



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



February 13, 2015 – Vol. 40, Issue 20

Optimist Club of Monaco South



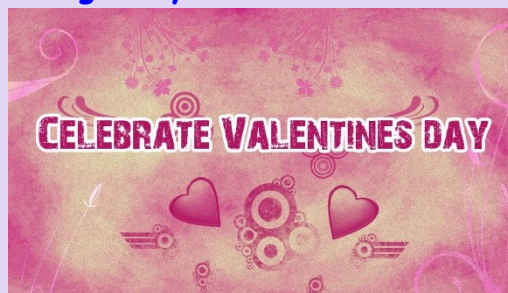
Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 39 Years
Recognized as Outstanding Service Organization in Colorado in 2012

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Pat Bush



Here it is a Strange Day ...



Good Morning Optimist

Today was the Wives and Sweethearts to Breakfast, celebrated at the Citron Bistro.

Your editor was paired with **Freddy Pasternack**, whatever that means—possibly the “odd couple.” **Bob Avery** and **Jack Kleinheksel** did a masterful job of greeting the membership and wives. President **John Oss** was given the day off as **Craig Eley** handled the Master of Ceremonies role. **Dick Nickoloff** presented the invocation this morning with a message “...to

think only of the best and work only for the best” and, thereby, releasing the bonds that limit us from achieving our best.

This meeting was in anticipation of Valentine's Day but, Where Did This All Start ...

Many think that Valentine's Day is a modern holiday started by the big greeting card companies as a way of marketing their products. Actually, Valentine's Day traces all the way back to Roman times. Boys and girls were segregated throughout the year but on February 14th, they would draw names for pairing up during the celebration of the Festival of Lupercalia. Often the couples would fall in love and would get married. As for the name of “Valentine's Day,” it is believed that it was named after St. Valentine, a Roman priest, who had been thrown in prison for his defiance of a declaration by Emperor Claudius II making engagements and marriages illegal. Claudius made the declaration because

young men would not leave their sweethearts behind to serve in the Roman army. It is said that St. Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter and would sign his love letters “From your valentine.”

St. Valentine was eventually executed for his defiance of the Emperor's declaration. After the Roman Empire fell and the Church became more influential throughout Europe, they abolished all pagan rituals and celebrations including the Festival of Lupercalia but the tradition of boys drawing girl's names continued and the Church established February 14th as St. Valentine's Day in honor of the priest that had secretly married so many couples in defiance of the Emperor.

By the 15th Century, lovers would write love poems on ornate paper to convey their feelings to their partners. These became the first “valentines.” The oldest surviving valentine was written in 1415 and is displayed in the British Museum in London. It was written by the Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. These valentines became fancier as time passed. Hand written messages were replaced with ornate, medieval style lettering; paper was folded and cut into lacey patterns and added to the messages, then they were folded to reveal the messages a bit at a time.

By the 18th Century, valentines had become popular throughout Great Britain and, in the upper classes; gifts were starting to be exchanged along with the messages. These usually were a

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Continued on the 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******

box of chocolates or other sweets and, in some cases, even jewels were gifted. In the 1840's, Esther A. Howland started a company to produce valentines in the United States. The valentines' messages that she produced were printed on colored cards with lace and ornate lettering. She became known as the Mother of the Valentine.



By the 19th Century, valentines were produced in factories by a company named Norcross later changed to Hallmark. These valentines became more diverse than just expressing undying love and devotion as society moved away from formal courtships. They began to cover more light-hearted messages of affection and even humor as people were expanding their circles of friends and companions.

Today, boys and girls no longer draw names to be paired up but instead exchange valentine cards with those that they have an interest. If the relationship is more advanced, gifts may accompany the cards. While the exact origins of Valentine's Day are a little murky, there can be no doubt that it is not a modern holiday but dates back many centuries.

No Announcements

Announcements were pre-empted this morning by camaraderie with our guests and the entertainment program. However, not to worry, this editor has done extensive investigation to report on the following upcoming events.

South Regional Brain Bowl: Karl Geil reports that the South Regional Brain Bowl was held on February 7th in Colorado Springs. There were a total of 37 teams from 11 different schools in the competition. Monaco South provided 8 of the 65 volunteers with **Paul Simon, Allen Pierce, Craig Eley, Michael Chavez, Randy Marcove, Phil Perington, Don Iley** and **Karl Geil** representing the club. Challenger school was the big winner having team placed 1st and 3rd in the sixth grade and seventh grade competitions and 1st, 3rd, and 4th in the eighth grade competition. Next up is the Championship Tournament this coming Saturday, February 21st at Hamilton Middle School.

Super Citizen Awards: We have three Super Citizen presentations coming up this week. Highline Academy and Most Precious Blood are on Wednesday, February 18th with Slavens on Friday, February 20th. There are no results from last week as no presentations were held.

Golf Expo: Do not forget that the golf expo is being held this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We have a booth at the expo for the Optimist Junior Golf program. **Joe Marci, Ron Cisco, and Bob Meyer** co-chairs for the Junior Golf program for the district. Several members will be staffing the booth to inform junior golfers about our tournament and how they can qualify for the International Tournament in Florida later this summer.

Tri-Star Basketball: The Monaco South Tri-Star Basketball competition will be held on Monday, Febru-

ary 23rd at the Boys and Girls Club at 8th and Inca. **Michael Chavez** chairs this project and is looking for more volunteers. If you can help and have not signed up yet, just give Michael a call.

Special Olympics Polar Plunge: By the time you read this article, the polar plunge will have taken place at the Cherry Creek Reservoir. **Mike McMahon** will have taken the plunge with his two sons. If he has not been turned into a McMahon Popsicle, he will be looking to collect from those who have signed up to sponsor him. Bring a check to the meeting this Friday. Mike promises pictures for next weeks *GUMS*.

From the Prez

Our club runs dozens of programs for kids. The teamwork that takes place behind the scenes is beautiful. I share here the response I received from **Wyatt McCallie** when I asked him to "school me up" on our participation in the Optimist International sponsored Essay Contest. He wrote: *Very timely request! Yesterday, Amber Wilson, Advanced Placement English teacher at TJHS, delivered to me the school's six entries into our club contest. The school had about 60 entries, and at our request, they winnow those down to the best five or six, which are then judged by three members of our club selected by Jack Kleinheksel.*

After I receive the school's entries, I photocopy three anonymous sets of the essays for the judges, and Jack gets them out to the judges, along with instructions and a score sheet in the form supplied by OI on its website. There can be only one winner, and a tie-breaking procedure is established by OI. That single winning entry is mailed by Jack to the District for receipt by February 28, and he will need a \$20 check to accompany our winning entry. I leave it to Jack to arrange for the check and to do the mailing.

At the club level, we name first, second and third place winners, and we invite each of those students along with their parents and even siblings, along with Amber Wilson and the principal of TJ to a breakfast in April or May, where the winning essay is read to the club and certificates are given to the three winners.

I am planning on delivering the three judges' packages to Jack before Friday's meeting so that if he wants, he can deliver those packages out to the judges at Friday's meeting or thereafter.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Western Barbeque & Hoedown

Saturday, April 11th at 5:30 p.m.

\$23 per person

**Outpost Square Dance Club
10101 East Colorado Avenue**

See Frank Middleton

From the Prez Continued

The question and answer on the essay contest reveals the organization, participation, and span of impact of our programs. We can all be very grateful for the programs, efforts of participants, and opportunities. Thank you Wyatt for your great program. Thank you all for our programs.

Next Friday is camaraderie day. What a wonderful opportunity to get to know our fellow optimists. One of our members raced horses during recess in his Colorado grade school. Well that is cool. Especially for me. I was the janitor in our one room school. There you have two folks with similar backgrounds finding common ground.

Our Wives and Sweethearts to Breakfast Speaker

Our guest speaker this week was not really a speaker but more of an entertainer. He is a magician and comedian. He performed many of the standard tricks all the while cracking some very good one-liners. The trick that I liked, as engineer with a math background, was the numbers trick. He asked for a number between 35 and 100 and 76 was assigned. He then took 50 seconds to fill out a four by four grid with numbers. All the rows,

The time we spend in interchanging with our fellow members, helps establish strong bonds. I challenge you to find whom that horse jockey among us.

In addition, I look forward to you challenging me to find the answer to similar questions about other members. We have a lot of diverse background in our community. That is a part of what makes us strong. If we were all to talk to people who thought the same as we do and who had the same ideas that we do and the same beliefs that we do, how boring a life this would be. We can be grateful for Monaco South.

Do We Have A Drawing

Do we have a drawing? NO! Therefore, there are no winners to report. Does the Big Pot still grow? For the answer to that question, come to the meeting this Friday morning.

In the mean time there were no reports of any MSOC member winning the big Powerball; accordingly, you need to know "How to Read Your Losing Powerball Ticket."

Winning Numbers 2/14/2015

1

24

44

45

51

28

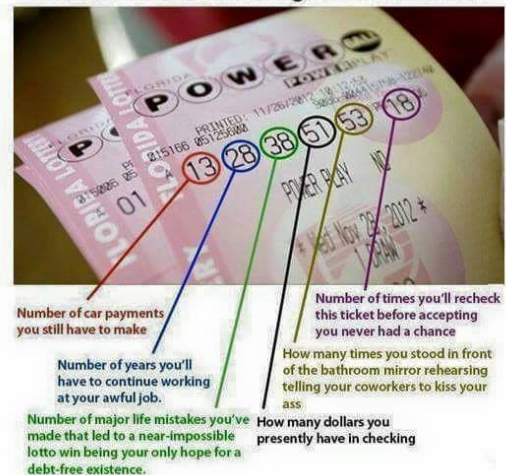
POWERPLAY 2X

Current Estimated Jackpot

\$50 Million

\$33.4 Million Cash Value

How To Read Your Losing Powerball Ticket



Weekly Greeters

2/20/15	Bob Avery & Ralph Pedersen
2/27/15	Barry Barker & Don Thomson
3/6/15	Noel Hasselgren & Curt Boell
3/13/15	Russ Paul & Frank Middleton
3/20/15	Tom Glazier & Allen Malask
Need Friday morning greeters, see Jon Wachter, 303-204-5645 or jon_wachter@msn.com	

Super Citizen Presenters February

Feb 18 @ 8:00	Highline	?
Feb 18 @ 2:30	MPB	?
Feb 20 @ 8:30	Slavens	Michael Chavez
Feb 24 @ 1:00	Samuels	Joe Marci
Feb 26 @ 1:30	McMeen	Rod Winget
Feb 27 @ 3:00	Bradley	?
Be a Super Citizen Presenter See Rob Gardner, 720-263-6203 gardnerrb@gmail.com		

Feb 19 Thu	6:30 pm	Meeting, Legion Hall - Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Feb 20 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Feb 21 Sat	7:00 am	Brain Bowl Championship - Hamilton Middle School, 8600 E. Dartmouth Ave.
Feb 27 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Cynthia York, Denver Kids Inc.
Mar 6 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA

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

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

2014 - 2015 Officers

President	John Oss	720-210-8056
Vice President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	Don Iley	303-840-7706
Secretary	Curt Boell	303-980-1893
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

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Barry Barker	813-545-4533
Pat Bush	303-750-9409
J. R. Gieck	949-636-7614
Tom Glazier	303-522-5214
Cap Hermann	303-587-5575
Jack Kleinheksel	720-938-1760
Fred Pasternack	303-758-3754
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384
Jon Wachter (Past Pres.)	303-204-5645

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 **Pat Bush**, Mar **Paul Stratton**, Apr **Phil Perington**

T H E O P T I M I S T C R E E D — 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.