorado-CURE was founded in 1990 and many of the original board are still active today.

Dianne is a lifelong teacher with terms at St. Mary's, T.J. Kennedy, and GW High Schools, teaching French. During the 1960's DPS debatable bussing experiments, she observed and experienced the unanticipated friction between students and community. Since 1990 she has worked as a volunteer and been in touch with all Wardens in the Colorado Correctional System. There are 20,000 prisoners now incarcerated, and murdered past Warden Tom Clemens is missed greatly. Past Director Ari Zavaras, has worked with CURE for 15 years to improve prisoner's conditions and access to half way houses. One of her greatest concerns is the lack of activities for the general prison population including "High Risk" inmates. The DOC Medical budget has been continually cut even as the number of elder inmate's in-



Bob Avery and guest
Dianne Tramutola-Lawson
Photo Steve Kady

crease. The K-9 program is part of DOC. Prison gangs? DOC has made every "reasonable attempt" to relocate and disperse gang leaders and organizations throughout the system. There is really no solution however. The problem is too large and continues to grow. Colorado does not deport illegal convicted criminals and they end up in the system throughout Colorado. There is also a large number of the mentally ill and geriatric prisoners many in their 80's housed in the system as well. Subsequently there is a great need for additional new half way houses.

Incarcerated Juveniles typical day is structured based on the level of security adjudicated to their situation. Some work, others watch TV others hang out with experienced inmates. More minimum security risk type prisoners need to come out of community corrections into half way houses. Transition prisoner expenses are needed for money owed on restitution and other matters. Judges should have greater discretion in sentencing, a matter the legislature struggles with every Session. The minimum cost per prisoner is \$30,000, which can go higher than \$40,000 for SuperMax inmates. It is the largest budget item in state budget. This brings new meaning to the idea that is easier to build a child than repair and adult. How can we help? Halfway houses and expanded outreach by Churches and community organizations is a good start.

We thank Dianne for the hard work and honesty. Please comeback for a visit anytime.

Drawing

With \$90 in the pot the card to be found was the 7 of hearts. Those that went for cups were, **Jack Kleinhessel, John Stoffel, Kent Gloor, Tom Glazier, Terry Shroyer, and Bob Avery.** Going for the big money were, **Matt Spampinato and Dick Zolman.** Getting an opportunity because he had on his Name Badge was **Allen Pierce.**

Welcome Back & Best Wishes

Welcome Back: **Russ Paul, Aaron Beery, Dick Cohen, Tom Hoch, Terry Shroyer, Mike White and Dick Zolman.** Good to see you guys again. We missed you!

Best Wishes go out to **Paul Bernard, Bob Hugo, Dr. Ed Fankhauser, Doug Morton, Les Larson, Woody Thibodeau and Howdy Fry.**

February Super Citizen Presenters

Feb 24 @ 1:00	Samuels	Everett Gardner
Feb 25 @ 1:00	Lowry	Bob Avery
Feb 25 @ 1:00	McMeen	John Oss

Be a Super Citizen Presenter
See Rob Gardner, 720-263-6203
gardnerrb@gmail.com

Weekly Greeters

2/26/16	John Stamford & Jim Vanderkamp
3/4/16	John Bamford & John Young
3/11/16	George Buzick & Keith Galloway

Help, Help, Help — we need
Friday morning greeters,
see Jon Wachter, 303-204-5645 or
jon_wachter@msn.com

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2015-2016 40th Birthday Year — Chartered in 1976

Feb 26 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
Feb 27 Sat	8:00 am	CO-WY 2nd Qtr. District Conference, Denver Bookbinding Event Ctr., 1401 W. 47 th Avenue
Mar 4 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Wayne Williams, Colorado Secretary of State
Mar 11 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Jeff Shoemaker, Colorado Parks Foundation
Mar 17 Thu	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way



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

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Tom Overton	1996-97
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Cy Regan	1999-00
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Don St. John	2001-02
John Young	1982-83	Jack Rife	2002-03
Pat Bush	1983-84	Karl Geil	2003-04
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Greg Young	2007-08
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bob Avery	1989-90	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Ed Collins	2010-11
Bill Walters	1991-92	Randy Marcove	2011-12
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Paul Simon	2012-13
Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Jon Wachter	2013-14
Mark Metevia	1994-95	John Oss	2014-15
Bob Safe	1995-96		

2015 - 2016 Officers

President	Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
Vice President	Chris Dunphy	720-297-3111
Vice President	Randy Marcove	303-840-7706
Secretary	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Barry Barker	813-545-4533
Pat Bush	720-254-3741
Jim Easton	720-987-7684
Tom Glazier	303-522-5214
Cap Hermann	303-587-5575
Allen Malask	303-726-3700
Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Allen Pierce	303-883-8506
John Oss (Past Pres.)	720-210-8056

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	r.pedersen2658@comcast.net
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net	Phil Perington	303-832-4578	perington@msn.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rz6267@gmail.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: Feb **Phil Perington**, Mar **George Buzick**, Apr **Robert Wardlaw**

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.