



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



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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—Phil Perington



Good Morning Optimist

Mike (Speedo) **McMahon** and **Greg** (Choo-Choo) **Hurd** were alert and ready warmly welcoming arriving members, in anticipation and excitement over today's final drawing.

Breakfast

The ever-delicious breakfast buffet featured assorted Danish, fluffy cheese omelets, hash browns, sliced cantaloupe, bacon, plus juice, coffee, and tea. Uncle **Bob Avery** and **Lynn Jones** were especially pleased. They piled their plates to the max and proceeded to secure clean plate honor for club status. Our caterer, **Heather** was pleased to say that her morning diners eat a tremendous amount of food and drink coffee in monumental proportions.



Early Moring Camaraderie

Don St. John was sitting with **Noel Hasselgren** at the cashiers table, giving instructional encouragement while sharing remarks, taking money and making change. It looked like they were both enjoying training day. Noel was getting professional assistance, while he was sitting in for **Gary Miller**.

Perry Allen was seen passing out Dime-A-Day applications while **Allen Yockey** and **Ron Gustas** were discussing the amazing population increase in Denver and the state. The new dynamic duo of **Eley** and **Iley** were lost in conversation, obviously ramping up for the new regime.

Steve "Thumper" **Kady** finally admitted the reason he spent so much time at McDonalds was really a scheme to work his way behind the counter for who knows what.

President **John Oss** was busy passing out MSOC schedules of upcoming activities, while Mr. Lucky, **Jack Kleinhessel** was filling his pockets with drawing tickets.

The new team of **Rife** and **Banford** were giving buddy slugs to each other. While **Ron Cisco**, who had missed the Installation Dinner, was seen making nice with **Oscar Sorenson**.

Jon Wachter, wearing his matching orange checked Bermuda shorts and lanyard was looking money and soliciting greeters. **Dave Peck** when asked how his T-Bird was, smiled and said all was well. Incoming Governor **Curt Merrill** and current First Dude **Kent Gloor** were sharing thoughts about the upcoming District administrative year.

In the corner, **Donlie Smith** and **Scott Walker** lost in conversation around the Buffs, Rams, Bronco's and Rockies

seemed to have everything under control. **Randy Marcove** reported that **Marc Goodbody** had stopped by Brown International Elementary school last week after reading about the new proposed JOOI Club. He introduced himself to Assistant Principle **Sue Williams**. Marc has been a long time Super Citizen photographer and is ready to swing into action when called upon. Returning member, **Lee Claymore** was sharing his recent adventures in Estes Park working on his cabin in preparation of the winter snows. **John Greene** was proudly wearing his "Born in the USA T-shirt," unaware of the Bruce Springsteen song and the Oak Ridge Boys song, "My girl, she's American Made."



First Bell

President **John Oss** gaveled the gathered to attention with a crisp "Attention Gentlemen!" and **Pat Bush** opened the meeting with the Invocation. "Oh great creator of the Universe on this day there is something in all of our friends who posses unique and special talents." The Pledge of Allegiance followed, and cheers of "Play Ball" filled the room.

From the Prez

Prez Oss shared highlights of the Installation and Monaco South Celebration dinner, held last Saturday evening saying that:

- **Russ Paul** was recognized with the Marlin Kent Eternal Optimist Award. It was a great honor for me to present him that recognition. Russ is the twelfth MSOC member to receive the highest honor.

- The MSOC Optimist of the Year award went to **Ron Cisco**. Ron is the gift to the club that keeps on giving. He is in the company of 22 others who have preceded.

and then said,

"It has been a great pleasure to serve as president for 2014-2015. I thank all the members for dedication to the club, the community, self-improvement, and the kids. We are all better, thanks to these efforts. Thank you all!"



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*****

Guests

It was noted that **John Banford** submitted his application, check to his new pal **Jack Rife**, and was greeted with a spirited welcome aboard.

John Young introduced his guest **Michael Orwig**, who took the microphone and thanked everyone for the great breakfast and camaraderie.

Returning guest of **Steve Kady's**, **Paul Gibson** from Virginia is still looking for his checkbook but still loves us. He also discovered he does not have to sit with Steve all the time if he joins the Club.

"We welcome you all and look forward to you becoming a part of the Monaco South Optimists"

Announcements

Super Citizen Program: Dr. **Rob Gardner**, who oversees the presenter scheduling, announced the first Super Citizen awards were handed out at McMeen on September 24th. Parents, siblings, relatives, attended the ceremony and grandparents all filled with grateful pride and happy grins. Please sign up for upcoming ceremonies. There is also a prepared speech available for anyone interested in volunteering as a spokesperson. See Rob!

Program Speakers: **Paul Bernard** reminded everyone that if you have suggestions for upcoming programs or speakers keep him informed. You can go to our website at www.monacosouth.org for input and information.

OCMS Directory Update: **Craig Eley** said "the Directory is coming!" While shifting the blame to **Tom Mauro** on the million-dollar guarantee for the promotional sponsors, he went on to remind everyone that if they did not like their picture then get a better face and please submit any changes in ASAP.

OI Dime-A-Day: **Perry Allen** pointed out that Dime-A-Day participation costs only one tenth of a dollar. Next week is new year for new Dime-a Day contributions. Let us keep Monaco South Number One again!

Speaking of Super Citizen Programs: **Pat Bush** thanked **Mike White** for helping with fitting recipients with t-shirts and **John Oss** for photos at the McMeen Super Citizen Awards. It was also noted that kindergarten kids joined in the ceremony for the first time this year.

New Aurora Optimist Club: In coming, Governor **Curt Merrill** brought us up to date on a new Aurora club he was helping organize. They have stated they really want our programs. It is an evening club so please contact Gov. Curt for more details. In addition, there is a new school "open house" next Thursday at Second and Buckley Road. We will be working on building a JOOI Club as well.

2016 Entertainment Savings Book: **Joe Marci** is announced that Entertainment Books are flying out the door and he is working on second case.

Joe also said, the **Alzheimer Memory Walk** at City Park held last Saturday was assisted by 14 MSOC volunteers: **Tom Hoch**, Prez-elect **Don Iley**, **Barry Barker**, **Michael Chavez**, **OC Larson**, **Mike White**, **George Buzick**, **Harry Fegley**, **Kent Gloor**, **Cap Hermann**, and **Joe**. There were over 6,000 Walkers, all of who appreciated the Optimists providing walking station relief.

Last, Joe proclaimed he still had Rockies tickets for the remaining home games. *Editor, we are sure he is making some good deals, so see Joe!*

Speaking of Rockies Tickets: **Bob Avery** told a story that he had left four Rockies tickets on the dash of his car hoping someone would take them. Instead, someone broke into the car and left four more.

ACS Relay for Life: **Bob Avery** reported that the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Walk held at the Arkansas Valley Crowley County facility had over 500 men signup. However, only 400 were allowed to participate. He raised over \$400 from personal and club donations.

Bob then wished fond farewell to **Prez John Oss** and a hearty hello to **New President Don Iley**. A standing ovation followed.

Payment for Installation Dinner: **Jon Wachter** requested anyone to send money if you have not paid for the Installation Dinner that was attended by 60+ members and spouses. **Jim Easton** was then awarded his Board of Directors pin—I swear you are finally in—and made a short report. He closed by thanking **Randy Marcove** for suggesting Piccolo's with their fantastic food and service.

Schlessman YMCA-Optimist Playground Project: **Jack Rife** reported with great pride and thankfulness that the Schlessman Family YMCA-Optimist Playground Project was completed. It is finished and looks wonderful. Please stop by and visit. You can even bring a little shovel and pail and build a sand castle.



September Birthdays

Member recognized for being a year older were **Neil Alderson**, **Peter Dimond**, **Jim Easton**, **Howdy Fry**, **Casey Funk**, **Glenn Kindt**, and **Frank Middleton**. For those who were not there, this editor is proud to say this may have been the worst rendition sung in ages ... a true award winning performance!

Returning Members

The Prez recognized returning members **Barry Barker**, **Jim Easton**, **Cap Herman**, **Bill Morgan**, **Tom Overton**, **Dave Peck**, and **Allen Yockey**. He also noted that Past Governor and Club President, **Tom Overton** and wife **Sheryl**, made a trip to South Carolina to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Way to go you two—life is good!

Yearend Pot

Sales were brisk for the yearend pot drawing, but **Allen Malask** got the opportunity to draw the final card and barely wins \$10 for selecting the Seven of Clubs! Taking the cups were **John StJohn**, **Bill Morgan**, **Allen Malask**, triple dipping, and **John Oss**, with a double win parting gift. A Standing Ovation once again!



Closing Creed

The closing Creed was lead by **John Oss**.

The Case Against FOOs

By Craig Eley, OCMS Vice President

We hear about FOOs at meetings, but what are they? FOO stands for Friend of Optimism. It is a program Optimist International put into place a few years ago where for \$100; a person can make another person a FOO. The Club receives \$40 from this amount, and the FOO receives the club newsletter and the OI magazine. Other than being able to vote and hold office, a FOO may pretty much participate in club activities as much as a member.

Sounds like a sweet deal. But wait, there's more.

For membership growth purposes, Optimist International counts FOOs as members of our Club, even though they have never applied for membership nor been voted in. This is where I part ways with the whole FOO idea. Clubs are able to pay for FOO memberships and thereby increase their membership count. By maintaining or increasing their club's size, they can qualify to be an Honor Club even if they have lost actual members during the year.

And what are the requirements to be a FOO? Well, (military veterans may appreciate the upcoming pun) the FOO bar is set pretty low. If you have \$100, or someone has it for you, you are in.

The pressure is on all clubs, I suspect, to dip into the treasury at the end of the year and "honor" those non-members who have done some service to the club with a FOO membership. After all, it only really costs the club \$60 each, and if they do it enough to maintain their membership count, they will be named an Honor Club by the District.

I submit that this scheme is unhealthy for Optimism and our Club in the following ways:

1. This is a dishonorable way to become an Honor Club. Buying your way to the top with phantom members is no example to set for kids, members or anyone else.
2. It is a misuse of club funds. Using dues and raised funds to buy Honor Club status only serves to feed the ego of the club president. It does nothing to advance the cause of Optimism.
3. It actually inhibits bringing new people into club membership. Why work hard at bringing guests and engaging them in the work of the club when you can simply write a check to keep your numbers up? That end of the year push for members is kind of legendary in my recol-

lection of the history of our Club, pre-FOOs. Now, clubs probably still make a push, but when they know their fallback is ponying up \$60 for a couple of FOOs, the pressure isn't on as much to introduce others to the joy of Optimism service.

4. It hobbles the next president. When an end of the year FOO-buying frenzy adds to the membership count, it may get the outgoing president Honor Club President status. But the incoming president is then stuck with membership roles larded up with folks who may not care about continuing as FOOs or becoming real members. If the new president and board decide that paying for FOOs from club funds is improper, they will have a big hole to dig out of when those FOOs are dropped for non-payment. If the club does decide to fund all of their existing FOOs, it will become a club expense year after year, kicking the can down the road until some president has the guts to say "enough!" and probably take the hit of not becoming an Honor Club President.

Of course, FOO memberships can be purchased with non-club funds. While Monaco South has, in the past, purchased FOOs with Club funds, it no longer does so. The 16 FOOs listed in the back of the April, 2015 Club Directory either are paid for by someone else (such as a Club member) or pay their own way. The Club has no way of stopping this — it gets no say in who becomes a FOO.

The problem for our incoming administration will be with any of those 16 FOOs who either no longer want to pay \$100 per year for a magazine and newsletter, or whose benefactors no longer want to pay for them. If they are dropped, it counts as a reduction in our Club's membership. And those 16 FOOs make up more than 10% of our total membership.

Of course, if the Board caves in next September and pays for a bunch of FOOs, Honor Club status can again be ours. The District will look good. OI will be happy (they got some extra money in \$60 increments). But I hope we, the members, will not be happy. And I am sure the Board has no intention of doing such a thing. Instead, we are going to work hard to bring in real members, members who can help with the work of serving kids, our Club, and our community.

Weekly Greeters

10/2/15	Don Roth & Ron Cisco
10/9/15	Eldon Strong & Tom Overton
10/16/15	Jim Easton & George Buzick
10/23/15	Casey Funk & Nick Newey
Help, Help, Help — we need Friday morning greeters, see Jon Wachter, 303-204-5645 or jon_wachter@msn.com	

October Super Citizen Presenters

Oct 9 @ 8:30 to 1:00	Holm	?
Oct 14 @ 8:00	Highline	?
Oct 14 @ 1:00	Samuels	?
Oct 16 @ 8:30	Slavens	Bob Avery
Oct 21 @ 2:30	MPB	George Buzick
Oct 22 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Dave Peck
Be a Super Citizen Presenter See Rob Gardner, 720-263-6203 gardnerrb@gmail.com		

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2015-2016 40th Birthday Year — Chartered in 1976

Oct 2	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA & New Leadership
Oct 9	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Oct 16	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 Stowbridge	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

Board of Directors

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: Sept **Phil Perington**, Oct **George Buzick**, Nov **Robert Wardlaw**

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.