



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

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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



Good Morning Optimists!

On a crisp Colorado morning our stalwart greeters, **Neil Atkinson** and **Michael Chavez**, shook the hands of a literal Who's Who of Optimist dignitaries, including Optimist International President Mark Shriver and his wife, Dr. Patricia McKay, Colorado/Wyoming District Governor George Mills; our own Zone 9 Lt. Governor, Abigail Nichols and Ron Benson,



OI President, Mark Shriver with his wife, Dr. Patricia McKay.
Photo by Don StJohn

Governor –Elect of our district, Also present were Joe Priestler, Immediate Past Governor, and his wife Donna.

Accompanying our greeters today were two energetic students representing Liberty Day. The students were asking some pretty tough questions about the U.S. Constitution. While most members and guests were able to come up with some good responses, Paul Bernard's representation of the "right to bare arms" by rolling up the sleeves of his T-shirt was just a little off.

In the best tradition of Optimism, **President Ron** started the meeting precisely at 7:00 a.m. After the invocation by **Harry Fegley**, guests were introduced. In addition to all the Optimist officers, guests today included Pat Colliins, introduced by **Ed Collins**, and **Mark Koch** from the Lakewood Sunrise Optimist.

Announcements

AIDS Project: **Tom Mauro** asked, once again, for members to donate old denim items to the AIDS project, which his daughter is helping sponsor. However, someone who was not present for the whole explanation of the project could misinterpret "Leave your pants at the bar as you exit."

Optimist Junior Golf: **Joe Marci** announced the golf tournament to be held in support of the Optimist Junior Golf Championship will be held at the Flatirons golf course in Boulder. This tournament helps raise money to send Colorado/Wyoming junior golfers to the tournament in Florida, so check with Joe on how to enter.

Furry Scurry McMuttins: **Phil Perington** announced that Egg McMuttins and the Breakfast Burritos, prepared by our chef **John Marinos**, were a great hit at the Furry Scurry. Proceeds from the sale (around \$650) will be donated to the Dumb Friends League. See related article on next page.

Cheyenne Depot Days: With a model train car in hand, **Greg Hurd** invited everyone to attend Cheyenne Depot Days on May 29th, at which you can visit the Union Pacific Museum, visit with actual train crews who work on the big steam engines, tour the historic roundhouse, and see a toy train show. Cheyenne, which was once a major hub of rail traffic.



Continued next page

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

Furry Scurry Fun at Washington Park

by Phil Perington

MSOC celebrated its 2nd year as the happy and proud providers of killer breakfast burritos and delicious Egg McMuttins'. Thanks to the efforts of "Team Optimist" executed



to perfection by the likes of **George Vassilaros, Paul Gleditsch, Gary Strowbridge, Paul Bernard, George Buzick, Scott Walker** and "Hunter," **Russ Paul, Ed Collins, Oscar Sorensen, Leo Hagele, Ron Cisco, Don St.John, Tom Hoch** and **Randy Marcove** our food booth was a total success. At 5:30 am Randy picked up the grub at the Hall, beautifully prepared by **John Marin**os daughter and hustled it over to Washington Park. All the while Santa George, Paul G., Phil and "Checkers," Gary S. and assorted advisors were busily assembling the canopies, tables and chairs. Master promo-man, **Craig Eley** showed up with a huge sign, advertising the goods that rose over 15-20 feet above the crowd. Craig and Paul G. took turns waving em' in like experienced McDonald clowns. Oscar provided color comments. Man, what a great idea. Terry Stier brought 4 energetic Girl Scouts who jumped right in and volunteered to help all morning. As a result the whole operation operated like a smooth, well oiled machine, except for the small skirmish's between hungry hounds looking for free McMuttins'. We were sold out by 9:45.

Others that participated included, **Curt Boell, Ron Carlson, Jim Easton, Kent Gloor, Don Iley, Harry Johnson, OC Larson, Bill Litchfield, Joe Marci, Nick Newey, Terry Shroyer, Paul Simon, Bryce Slaby, Woody Thibodeau, Pat Sullivan, Rich Wagner, John Young,** and **Greg Young**.

Over \$650.00 was raised for the Denver Dumb Friends League thanks in part to **John Marin**os generous contribution of "cost plus nothing" for the Breakfast burritos and Egg McMuttins'. Our on site videographer, **Tom Hoch** caught all the action and highlights are being posted on the website. It was a great day at the MSOC and the Furry Scurry 11,000 adults and 5,000 furries strolling for DDFL, 31,000 feet padding around the Park. The event raised OVER 1 MILLION dollars to be used for funding 4 Critter Camps for kids and dogs, underwriting a year long program of ½ price adoptions and reaching out to over 22,000 kids this year by teaching them about the DDFL mission of "Respect for Life." Guess we better show up with more burritos and McMuttins' next year. Thanks go out to **Don StJohn** and **Phil Perington** for coordinating this community project.

Activities Today

Monaco South member **Andy McKean**, who also happens to be Executive Director of Liberty Day, explained this project to our visiting dignitaries and guests. In order to promote interest in the U.S. Constitution, 5th grade students study the Constitution themselves, then go out in the community and ask question regarding the constitution. They passed out a booklet containing both the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Andy mentioned that September 17 is "Constitution Day" as mandated by Congress and that all schools are required to have programs regarding this important document on this date.



Andy McKean, on left, hosts two of his Constitution Day participants.
Photo by Don StJohn

Karl Geil introduced "the brains behind the Brain Bowl." Connie Ackerman and Rich Urbanowski talked about how the Brain Bowl has grown from around 30 teams in 2001 to over two hundred and from one site to three, including Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs. They also thanked members of Monaco South for their support of this event, indicating that the club was a major source of support, both monetarily and in numbers of volunteers. A show of hands indicated that more than half of our members have participated in the Brain Bowl at some time.

Karl Geil also talked about History Day in Colorado, the theme of which was "Innovation in History: Impact and Change." Middle school and high school students from all over Colorado participated and 32 entries were chosen to compete at National History Day at the University of Maryland, one them a 6th grader from Hamilton Middle School. Also, a past recipient of our club's Excellence in Education award, Lesley Meyer, was selected as the Junior Division Colorado History Day Teacher of the Year, which puts her in the running for National History Day Teacher of the Year. Due to state budget cuts, next year may be the last year for Colorado History Day for the foreseeable future. If anyone knows of a source to replace \$30,000 - \$40,000 in funding, please see Karl, so he can pass the information on.

More on next page

Drawing: No one won the \$120, which was in the pot today. **Phil Perington** donated his "cup o'money" to the Liberty Day project.

Well Wishes: **Jack Phillips** recently underwent heart bypass surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts and payers.

Essay Contest Winners

Wyatt McCallie introduced our special guests

from Thomas Jefferson High School. In addition to the winner of our essay contest (Elizabeth Ann Hays) and runner up (Jasmine Kabera), TJ principal Sandra Just and AP English teacher Susan Stokely were our guests. Ms. Stokely said that she had

received more than 60 essays, even though the essay was not a class assignment. Elizabeth read her prize-winning essay regarding cyber communication. If this is any indication of the quality of education in our public schools, the future is looking good!



Wyatt McCallie, left, with winner Elizabeth Ann Hays, and her mother. Photo by Don StJohn

New Member Induction

A Special treat for two of our newer members, **Richard Kerr** and **Jon Walker**, who were formally inducted into our club by the President of Optimist



International and presented with framed membership certificates. Also recognized were **Ron Carlson** and **Randy Marcove** for having sponsored these two individuals.

OI President

Mark Shriver, current Optimist International President, is an attorney specializing in family law and mediation. Mark and his wife, Dr. Patricia McKay, are from Georgia and have traveled extensively in the past year, representing Optimist International. Mark talked about the importance of what Optimist clubs do for the youth of our communities and about how we are unique among service organizations. Mark also talked about the importance of keeping up with the times in order to stay in contact with the youth of today, noting that the Optimist International Internet Safety project was extremely important in raising awareness of potential hazard of cyber communications. Mark said he was looking forward to returning to Denver for the 92nd Optimist International Convention, which will be held July 8-10 at the downtown Sheraton and that he wished he could clone the Monaco South Optimist Club, as it was a great example of what a club should be.

Closing

Immediate Past Governor **Joe Priester** led recitation of the Creed and the meeting was adjourned.

Super Citizen Presenters for May

Day	School	Presenter
13 @ 5:30 pm	Hamilton	Tom Mauro
20 @ 1:00 & 2:00	Lowry	Paul Stratton
26 @ 2:45 & 3:15	Univ Park	Jack Rife
28 @ 9:00	Samuels	Kent Gloor

Weekly Greeters

Date	Greeters
5/14/10	Al Gapuzan & Leo Hagele
5/21/10	Robert Avery & Woody Thibodeau
5/28/10	Nick Newey & Ron Carlson

Monaco South Calendar

May 8 Sat 7:30 am Colorado-Wyoming District 3rd Quarter Meeting, Windsor Gardens, 595 S. Clinton
 May 8 Sat 6:00 pm OI President Dinner, honoring Mark Shriver, Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec St.
 May 14 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - speaker TBA
 May 21 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day (note change)
 May 28 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Edward Cobb, Employer's Support of the Guard & Reserves

Mark you calendar

Jun 5 Sat Annual Picnic at Eisenhower Park with University Park Neighborhood Picnic
 Jun 11-13 Fri-Sun Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar, Colorado School of Mines
 Jun 27 Sun Bike MS - Multiple Sclerosis Fundraiser, See Don StJohn
 Jul 4 - 9 Sun - Fri 2010 National Veterans Wheelchair Games
 Jul 8 - 10 Thu - Sat 92nd Annual Optimist International Convention, Sheraton Denver Downtown
 Hotel: online registration @ <http://www.optimist.org/reg/>

**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	303-797-7432
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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NEWSLETTER EDITORS: May **GEORGE BUZICK**, Jun. **BRAIN WILLIAMS**, July **OC LARSON**, Aug **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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