



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

February 3, 2012 – Vol. 37, Issue 18



Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 35 Years

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw



Good Morning Optimist

The forecasted blizzard has rolled into town but the diehards are here, with plenty of snow on the ground. Although no greeters are present this morning a smiling group gathers for **John Marinis'** famous breakfast burritos. (Editors note: John made it in at 6 a.m. and was ready to go for all those loyal OCMS members. Thanks John!) As the crowd gathered lots of good conversation was heard.

First Bell

President **Randy Marcove** rings the bell promptly at 7 a.m. after riding his bike, approximately 1.5 miles, to the meeting this morning and welcomed us all.



Prez Randy Marcove, on left, is welcomed by Bryce Slaby as he arrives for the meeting. Interestingly this picture got published on the bicycle manufacturer's blog, and received comments like, "Looks like the bicycling Unabomber and his Russian Parole Officer."

Photo Don StJohn

Invocation & Pledge

Dr. **Jack Rife**, back after some time in Tucson, delivers the invocation this morning and then leads the

club in the pledge of allegiance.

Snow Busters

Steve Kady suggested we take a picture of the members in attendance this morning in front of the Legion Hall. This would document the lengths members are willing to go to attend weekly meetings.



The hardy bunch, but of course some are missing.

Photo Don StJohn

Guests

No guest this morning, but our substitute speaker showed. More on that later.

Announcements

Wheat Ridge OC Wine & Beer Tasting: The Optimist Club of Wheat Ridge is hosting their 4th Annual Wine and Beer Tasting wine tasting on Saturday, February 25th, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Celebrate Event Center, 3890 Kipling, Unit 5. They will have a hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and light jazz. The cost is \$40 per couple and \$25 for individual. Call Ron Benson, 720-879-3927.

Paul Simon notes the Wheat Ridge club is a big supporter of the Brain Bowl and he hopes to support their fund raising efforts as well.

Cont. 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

Boys Hope/Girls Hope Update: Bryce Slaby reports taking a truck load of supplies to Boys Hope/Girls Hope last Friday. Thanks to members who contributed items on their wish list. Also, he is looking for 12 volunteers to man the phone lines for Channel 6, see Bryce for details and you could be on TV!

North Region Brain Bowl: Paul Simon had his second cataract surgery this week and the difference is amazing. He is now an advocate for this procedure. However, even after seeing better, he is not sure about the Brain Bowl tomorrow (Saturday). At this time the blizzard has details pending. There has never been a cancellation, but that's a lot of snow coming down.

Tri-Star Basketball: Gary Laman announces the Monaco South Tri-Star Basketball Competition to be held February 13th at Cope Branch Boys and Girls Club, 808 Inca Street. Kids compete against others in their own age and gender groups in 3 skills: dribbling, shooting, and passing. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category from the local competition advance to the regional round, and winners there advance to the District Finals to be held at the Pepsi Center. This will be held in April this year, the schedule having been changed due to the shortened NBA season. So sign up and look forward to having a great time!

Tri-Star Basketball sponsored by Tamarac Optimist Club is scheduled for March 15th. They will be holding their event at the Eisenhower Community Center, 4300 E. Davenport Avenue. They have asked for our assistance in handing out a flyer to kids ages 8 to 13 years old who play basketball and would like to compete. See the attached flyer to register or go to <http://www.tristarbasketball.org/>.

Barbecue & Hoedown: Frank Middleton, looking the part this morning, is passing out flyers and talking-up enthusiasm for the upcoming Western Barbecue and Hoedown, which takes place Saturday, March 3rd, 5:30 p.m. beer/wine, 6:00 p.m. barbecue dinner, at the Outpost Club. Those interested in a fun-filled evening and learning to square dance are encouraged to signup. The cost is \$23 per person. See the attached flyer.

Sweetheart to Breakfast: An editors reminder that next week, Friday, February 10th, is the Sweetheart to Breakfast at the Citron Bistro. See Tom Overton to make a reservation. The cost is \$12 per person. If you have already signed up, please be sure to send payment to treasure, **Greg Young**. See the attached list to double-check your payment.



REMMBER NO MEETING AT LEGION HALL

Do We Have a Drawing

As the words, "Do we have a drawing?," all were waiting for the response from **Dr. Bob**, "We have a drawing!" And then he announces, "There is \$180 in the big pot, but the small cups are short due to low sales," and the room grows quiet. The first winning ticket drawn is for **OC Larson**, who strolls across the room like he owns the place and promptly draws the Ace of Hearts! The winning card, thus proving good things happen to good people. Have a great afternoon with your winnings OC!



The remaining tickets are announced to a deflated constituency but we all recover by the time the Creed is recited. Next week are back to just \$10.

Last Bell

The group adjourns to the **Blizzard of 2012** ready to take on the day. Safe travels!

A Bit of Humor



And so it begins—Cruising in Italy:

- ◇ How do they serve alcoholic drinks on Italian cruise ships? — On the rocks.
- ◇ What vegetables do you get with dinner on Italian cruise ships? — Leeks
- ◇ What's the fastest way to get off an Italian cruise ship? — Follow the captain
- ◇ When the captain of the ill fated Costa Concordia was asked if he knew where he was going he replied, "Off course."
- ◇ So the captain of the Costa Concordia will soon be in the dock. That's more than can be said for his ship.
- ◇ What's the difference between the Italian economy and the stricken cruise liner Costa Concordia? —Nothing, the bottoms dropped out of both.

ADVICE: REFUSE TO BOARD SHIP WHEN YOU SEE A LIFEBOAT MARKED "CAPTAIN'S BOAT."

Our Speaker Today - Ben Lewis Mile High United Way

Tom Mauro introduces our speaker this morning. Standing in for our scheduled invitee, Lindsey Morgan Tracy, from United Way was Ben Lewis, United Way's Senior Director, Donor Relations.

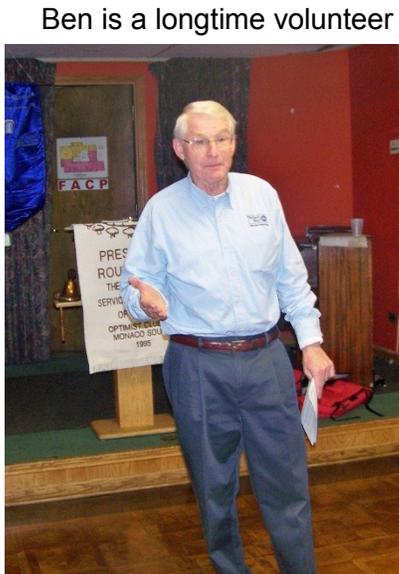


Photo Don StJohn

Ben is a longtime volunteer and now a director for United Way, dating back to his time with United Bank of Denver. United Bank enrolled Ben in the "Loaned Executive" program and he spent three months working on various projects. It was this experience that Ben recounts, that introduced him to the great work this organization does for our community. Ben is here today to talk specifically about the Childhood Literacy

program being implemented by United Way in Colorado. A troubling statistic for our city; Denver Public Schools has a 51% high school graduation rate. The United Way is hoping to address this issue with a grant from the Social Innovation Fund. This program identifies the most promising, results oriented non-profit pro-

grams and looks to expand their reach throughout the country. Of the five grants that were awarded around the United States, United Way in Colorado received an award and targeted 3rd Grade Literacy as its focus. They seek to do this by funding existing programs that have been depleted through budget cuts and diminished funding. Many libraries in our state have had to reduce their hours and close entirely for parts of the week.

Schools and cities have to submit detailed plans for monies that are awarded and follow up documentation that support the implementation of the programs. Studies show that 30% of third graders are not reading at grade level. Of low income families, that statistic rises to 83% of children not able to read proficiently. These are due to a variety of factors, but the aim is to reduce these numbers and give children the tools and skills to become good readers and better students. Educating children and helping them succeed in school is a great idea and program that we can all support. See more on the United Way website at <http://www.unitedwaydenver.org/>.

Children in poverty hear 30 million fewer words before they reach kindergarten than their wealthier peers.

Last year Mile High United Way's School Readiness Initiative helped 44,000 young children receive quality early childhood education.

Weekly Greeters	
Date	Greeters
2/10/12	John Oss & Jim Riley
2/17/12	Steve Kady & George Buzick
2/24/12	Mike Chavez & Phil Perington
3/2/12	Tom Hoch & Joe Marci

Super Citizen Presenters for February		
10 @ 8:30 am	Slavens	Jim Easton
15 @ 2:30 pm	MPB	Ed Collins
17 @ 9:10, 10:00, & 11:40 am	Holm	Frank Middleton
23 @ 1:20 & 2:10 PM	McMeen	?
24 @ 1:20 & 2:05 pm	Univ. Park	Bryce Slaby
24 @ 3:00 pm	Bradley	Mike McMahon

Monaco South Calendar

- Feb 10 Fri 7:00 am Sweetheart to Breakfast, Citron Bistro, 3535 South Yosemite**
No meeting at the American Legion Hall
- Feb 15 Wed 6:30 pm Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
- Feb 17 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
- Feb 24 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Incarceration in Colorado, Steve Smith
- Feb 25 Sat 7:00 am South Region Brain Bowl, Carson High School, Fort Carson, CO
- Mar 3 Sat 7:00 am Championship Brain Bowl, Douglas County High School, Castle Rock, CO

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

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

2011 - 2012 Officers

President	Randy S. Marcove	303-667-3663
Vice President	Frank Ross	720-210-8809
Vice President	Howard Fry	303-601-5088
Secretary	Jack Rife	303-349-1280
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Harry Fegley	303-671-7182
Wyatt McCallie	303-759-2275
Frank Middleton	303-759-9232
John Oss	303-973-7934
Allen Pierce	303-833-8506
James Riley	303-472-3652
Jim Tapp	303-503-8043
Brian Williams	720-253-5731
Ed Collins (Past Pres.)	303-905-7572

Newsletter Committee

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Marlin Kent	303-779-0778		O.C. Larson	303-737-7432	larson1942@cpmcast.net
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.com	Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	rwardlaw@comcast.net
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net	John Oss	720-210-8056	john.oss4us@gmail.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.com			

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Feb **Robert Wardlaw**; Mar **OC Larson**; Apr **Ralph Pedersen**

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.