



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 18, 2009

Vol. 34, Issue 12

The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado

Serving Youth and the Community for 34 Years

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—George Buzick



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL



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Good Morning Optimists!

All 67 members in attendance were in a festive mood as they were greeted by **Pat Sullivan** and **Kent Gloor**. President **Ron Cisco** led our invocation and pledge to our flag.

Our Guests

Phil Perington introduced his guest **Jimmy Sennenberger** who, in addition to being the *Executive Director of Liberty Day* and a student at Regis, is a Friend of Optimism (FOO) sponsored by our club. And after all the announcements, **Prez Ron** introduced our special guest Santa Claus, aka, **Oscar Sorensen**, who seemed to have something for everyone—see story on page 3.



Photo by Don StJohn

Reminder

Because the next two Fridays fall on holidays, the next regular meeting will be January 8, 2010. Let's start the New Year off right by having a great turnout for this first meeting of 2010!

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

Chili Cook-off: Prez Ron announced the winner of last week's Chili Cook-off. The winner was none other than **OC Larson**, who bested six other contestants with his "secret family recipe." (Somebody said Wendy's was a part of his family secret recipe, but those who tasted OC's concoction said it was outstanding.)



First runner-up was **Greg Young**. Honorable mention went to **Tom Hoch, Harry Johnson, Les Larson, and Phil Perington**. A big thank you to our celebrity judges, Past Governors of the Colorado / Wyoming District **Sherman Phillips and Joe DeRose** and his assistant **Adrian Gomez**. The judges commented that it was a hard task choosing a winner, as all six entries were very tasty.

Kids to Breakfast: Gary Laman mentioned that because the next two Fridays were holidays, there would be no *Kids to Breakfast* festivities this year. Sorry about that!

Christmas Baskets: Don StJohn called for more volunteers for the Christmas baskets and a special need for a couple of pickup trucks to pick up the food baskets from Safeway. Baskets will be delivered on Saturday, December 19th.

Volunteer Needed: Karl Geil reports that Hamilton Middle School, one of our Super Citizen partner schools, is looking for a *Community Representative for its Collaborative School Committee*. Principal Reina Gutierrez would love it if a member of our Club assumed that role. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Gutierrez at 720-423-9501 or be email at, reina_gutierrez@dpsk12.org.

MSOC Member Update: Don Thomson is recovering nicely from having his hip joint replaced. **Gerald Davis'** daughter let us know that Gerald has moved to the New Dawn Assisted Living Center, Aspen building at 2020 S. Blackhawk, Aurora, CO 80014.

Christmas Tree Update: Joe Marci reports that the last two loads of trees arrived this past week and that sales continue to be brisk. Through the outstanding efforts of 87 different members, Monaco South is once again, maintaining its reputation as an efficient and friendly place to get your Christmas greens. Tree sales over last weekend totaled 383, a new all time record for weekend sales. We are on track for another banner year, which will provide the resources for even greater support of the youth of our community. Hopefully, all trees will be sold out by mid-week of next week, so members can take a well deserved rest for the Holidays. Lot clean up will be sometime between Christmas and New Year's. Thanks to everyone for all your help this year and to the members of the board for ensuring full staffing.

For the last few days we still need all who can help out with our biggest fundraiser of the year—the Christmas Tree Lot. The kids are counting on us.

Brain Bowl: In his own inimitable style, **Karl Geil** announced that the Brain Bowl is coming and distributed signup sheets, one for general volunteers and one for reader training. As usual, in order to be certified as a reader, you must attend one of the training sessions, even if you been a reader in the past. *BTW, for those of you who signed up to work at one or more Brain Bowl and then looked at your calendar and were confused about the dates, it's not you. Two of the dates and one location printed on the sign up sheets were wrong. In addition, anyone who intends to be a Reader must attend one Reader Training session before the first tournament at which they will read. Veteran Readers will be fast tracked at the training. The correct dates and locations are:*

Dates for training:

- ◆ Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 9:00-11:00 am at the Valmont Presbyterian Church in Boulder
- ◆ Tuesday, January 19, 2010 from 6:30-8:30 pm. at Overland High School
- ◆ Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 9:00-11:00 am at Overland High School

Tournament dates:

- ◆ North Region Brain Bowl—Saturday, January 23, 2010 at Monarch High School in Louisville
- ◆ Central Region Brain Bowl—Saturday, February 6, 2010 at Overland High School in Aurora
- ◆ South Region Brain Bowl—Saturday, February 20, 2010 at Harrison High, Colorado Springs

I'm sure we will be hearing more about this from **Karl and Paul Simon**, who have joined the Brain Bowl Central Committee. Monaco South has always been the backbone of support for this worthy endeavor; so set these dates aside and plan to be there.

Santa at the Tree Lot: No one guessed the person in last weeks GUMS who is sitting on Santa's lap.

That handsome lad on Santa's lap is our own **Craig Eley** taken 56 years ago. Craig has been coordinating the *Santa Photo Shoot*, which has been a popular addition to our Tree Lot this year. You can see the many smiles with Santa on our website: <http://www.monacosouth.org/>.

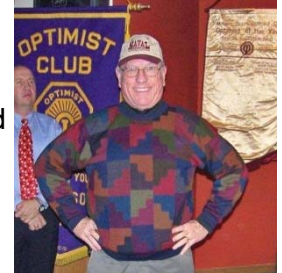


Continued bottom of page 3.

Gift Exchange

Oscar “Santa” Sorenson was in fine form as he delivered presents to all those who had been “good” for the past year. In spite of some pretty bad political jokes, Oscar was in fine form. Among the more notable (most were forgettable) gifts were:

- ✿ Several slightly used baseball caps to **Wyatt McCallie**—a repeat from last year.
- ✿ A “flamingo decoy” for **John Walsh**.
- ✿ An automatic putt returner, which automatically returned from whomever received it last year for **Don StJohn**.
- ✿ A “robe of many colors” for **Frank Ross**, which subsequently ended up in the



Wyatt McCallie showing off his returning hat.

“basket of many gifts” in the possession of **Ron Carlson**, who was the proud recipient of a number of left over gifts.



Frank Ross modeling his sheik multi colored robe.

- ✿ A Playboy Calendar (What’s Christmas without a Playboy Calendar?) for **Eldon Strong** to take to Arizona for the winter.

- ✿ **Karl Geil** received a recipe called, “Cooking Salmon in Your Dishwasher.”

- ✿ Among other gifts, **Ron Carlson** was presented with water saving showerhead even though, according to Oscar, he probably wouldn’t know what it was because he didn’t yet have indoor plumbing.



John Walsh has a flamingo decoy to add to his back yard collection, while Russ Paul attempts to open his gift without cutting his finger using Santa’s personal Crocodile Dundee 5” pen knife.

There were also the standard innuendo gifts, generally aimed at facilitating non-functioning parts of the male anatomy, which shall remain unremarked upon, due to the wholesomeness of this publication. Fun and laughs were had by all.



Prez Ron contemplating what the heck Santa gave him this year.



Cy Regan shows a truly surprised look by the shenanigans of Santa.

All photos by Don StJohn

Meeting Brought to a Close: President Ron shared that he and his wife Barbara want to wish all of the Monaco South Members and Families a very Merry Christmas. It has been a very busy four weeks leading up to Christmas and we want everybody to know that we sincerely appreciate all of your efforts to make this a most successful Holiday.

Grocery Sales: Thanks mostly to **Doug Morton**

(\$1,000) and **Karl Geil** (\$500) we achieved a new record of \$2,600 in sales. A quick, painless way to earn even more money to support our projects. Good Job to all!

Drawing: Even with double numbers being drawn no one won the big bucks to help with their new year. In 2010 it starts out at \$150 dollars.

Monaco South Calendar

Dec 19	Sat	8:00 am	Christmas Baskets Delivery
Dec 25	Fri		Christmas Day, no meeting
Jan 1	Fri		New Year’s Day, no meeting
Jan 8	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Karl Geil, <i>Brain Bowl</i>
Jan 15	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day

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

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

2009 - 2010 Officers

President	Ron Cisco	303-794-0749
Vice President	Howard Fry	303-601-5088
Vice President	Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Secretary	Robert Wardlaw	303-759-0360
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

George Buzick	303-803-2268
Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
Jim Easton	303-300-2431
Don Iley	303-840-7706
O.C. Larson	303-755-1213
Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Terry Shroyer	303-757-7944
Kale Smith	720-207-4363
Phil Perington (Past Pres.)	303-832-4578

Newsletter Committee

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Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.com	Brian Williams	720-253-5731	bdw6688@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Dec: **GEORGE BUZICK**, Jan: **BRIAN WILLIAMS**, Feb: **OC LARSON**, Mar: **RALPH PEDERSON**

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**

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