



February 8, 2008
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Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



Optimists Bring Out the
Best in Children

The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976

Denver, Colorado

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—John Young



Our speaker, Don Mares

Our speaker today was Don Mares, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Don has visited us many times, the last time in the boxing ring with John Hickenlooper fighting it out to see who would be Denver's Mayor.

Don is responsible for 1100 employees in 60 offices and he has multiple divisions under his supervision. His public safety responsibilities include carnival and amusement establishments, elevators and escalators, explosives, and public school construction. The division of labor makes sure all wage laws are complied with, and Don is concerned that the pooper scoopers might not be properly paid. Maybe there's a raise for them in the near future.

Don's job requires him to look out for both employers and employees and to see that both are

treated fairly. He is also responsible for enforcing workmen's compensation laws. In the division of employee training Don finds it difficult to provide good employees to employers in rural areas because 80 to 90 percent of trainees fail to pass required drug tests.

Don's department is also charged with the responsibility of enforcing immigration laws. You can imagine what a difficult job this is! One of the big problems is to educate employers regarding so many changing laws they are obliged to keep up with. Don's department process over 600,000 unemployment benefit checks each month and he is endeavoring to replace the checks with a debit card which would really cut the work load for his employees. One final responsibility of the department of labor and employment is oil and public safety. His people are obliged to inspect gas pumps throughout the state and to insure that underground storage tanks are safe.



Thanks to Don for an insightful view of some of the things that go on in our state government!

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

Good Morning Optimists!

NO MEETING AT THE LEGION HALL NEXT FRIDAY! VALENTINE WIVES TO WELLSHIRE INN
3333 S Colorado Blvd
Denver, CO 80222

Jim Easton and **Al Gapuzan** were our greeters this morning and **Ralph Pedersen** delivered our invocation with a prayer about Valentine's Day. Ralph thanked **Craig Eley** as the author of the 39 non-denominational prayers used by more than half of the clubs in the Colorado Wyoming District. The book includes prayers based on the Optimist Creed, Prayers based on the purposes of Optimism, prayers related to Optimist events, and prayers based on holidays. What a wonderful asset this book has been for our club, and the other clubs who use it. THANKS MUCH CRAIG!

Several guests were at our meeting this morning. Bill Wells introduced Jerry Rowe as a possible new member. Jerry is a contractor and has nine children! Two natural and 7 adopted. **Jim Easton** introduced Alan Pierce who had come to a previous meeting and is glad to be back. **Freddie Pasternack** tried to steal both potential new members, but Jim and Bill said "no dice!" **Craig Eley** introduced Mike Kaplan who practices law in Craig's courtroom. Mike might be a shoe-in new member! **George Buzick** introduced our Optimist International Vice President Chris Jernigan who gave us a short pep talk and congratulated us on being an absolutely wonderful Optimist Club! Chris is here to officiate at the district quarter board being held at the Hilton Inn at Highlands Ranch this weekend.

Greg Young brought up his entire board to induct new member **Randy Marcove** into the club. Welcome aboard RANDY! Your decision to join our club is one of the best decisions you will ever make and we are delighted to have you as a member!

Greg honored several of our members with certificates of appreciation for their work on the Christmas Tree Project: **Joe Marci** and **Mile Miller** as the perennial leaders of the project, **Ralph Pedersen** as the moneyman, **Bob Hugo** as the electric man, and **Bryce Slaby** for working the most hours this year, Over 100!

Gary Laman reminded us he needs lots of help at the Tri-Star Basketball tournament to be held Thursday February 21st at the Cope Boys & Girls Club, 8th and Inca at 4:00 pm. This is one of

our most fun projects so please plan to be there to help.

Karl Geil thanked all the Monaco South volunteers who participated in the Brain Bowl: **Tom Mauro, Don Thomson, Don St John, Mike Snipes, Russ Paul, Fred Pasternack, Tom Overton, Frank Ross, Jack Rife, Don Iley, George Buzick, Oscar Sorensen, Cy Regan, Paul Bernard, Joe Marci, Lew Lerner, Rich Wagner, Greg Young, John Greene, Kent Gloor, Dick Cohen, Paul Simon, Jim Vanderkamp, Craig Eley, O C Larson, Phil Perington, Ron Gustas, Bruce Prather, Bryce Slaby** and **Les Larson**. See pictures, page 3.

Joe Marci announced that the winners of the Super Bowl Junior World Golf fundraiser Were **Jim Easton** in the first quarter and **Phil Perington** won the second and third prizes. The end of game winner was James Lenon, president of the Skyline bowling league, which annually supports Junior Golf with over \$300.00 in donations. Thanks to all who supported this year's Super Bowl fundraiser.

Curt Jefferies invited all "sanitation engineers" (pooper scoopers) to begin practicing for the St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 15th this year. Someone in the crowd reminded us that when it comes to #2 we are #1!

Joe Marci reminded us that there are numerous super citizenship presentations dates open. Please sign up for one of these fun opportunities to relate directly with the kids.

Cy Regan had \$900.00 worth of super market sales this morning.

Ron Cisco NEEDS HELP with phone answering for the Children's Miracle Network at Children's Hospital Fitzsimons on Wednesday, February 13th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Call him to sign-up at 303-794-0749.



President Greg Young inducts Randy Marcove.
Picture by Craig Eley.

Brain Bowl, Saturday, February 2nd

Pictures by Mike Snipes



Monaco South Calendar

Feb 13	Wed	11:30 am-2:00 pm	Children's Miracle Network @ Children's Hospital Fitzsimons near Colfax and I-225
Feb 15	Fri	7:00 am	Wives & Friends to Breakfast. No meeting at Legion Hall
Feb 19	Tue	6:30 pm	MSOC Board Meeting—Eley's Office
Feb 21	Thu	4:00 pm	Monaco South Tri-Star Basketball - Cope Boys & Girls Club, 8th and Inca
Feb 22	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Feb 24	Sun	6:00 pm	Eagle Scout Recognition Reception
Feb 29	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Bill Convery: <i>Colorado History Day</i>
Mar 12	Wed	6:30 pm	Monaco South Oratorical Contest - Schlessman YMCA
Mar 18	Tue	6:30 pm	MSOC Board Meeting—Eley's Office
Mar 21	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Craig Eley: <i>Patrick Henry</i>

**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		

2007 - 2008 Officers

President	Greg Young	303-759-3921
Vice President	Phil Perington	303-832-4578
Vice President	Al Gapuzan	303-770-0499
Secretary	Rich Wagner	303-362-5328
Treasurer	Ron Gustas	303-770-9640

Board of Directors

Russ Paul	303-750-0554
Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Scott Walker	303-517-1862
Bill Wells	303-757-8013
Dick Cohen	303-320-1767
Mike Snipes	303-699-9161
Jim Brown	303-671-6309
Howard Fry	303-300-4466

Newsletter Committee

Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net	Bob Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net
John Young	303-692-8202	johnandclaire@comcast.net	Marc Goodbody	303-202-1610	mlgoodbody@gmail.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.com	Craig Eley	303-758-9499	craig@eley.net
Bill Walters	303-697-7252	wwalters43@msn.com	Marlin Kent	303-779-0778	
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.com	Robert Wardlaw	303-759-0360	rlawardlaw@comcast.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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