



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

November 21, 2008

Vol. 33, Issue 8

The Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 Denver, Colorado

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for November—Greg Young



GOOD MORNING OPTIMISTS!!

Today's Greeters

Today's greeters were one of our newest members, **Jeff Carter**, who was partnered with our esteemed Vice President, **Al Gapuzan**. Our Chairman of Greeters, **Dick Cohen**, has established this great new system so that newer members can take advantage of the wisdom of longer term members as they mutually meet and greet all the members as they arrive.

Invocation and Pledge

Past Pres. John Young gave the invocation, with a prayer for the elderly (which seemed out of place for this group). However, one of the phrases went: "Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken."...that may apply here. John then guided us in our pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Opening Bell

President Phil Perington announced that there were four birthday boys: **Jack Kitchell**, **Nick Newey**, **Tom Overton**, and **Jack Rife**. After a rousing chorus (cacophony) of Happy Birthday, they all felt loved.

Phil then proceeded to regale us with an outstanding display of history and quotes about or

current economic situation, such as: "Money is always there, but the pockets change." and another about the fact that if women did not exist, all the money in the world would have no meaning. After a listing of auspicious birthdays, we learned that on this day in history the Mayflower landed, Edison invented the Dictaphone, and *Happy Trails* was first sung by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans (followed by a stirring rendition from the crowd). We also learned that Rebecca Felton, at 87, became the first woman to serve as a U.S. Senator, being appointed on this day in 1922, and serving for only one day, until succeeded by Walter George in a special election.



The best news (or maybe the worst) was that in 1995, the Dow Jones first hit 5000, a milestone that we seemed to be headed for again.

Guests

Our guests today were Bob Cornell, a steadfast American Legion member, invited by **Eldon Strong**, and Susan Davey, introduced by **Jim Easton**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Gustas again pleaded with those who have not paid dues to get them in asap, thereby avoiding having us drop them from the roster next month or send out the goon squad.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Boys and Girls Club and Girls, Inc.

November 25th, Tuesday 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm. We need people to transport the food and supplies, oversee the setup and preparation, and serve the food to about 800 people at two locations, and then clean up.



Donlie Smith is heading up this annual project. You are encouraged to bring your spouse and older kids to help in this great project. **See locations in the calendar on page 3.**

Help out Brent's Place

Don Thomson informs us that Brent's Place is moving into a new facility up near the new Children's Hospital in (11980 E. 16th, place is one of our Cancer project activities, and is by our sister The facility has apartments to their families as they undergo cancer treatment. We have 12 guys signed up to help set up furniture in the new facility on December 2nd (**ONLY**). If you missed the signup sheet, call Don now to support these kids who are devastated by this terrible disease.



Fitzsimmons Aurora). Brent's our Childhood s u p p o r t also supported club, Tamarac. 1 2 n e w house kids and

Supermarket Gift Card Sales

Cy Regan announced we sold \$1,300 today...way to go guys!! **HOWEVER**, given that everyone buys at least \$100 per week of groceries (you have to eat!!), we should be selling \$5,000 or more! So keep it rolling...we need this fund raiser to fund our KIDS projects. The monthly drawing for a free breakfast (you too will be eligible if you buy) was: (surprise, surprise) **Karl Geil**, who stacked the deck by buying \$300 today (we're all invited to Karl's for Thanksgiving).

Sports Authority

Our resident sports authority, **Fred Pasternack**, pronounced the return of Chauncey Billups the greatest coup since the appointment of Rebecca Felton. Our Nuggets



Not Fred

have won the last 7 of 8. Can they get by the Lakers?? We also learned that the Broncos will beat the Raiders Sunday. However, Fred may not be around to see the games as he's leaving soon to drive a sled dog team to the South Pole (hence the beard to keep the face warm...good luck Freddie!)

Mentoring Program

A new program was announced by **Frank Middleton**, who outlined a mentoring program for new members. Members who have been in the club for longer than a year are encouraged to sign up to be a mentor to a new member. Once Frank has his MENTOR CORPS established, the mentor will be given some guidelines to pursue with regard to mentoring his protégé. Among these will be an initial meeting to get to know the new member, and then encouragement to attend meetings, be a greeter, and join upcoming projects including riding together. Mentors will also introduce new members around, and call the member monthly to find out as they go along what our club can do to improve and how they are progress or if they have questions.

This program will tie into the new member orientation which is held 2-3 times per year by the immediate past president. The next session is scheduled for December 2 at 7:00 pm in **Jack Rife's** office. Anyone is welcome to attend if you want to get to know the new members better and help get them off to a good start.



More Kudos

Your editor missed a couple of other dedicated Monaco South members who put in many hours at the district level:

Frank Middleton, Finance Committee
Sherman Phillips, Services/Achievements/
Awards Committees

Thanks, Gentlemen!

Holiday Party

The Monaco South Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday evening, January 9. If you know of a party room that we could use, please let **Craig Eley** know at craig@eley.net or 303-758-9499.

Closing Bell

No one won the drawing today. The suspense and pot keeps growing...must attend to win!!

Our Speaker Today:
The Tree Lot is Coming
IT'S FOR THE KIDS!!

JOE MARCI announced the 31st year of the South Monaco Optimist Club Christmas Tree Lot!!!

Being the largest fundraiser for the club, this event was the featured topic for today's meeting. Last year the largest number of club members to date, 96, worked the lot. Joe announced that this year's goal is to have 100 members help out. The trees are set to arrive the day after Thanksgiving and all available hands are requested on deck. The power pole is up, and a new meter box has been ordered to comply with city code and should be arriving soon.

The event will require 1800 hours of labor, the sign up sheet is available to fill in the 3 hour shifts from 9 am to 9 pm. A total of 1,100 trees have been ordered, the majority coming from Oregon, with the heartier Douglas trees coming from Michigan. There will be 7 to 8 different varieties of trees available. The trees will be cut this month, loaded into trucks and shipped to a local distribution center here in Denver. Since the lot is not fenced, it has been a victim of theft in the past, including 1988, when it was robbed of cash. The subsequent publicity featuring front page stories in the local papers helped make that year one of the best on record. However, this is not an ideal way to reach our sales goals, let's all be careful and cautious. On occasion, a few customers have reported trees with excess needle loss or some other form of dissatisfaction. While rare, **these customers will be issued new trees and they do not need to return the old one.**

Joe advises - **Sell, Sell, Sell!** Give the customer what they want, an enjoyable experience purchasing a tree, wreath, garland, etc. Give the kids a candy cane. For those of us new to the operation, we are in for a fun time. This will be an ideal time to work with and get to know different members. A minimum of two people should work the lot at all times; call a lot manager if you are alone to get help. Members unable to lift trees or stand for long periods are encouraged to work as cashiers. Prices for the trees will be mainly the same as last year but we will have some commercial grade trees for the budget conscious. In addition to sales prices, the club also receives tips; these are to be recorded on the sales ticket for each transaction and put in the cash box. Other products, including tree fresh, tree bags and stands, and mistletoe will be available in the trailer.

Flyers with lot information will be made ready for distribution to targeted sites for posting. The club mails to a data base of over 1,000 names from past purchases and works to keep this information current.

Ralph Pedersen requests that when stamping the checks, take care to position the stamp on the pay to line—it helps with processing.

Block out Friday, November 28th from 9 to 3 to help with the set up of the tree lot. Then, pick your days and fill in your calendar so you can fill in your time to work on the Tree Lot Schedule board. Everyone can do something. Even if you can't lift, you can sit and take money!

Above all...HAVE FUN!

Chili Cook-off

The annual chili cook-off will be held at the tree lot trailer on two weekends this year, by popular demand. Dust off your best recipe and get HOT. Dates will be Dec. 6th and 13th.

Monaco South Calendar

Nov 25	Tue	4:00 pm	Thanksgiving Dinners @ Boys & Girls Club , 3480 W. Kentucky (go to 900 S. Federal and then 4 blocks west on Kentucky) <u>and</u> Girls Inc. , 1499 Julian (go to 14th, then 4 blocks west of Federal)
Nov 27	Thu		Thanksgiving Day
Nov 28	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall, Camaraderie, Tree Lot Sign Up
Nov 28	Fri	8:30 am	CHRISTMAS TREE LOT SETUP-ALL MEMBERS
Dec 05	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Melinda Arnold, Inner City Health
Dec 05	Fri	10:30 am	Super Citizen, Slavens Elementary School - John Young
Dec 10	Wed	1:15 pm	Super Citizen, Samuels Elementary School - Paul Simon
Dec 11	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School - Jim Easton
Dec 12	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Russell Dains, Celebrate Life International
Dec 16	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., St., #102
Dec 17	Wed	1:15 pm	Super Citizen, McMeen Elementary - John Stoffel
Dec 17	Wed	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood - Don Iley
Dec 19	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Santa's Gift Exchange: bring a white elephant

**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

George Buzick	303-985-0655
Dick Cohen	303-320-1767
Jim Easton	303-300-2431
Howard Fry	303-300-4466
Les Larson	303-755-1213
O.C. Larson	303-797-7432
Mike Snipes	303-699-9161
Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Greg Young (Past Pres.)	303-759-3921

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net
Marc Goodbody	303-202-1610	mlgoodbody@gmail.com	Bill Walters	303-697-7252	wwalters43@msn.com
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Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.com	Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@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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