



December 14, 2007
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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— Craig Eley

Trees Flying Off Lot as Christmas Nears

Trees are flying off the lot due to the excellent work of Monaco South salesmen, who are doing great in helping customers find quality trees for their homes. Ninety-one different members have worked the tree lot through Thursday, December 13th. Last year 93 members worked and this year's goal of 100 members is within reach if just nine more members come on down to the friendliest tree lot in Denver.

This week-end the Chili Cook-off should produce some increased



Passersby might have thought it was Paul Shaffer from the Letterman show, but it was really **Fred Pasternack** haranguing motorists to pull into the Monaco South tree lot this past Saturday.

Photo by Paul Simon

participation as those who were waiting for the annual event sample the chili of the great chefs of Monaco South.

Thirteen students from George Washington High School helped us last week, and an equal number were expected from Thomas Jefferson for our busiest week-end of tree sales. Saturday dawned with a light dusting of snow on the trees, and the day turned out warm and sunny—perfect selling weather!

Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1

5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado

Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.

Proceedings of the Meeting of December 14, 2007

Invocation & Pledge

Jim Vander Kamp offered an invocation which reminded us that, although some horrible events had occurred during the past week, this is still the season of joy, love and hope. Then he led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hello, Good-bye

It was great to see MSOC member **Bill Litchfield** again, back for a couple of days to get a taste of snow and cold before returning to Charleston, South Carolina, where he manages the Barksdale House Inn, a 14 room bed and breakfast. You can learn more about the inn at: <http://barksdalehouse.com/>.

Eldon Strong mentioned that this was his last meeting until April, because he is headed to warmer climes for the winter.

Next Week — White Elephant!

One of the wackiest meetings of the year will be next Friday, when **Oscar “Santa” Sorensen** hands out the White Elephant gifts. Everyone should bring a White Elephant gift, but if you don't have one, or forget, not to worry. There will be plenty of recycled gifts from previous years to make up the difference, so y'all come! There will be no speaker and no time for announcements, just an hour of fun.

Dues, Dues, End of Year Blues

We were reminded to get our dues in before the end of 2007. If you don't have the cash, just put what you get at the White Elephant gift exchange on eBay and sell it for big bucks!

Christmas Baskets Next Saturday

Don St. John announced that next Saturday, December 22th, the Club will assemble and deliver Christmas Baskets for the less fortunate. We will meet at 8:30am at the American Legion Hall. We have 27 baskets to distribute, so we need a good group!

Kids & Grandkids to Breakfast December 28

Plan now to get your kids or grandkids up early for a great time on Friday, December 28th. Entertainment is planned, so sign up at the meetings so we will know how many extra breakfasts to have ready.

Trees for Boys and Girls

Monaco South donated 11 Christmas trees to the Denver Public Schools administration for use in its tree decorating contest. **Ron Cisco**, **Kent Gloor** and **Gary Strowbridge** judged the contest, and then took five of the decorated trees to the boys and Girls Club and six to Girl's, Inc. , where they were much appreciated.

Sales Strategies

Joe Marci reported that we have sold 800 Christmas trees so far, and gave us all a sales tip—when adding the price of the tree, wreaths, and other items on the sales ticket, the total amount charged should be equal to or greater than the sum of the items on the ticket!

Happy Birthday!

The Club sang “Happy Birthday” to those members with December birthdays. Unluckily, a spy from ASCAP was present, to see if we were guilty of using copyrighted songs at our meetings without paying for them. Fortunately, he didn't detect any recognizable tune, so we skated from a fine!



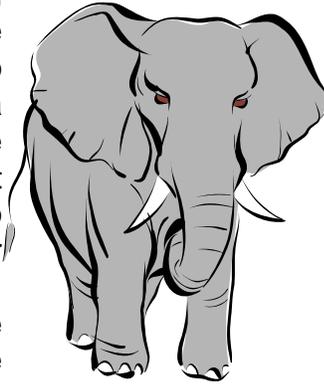
Paul Bernard contemplates the treasured gift he received at last year's White Elephant gift exchange.

Super Citizen

Karl Geil reported that he filled in for the injured **Tom Mauro** at the Hamilton Middle School Super Citizen event recently. **Paul Bernard** was the awards presenter, and gave a talk to the students in which he defined a super citizen as a person who makes things happen. Pictures were snapped by **Wyatt McCallie**.

Elephants in the Office

Craig Ross was the speaker for the meeting. He has written a book called "Stomp the Elephant in the Office," which is designed to help businesses create a healthy work atmosphere. He cited the surprising statistic that 72% of Americans don't want to go to work each day (your author thought it was 100%). The elephant at the office is like the proverbial elephant in the room — it is the thing that everyone knows is there but no one ever does anything about.



Craig noted that there are four kinds of people who infect an office, and who must be dealt with, changed or disposed of. They are:

1. the know-it-all numbskull,
2. the employee who thinks everyone else is

an idiot,

3. the employee who hangs on to information and never gives it up, and

4. the person who always says "it's not me" and points the finger of blame at everyone else.

Craig asked for a show of hands as to which of us had to endure how many of these type of people at work. **Tom McKee** turned out to have the worst of it, and Craig was giving him lots of sympathy until **Carl Brown** blurted out that Tom is self-employed.

Craig said that he is part of a consulting company which works with businesses to do what Optimists do — help people wake up to the idea that they can make a difference.

Grocery Cards

Cy Regan gave us the good news that the Club bought \$1950 in grocery cards this morning. The Club gets 5% in this fundraiser.

Drawing

The drawing took a long time as members squinted to peer at the tiny numbers on their tickets, demonstrating once again that while the Club has enough Optimists, it could use a few Optometrists!

Monaco South Calendar

Dec 18	Tue	6:30 pm	MSOC Board Meeting—Eley's Office
Dec 21	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Camaraderie Day, <i>Holiday White Elephant Exchange</i>
Dec 22	Sat	8:30 am	Christmas Baskets—Legion Hall
Dec 28	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Kids & Grandkids to Breakfast
Jan 12	Sat	7:00 am	North Region Brain Bowl, Fairview HS in Boulder
Feb 2	Sat	7:00 am	Central Region Brain Bowl, George Washington HS

**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

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Jim Brown	303-671-6309
Howard Fry	303-300-4466

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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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