



Give Me "Five" for the Kids
Donne-m'en « cinq » pour les enfants
2008-2009

Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

September 11, 2009

Vol. 33, Issue 50

The Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw



Good Morning Optimists!

George Vassilaros was doing double duty this morning working as our lone greeter. A pleasure to see the new members coming forward and extending their hand. Well done George!

Your Invocation & Pledge

Ed Collins gives the invocation and on this sad anniversary he asks for remembrance for those who have laid down their lives in conflict. We are grateful to them for their sacrifice. Let us never forget the precious gift of liberty and of those who fought bravely for our ability to enjoy it. God Bless America! Ed then led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Guests This Morning

Fred Pasternack reports the two he had lined up to join us have once again failed to show. Fred purchased a new hearing aid from them and said he would on the condition they attend our meeting. Perhaps they thought Freddie said he was inviting them to the Jaycees?

Utterings from Prez Phil

In a nod to the red hot Colorado Rockies, **President Phil** leads the club in a stirring rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Who would have thought back in May what we now would be seeing from our local team? It shows how things can change in a short time, makes you think.



Prez Phil's Weekly Recap

President Phil recaps the Budget Meeting held September 9th. The final figures will be discussed and approved at the upcoming board meeting on Tuesday, September 15th.

He then reads a "Thank You Note" from Hamilton Middle School for the recent school supplies program. It shows how these programs are appreciated and noticed by those who benefit from them.

Moments in History

On this day in history:

- In 1666 The Great London Fire begins resulting in 80% of the city being destroyed.
- In 1799 The Bank of Manhattan opens in New York City, later becomes Chase Manhattan.
- In 1913 The Lincoln Highway opens as the first coast to coast paved highway.
- In 1918 baseball season ends because of WW I. In 1945 Japan surrenders ending WW II.
- In 2001 the World Trade Centers are destroyed by terrorist attacks.

Announcements

Ron Gustas reminds everyone about the upcoming Annual Banquet September 26th. Please sign up and contact Greg Young with payment of \$25 per person.

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

Ron Gustas also mentioned that he is walking on Sunday for Juvenile Diabetes, and stated that his 3 year old granddaughter was recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Please support his efforts to raise funds for this cause!

Joe Marci seeks 3 more volunteers to help out with the Alzheimer's Memory Walk. Volunteers are asked to report at 7:00 am, just west of the Museum of Nature and Science. Parking is available between the museum and the zoo. See you there! Also, reminds us that the *Entertainment Book's* are available with proceeds helping the *Sullivan Scholarships*—awarded to students from Thomas Jefferson High School to help them furthering their education.

Howard Fry warms up the crowd by talking about the 2nd Honeymoon Getaway outing coming up this weekend at Winter Park. Cooler temperatures are sure to bring thoughts of fall and the mountains are sure to make for a wonderful time for everyone. We look forward to hearing a recap perhaps next week.

Don Thomson tells us that **Joe Marci** will be lining up presenters for the Super Citizen award programs at our 9 local elementary and middle schools. This is a great program for kids and a chance to get involved—please consider doing so.

President Phil tells members that in light of the debate surrounding Health Care Reform, amateurs built the Arc, professionals built the Titanic.

He also mentions that next week Liberty Day will be celebrated and a couple of volunteers are needed to deliver books to the kids. Contact Phil if you can help out.

Ed Collins is looking for a good rod and reel. If you have a quality unit and are looking to move it, give Ed a call.

SIGN UP SOON
SIGN UP SHEET FOR THE
YEAR END BANQUET
IS GOING AROUND
SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 26TH
BLOSSOMS RESTAURANT, 6:00 PM

Speakers Needed

If you know of speakers for our weekly meetings, please call or email **Paul Bernard** with names and ideas at 720-339-8025 or pxbernard@gmail.com.

Closing Bell

Cy Regan announces a new club record for Grocery Card sales, \$2,125! Thank you to Doug Morton for your generosity this week. Eat well!

We had a drawing this morning and our greeter **George Vassilaros** was the lucky winner twice this morning. Not only does he draw the winning card to win the pot (a big \$50), but then wins a cup as well. Not the biggest jackpot we have ever had, but enough to take you and yours out to dinner. That's all it takes to come to the MSOC banquet. A great morning for the club!



George holding the winning card. What was there George, only 5 or 6 cards?
Photo by Don StJohn

Interesting Geography Trivia

- **Alaska** – More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska.
- **Amazon** – The Amazon rain forest produces more than 20% the world's oxygen supply. The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon river is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.
- **Antarctica** – Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica. This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world. As strange as it sounds, however, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches. Although covered with ice (all but 0.4% of it, i.e.), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi desert.
- **Brazil** – Brazil got its name from the nut, not the other way around.
- **Canada** – Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined. Canada is an Indian word meaning, "Big Village."
- **Chicago** – Next to Warsaw, Chicago has the largest Polish population in the world.
- **Detroit** – Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, carries the designation M-1, so named because it was the first paved road anywhere.

Program for Today, John Arigoni

Ron Cisco introduces our guest speaker this morning, John Arigoni, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver. The Boys and Girls Clubs are fortunate to have the guidance of John. Since 1961, Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping kids from tough neighborhoods stay out of trouble, stay in school, and succeed in life. Ninety percent (90%) of members nationally graduate from high school or earn a General Education Diploma (GED).

John was here to tell us what is happening locally with the clubs. Last year at this time, the country had entered what came to be an economic down turn of historic dimensions. Along with this dramatic fall, charity organizations nation-wide have experienced reductions in donations and gifts. Companies and individuals who have given generously in the past, are now unable to do so. Last year the local Boys and Girls Clubs had budgeted a 25% reduction in revenues. The local organization serves over 9,000 kids and John's mission became to not let these shortfalls affect them. And limiting the kids access to the clubs was also not an option.

The mission of the local Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver, is to inspire and enable young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. The organization owns and operates 8 safe neighborhood branches where kids can spend time after school and during the summer. Not just a local hangout, kids come to learn, do homework, develop social skills, express themselves creatively, and participate in sports. With Latino drop out rates near 60%, these branches are needed just as much now as they ever have. Many youth need a safe place to be, a healthy environment where they can see goals like High School graduation and even college become clear and defined.

John was at the Owen Branch recently and was asked by a youngster if he knew what was coming soon. The boy answered that it would be Thanksgiving and then asked, Would there be food again for the kids? It illustrates that these kids look forward to this annual event put on by MSOC club each year. What an impact it makes on them! The Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver will be celebrating their 50th anniversary next year, and the organization is committed to continuing its mission to helping these kids who need its services so desperately. Much of John's satisfaction with his job is seeing the kids come back after succeeding in school and telling of what a huge impact the club made on their life.

In these tough economic times, the club has partnered with 45 other organizations to share resources and become more efficient. They have explored more ideas to make them better at meeting the needs of the community. Each branch has a waiting list of kids who need their help. John finished by thanking Monaco South for its help and involvement with the Boys and Girls club and for sharing our common goals.

Learn more about the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver at <http://www.bgcmd.org/>.



John Arigoni, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.

Photo by Don St.John

Monaco South Calendar

Sep 11-13	Weekend	Honeymoon/Getaway Weekend	- Colorado Arlberg Club-Winter Park
Sep 15	Tue 6:30 pm	Board Meeting,	3540 S. Poplar, Suite 102
Sep 18	Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall -	Camaraderie Day
Sep 25	Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall -	Speaker TBA
Sep 26	Sat 6:00 pm	Monaco South Year End Banquet	—Blossoms Restaurant

**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	Greg Young	2007-08

2008 - 2009 Officers

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Vice President	Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Secretary	Rich Wagner	303-362-5328
Treasurer	Ron Gustas	303-770-9640

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Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Greg Young (Past Pres.)	303-759-3921

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Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.com	Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Sept.: **ROBERT WARDLAW**, Oct.: **RALPH PEDERSEN**, Nov.: **PHIL PERINGTON**, Dec.: **GEORG BUZICK**

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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