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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—Bill Walters

Start of 2008-09 Super Citizenship Program



We were happy to “meet” and “greet” five school principals who participate in our Super Citizenship program. Those in attendance were: Colleen McManamon from M.P.B, Stacy Paulson from McMeen, Kurt Siebold from Slavens, Dana Williams from Univ. Park, and Cari Riedlin from Lowry. The Optimist school representatives introduced the principals who talked about their respective schools. All were supportive of our involvement in their educational program. The Super Citizenship Program now serves 9 schools in southeast Denver from October to May each year. We anticipate honoring over 550 students this coming year. A special thanks was also given to all Monaco Optimists who contribute to this very successful program.

We look forward to more men being “presenters” at the school assemblies this year. There may be an opening for a new school representative at Samuels Elementary School. Please call **Don Thomson**, Super Citizenship coordinator for specifics. Additionally, see Super Citizens on page 2.



Don Thomson far left, along with Super Citizenship representatives, visit with school principals. The two ladies at the table are Stacy Paulson from McMeen Elementary, and Dana Williams from University Park Elementary.



Kurt Siebold from Slavens School.



Colleen McManamon from Most Precious Blood,



Cari Riedlin from Lowry Elementary.

Pictures by Don StJohn.

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 Optimist

Did you ever go to anything and when you are leaving, you said to yourself/companion, "That was great, I'm glad I came." Our meeting this Friday was like that to me! If you are not getting your dose of MSOC every Friday, I believe you are missing out.

Don Thomson and **Steve Kady** were our greeters. Our blessing was a great segue for a wonderful presentation by our guest speaker, which I will talk about in a minute.

We had lots of guests. Other than the representatives from the schools we support, Ed Lincoln was a guest of **Allan McCall**. John Cody was a guest of **Joe Marci**.

Announcements

Our President-in-waiting, **Phil Perington**, announced the upcoming budget meeting on September 16th. If you need money for next year's project(s), show up to request.

Paul Bernard said that the installation banquet on September 13th will be at Blossoms Restaurant at Heather Ridge at 6:00pm.

John Young told us that 24 theater-goers signed up for Country Dinner Playhouse on Aug 19th. There's still room. Talk to John!

Joe Marci reported that Junior Golfers returning from Florida's national tournament will report to us next week.

Only a few of the multitude that worked the MUDD Volleyball tournament turned up missing, quipped our Mudd Ball Leader, **Cy Regan**. "It was a hot and dust job, but we did it with optimism!"

Tom Overton reminded us of our Zone picnic at Eisenhower Park on Saturday.

King Soopers and Safeway sales totaled \$1,400, per **Cy Regan**.

Super Citizens

Our guests this week were the principals of the schools that we support with the Super Citizens project—see pictures on page one. Some of the "players" in this project have been **Charlie Korsoski** and **Gerry Davis**. Both of these MSOCers have made this project a real success.

An award is given out at the end of the year for an outstanding Super Citizen at each school year called the **Korsoski Award**. Charlie



Charles Korsoski at a Super Citizens presentation. Date and photographer unknown.

was instrumental in getting this project off the ground.

Charlie was head of Gates Rubber Company European division. He never missed a Friday morning meeting for more than 13 years. The Super Citizen project was run by Charlie like he ran the European Division at Gates—very successfully!

When Charlie died on January 8, 1992, **Gerry Davis** picked up the mantle and ran the Super Citizen project with outstanding acclaim. Gerry joined



MSOC in May 1990, sponsored by **John Young**, of course. After schooling at South High and Denver University and doing a stint in the Navy during WW2, Gerry served as a radio operator listening/interpreting the Japanese and Russian Morse codes. Davis Auto Body was

Gerry's other passion for over 40 years before he retired. Gerry is now living at St. Andrew's Village in Aurora.

By the way, a recent note from Gerry's daughter (Jackie Dobrovolny) says, "*Dad is doing well at St. Andrew's and is participating in lots of activities. He likes to get out for a few hours and I keep encouraging him to go to all of the exercise and walking sessions. We noticed that Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are pretty boring, i.e., St. Andrew's does not offer very many activities or outings. So, could you please pass the word to the Optimists that if they have the time and motivation, perhaps they could make a "date" to see him on one of those three days? He really likes seeing you guys and I wish he could get himself out of bed in time to attend the Friday morning meetings but he does not sleep well (due to sleep apnea) so it is difficult for him to get up before about 7 a.m.*"

So if you could call Gerry at 303-755-1009 and make that date to relive old times!

Speaker today Noel Cunningham

What an inspirational speaker we had this morning. Noel, owner of Strings and 240 Union restaurants, talked about his [Cunningham Foundation](#) with a mission of helping the courageous people of the impoverished areas of Ethiopia to help themselves. The Foundation is the vision of Noel and Tammy Cunningham, who were struck by both the poverty and amazing resilience they witnessed in a visit to Project Mercy in Yetebon, Ethiopia nearly ten years ago.

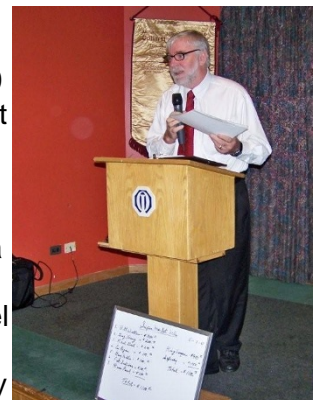


Photo by Don StJohn.

Jerry Whitlow

One of my really good friends at MSOC, the late **Ralph Symalla**, who was a past president told me one of the reasons that he liked MSOC is because it had so many former presidents still with the club. Most clubs, he said, lose the past presidents because they are so overworked, overwhelmed, and burned out after their year as president, they quit. Well one of reasons MSOC is the GREATEST Optimist Clubs in the USA is because they stick around. Before Jerry Whitlow moved to Nevada, he was still with MSOC. Jerry was our second president and being Bob Rhue's right-hand man, he took over the reins as President in 1977. We met in the back room of Azars (now New York Deli on Hampden Avenue) and Jerry got EVERYONE involved. I was new and he make sure I had plenty to do. Every one of the 47-members had a job. What a great footing Jerry gave MSOC.

Now Jerry is fighting a real battle. He has bone marrow cancer and is scheduled to go to Huntsman Cancer Center for Stem Cell Transplant to save his life. Go to

www.jkwhitlow.blogspot.com to read about Jerry and wish him well or send an email to: jwhitlow@lvqi.com.



Jerry Whitlow when he was the Colorado Wyoming Secretary Treasurer when **Ron Cisco** was Governor. Ron and Jerry remain very good friends today.

Jerry would also appreciate a flood of cards and letters from his friends at Monaco South Optimist Club. His address is: 8774 Crystal Port Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89147.

SOS from the Heartland

Greg Young sent this email to pass along, As flood waters rose in many parts of the Midwest area of the United States this summer, countless children watched their belongings, their homes and their summers wash away. Optimist Clubs in the affected areas in Iowa are trying to reach out to help. A Pass Through Grant has been established through Optimist International Foundation. To see how you can help, check: http://www.optimist.org/publications/SOS_Help_for_the_heartland.pdf.

Palisade Peaches are Here

A shipment of 94 boxes of peaches was received on Saturday, August 9th, but that wasn't sufficient to cover all of our orders for members from both Monaco South and Tamarac Optimist Clubs. So boxes were delivered first-come-first serve. For those still interested, the Palisade grower will be delivering another load towards the end of August or early September. The price is \$20 per box or lug. If you would like to order, please let Bob Finkelmeier know, 303-756-5829. You must have your check or cash ready (no credit cards) at time of pickup – C.O.D. only.



Monaco South Calendar

Aug 15	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Aug 19	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Aug 22	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Second Wind, <i>Teen suicide resources</i>
Aug 29	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Judith Stucky, <i>Cochlear Kids Camp</i>
Sept 5	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Sunne Reif, <i>Donor Alliance</i>
Sept 12	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Kris Kroncke, <i>District 3 Commander, Denver Police Department</i>
Sept 13	Sat	6:00 pm	Yearend & Installation Banquet - Blossoms Restaurant at Heather Ridge, 2888 South Heather Gardens Way, Aurora
Sept 16	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Sept 19	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day

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	720-941-6161
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

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Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.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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