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Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
 Serving Youth and the Community for 36 Years


www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw



Good Morning Optimist

On this Friday, of the Memorial Day Weekend, old friends and new friends gather this morning. **Mark Metevia** and **Harry Johnson** are our greeters today

 and no sooner are the handshakes exchanged, **Frank Middleton** hands out the 8 of spades, and it's *Camaraderie Day*!

Once again, the great thing about Camaraderie Day is the opportunity to sit with and get to know people some other fellow Optimists. Your editor is seated with **Bryce Slaby** and Jauques (Jack) Bensard, a soon to be member, **Pat Bush**, and **Tom Glazier**.

Invocation & Pledge



Paul Stratton reads the invocation this morning, giving thanks to those brave men and women who have given their lives to preserve the freedom we enjoy.

The Background of Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in the military service. First enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War (it is celebrated near the day of reunification after the Civil War), it was expanded after World War I.

Many people observe this holiday by visiting cemeteries and memorials. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3 p.m. local time. Another tradition is to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff from dawn until noon local time. Volunteers often place American flags on each grave site at National Cemeteries.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars take donations for poppies in the days leading up to Memorial Day; the poppy's sig-

Memorial Day Weekend

nificance to Memorial Day is the result of the John McCrae poem "In Flanders Fields."

In addition to remembrance, Memorial Day is also used as a time for picnics, barbecues, family gatherings, and sporting events. One of the longest-standing traditions is the running of the Indianapolis 500, an auto race which has been held in conjunction with Memorial Day since 1911. The Coca-Cola 600 has been held later the same day since 1961.*

*Cute-calendar.com (2013).

Guests

Guests this morning include a second visit from **Robert Gardner**, invited by **Fred Pasternack**. Rob is looking for a pen, hopefully to fill out an application. New member **Bob Coulson** is in attendance this morning, as is new member **Jeff Johnston**. Alan Most introduces himself and is looking to rejoin the club. **Gary Laman**, who has been out for medical reasons, was here this morning, and looks great. Gary thanked the club and several members in particular for the cards, calls, and visits during his recovery. So good to see you Gary!



And on the eve of this Memorial Day Holiday weekend, President **Paul Simon** recognizes **Harry Johnson** who served in WWII. Thank you to Harry and all those members who served our country.



Photos Craig Eley

The gravestones at Arlington National Commentary are graced by U.S. flags on Memorial Day weekend.



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******

May Birthdays

Randy Marcove take the mic and asks birthday boys **George Buzick, Dick Daly, Robert Duvall, Harry Fegley, Keith Gallaway, Al Gapuzan, Karl Geil, Thomas Mauro, James Riley, Gary Strowbridge,** and Past President and Charter Club member **John Young** to stand and be recognized. A raucous rendition serenades our boys this morning.

President Paul car pooled with **Donlie Smith** and **Jack Kleinhessel** to the Rockies game last Sunday to help hand out Bobble Head dolls (Dante Bichette version) and learned he and Jack share a birthday, July 9th. The event, led by **Mike Chavez** was a great success; they handed out 20,000 of these collectibles and earned cash for the club. *Editor, are you aware that in a group of 23 or more, you have at least a 50% chance that two people will have the same birthdate? However to see the paradox in this probability, [CLICK HERE](#).*



Prez Paul with the bobblehead, not popcorn as was reported last week.

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Announcements

Thank You: Steve Wera, Optimist member and principal of Bradley International is here this morning to thank Optimists who helped out at the school by being observers at the playground area before school. In addition to helping they made the area a more secure and safe environment. The members, who even came out in some adverse conditions each and every day, were **Jon Wachter, Barry Barker, Phil Perington, Randy Marcove,** and **Paul Simon**.

CO-WY 3rd Quarter Conference: Tom Overton gave a plug for the CO-WY District conference last weekend, including the award of \$2,500 in scholarships for student's continuing education. Part of the proceeds came from a raffle in which our own **Dick Cohen** won 2 bottles of wine. Also at the same event, **John Oss** purchased several raffle tickets, putting one in **Paul Simon's** name which was drawn a winner.



Paul Bernard About to Return: Paul Bernard is expects to be back next week for the meeting, a first call is sent out for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation. Each year the club provides judges to interview HOBY participants for scholarships to the national convention and attend the HOBY conference for youth leaders. This will be Saturday, June 8th.

American Cancer Society 5K Walk: Also on Saturday, June 8th, support is needed for the American Cancer Society 5K walk; this will involve a number of activities for kids and adults.

Super Citizen: Don Thomson is wrapping up the year end for the 2012-13 Citizenship Awards for each of our ten schools. This will involve the awards of the

Charlie Korsoski

to a student from each school with a plaque and a \$50 cash award. Don thanked each of the school coordinators and photographers, along with Bob Finkelmeier



Don Thomson showing off one the Charlie Korsoski certificate plaques.

Photo Don StJohn

who prints all of the certificates. This year over 800 certificates and T-shirts were handed out.

Hamilton Middle School SC Presentation: The citizenship award for Hamilton Middle School recently took place. **Tom Mauro** reports that **Mike Mauro** was the presenter and **Wyatt McCallie** took photos. Tom also tells us that at 66 years of age he is feeling great.

National MS Society 150: Mike Chavez mentions that the upcoming Bike MS Rest Stop that will take place on Sunday, June 30th. The club will be putting on lunch for the riders and volunteers. Members helping will need to report by 6:30 in Longmont, more details to follow.

OJ Junior Golf Championship: Joe Marci once again remained us of the golf tournament to support Jr. Golf which takes place May 29. Joe could use a few more golfers for this tournament. Also, the tickets for the Rockies game on Sunday, June 9 will be handed out on Friday, June 31st.

Bradley International Diabetes Walk: Ron Gustas announces a fun event at Bradley International School where the kids will be walking in the fight against Childhood Diabetes. He is looking for some volunteers to cheer them on. If you can clap, encourage, and smile, you are encouraged to attend. Ron just needs to let the school know that you are coming. So if you would like to attend please let Ron know.

Aurora Rangeview Optimist Golf: Fred Paster-nack is still looking for golfers for a tournament sponsored by the Rangeview Optimist club, taking place June 7. South Monaco has always supplied a four-some for this event and Freddy is looking to continue this tradition.

Breakfast Menu Update: Craig Eley announces that some new breakfast options will begin to be served in the future for those members looking for healthy options.

Lowry Area Garage Sale: Paul Stratton tells members that Lowry will be holding a community wide Garage Sale on June 1st. At that time a recycling program for electronics will taking place for a small fee. So bring your old gadgets for safe disposal.

Southmoor Park East Garage Sale: Speaking of Garage Sales, Southmoor Park East will have a communality sale on Saturday, June 8th starting at 8 a.m. and going throughout the day.

Announcements Continued

Who Was Charlie Korsoski: Oscar Sorensen

tells the club more about Charlie Korsoski, in whose honor these year end awards are given. Charlie led the citizenship program for many years and helped to establish this as the flagship project for South Monaco. Our club presents Super Citizen awards for citizenship at 10 elementary and middle Schools. From this group of super citizens, a special award is presented at each school. Charlie Korsoski was retired from Gates Rubber Company and in 1982 helped establish the Super Citizen program. Upon his death at 84 years of age, in 1992, the club voted to create this honor in his name. The Super Citizen program has become a large part of what our club is known for, and countless times at the tree lot or other club activities parents and young people will tell members how the Super Citizen award has been a highlight in their growing up and early schools years.



Schlessman YMCA Capital Campaign: Neil Alderson, member and executive director of the Schlessman Family YMCA, tell us about the capitol improvements underway at the YMCA. Neil shares that planning for this project started in 2006 and to date the Y has raised \$2.4 million with another \$1.5 to \$2 million needed for completion. The Y is 55 years old and while being a valued community resource, it is in need of renovation. Expansion will include the north side of the building where much of the parking now exists and will include complete renovation of the pool

area, with a lap pool area, as well as family aquatic space. The club hosted community meetings to determine what needs can be best addressed by the facility. The renovation will include a new lobby area, bigger weight room, new stationary bicycle area, and expanding the gym to include a full size basketball court, which will double the current area. Downstairs will include a teen and youth center that will be available for general hanging out and activities. Construction is expected to take about 12 months. To make a donation contact Neil Alderson at nalderson@denverymca.org or call 720 524 2760.



Neil Alderson shows the Schlessman Family YMCA expansion plans as he explains the capital campaign.

Photo Craig Eley

Tamarac Optimist Club's 20th Anniversary: John Young encouraged us all to participate in the celebration excitement with a club that we helped build and where some of our spouses are members. The celebration will take place on Tuesday evening, June 18th from 5:30 –9:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Event Center. For details see the party invitation attached to the GUMS distribution email.



Charles Korsoski Award Presentations

May 23	MPB
May 29	Slavens
May 31	Hamilton
June 1	Highline
June 3	Holm
June 3	Univ. Park
June 3	Lowry
June 3	Bradley
June 4	Samuels
June 4	McMeen

Weekly Greeters

Date	Greeters
5/31/13	Al Gapuzan & John Oss
6/7/13	JR Gieck & Ed Collins
6/14/13	Frank Middleton & John Oss
6/21/13	Ralph Pederson & Bryce Slaby
6/28/13	Russ Paul & ?

Monaco South Calendar

May 31 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Jim White, Volunteers of America
 June 7 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Rob Winget, Bright Spots in the Silver Tsunami
 June 14 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Walter Stapleton, Colorado State Treasure
 June 19 Wed 6:30 pm Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102

**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	Randy Marcove	2011-12

2012 - 2013 Officers

President	Paul Simon	303-300-9940
Vice President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	Jon Wachter	303-204-5645
Secretary	Jack Rife	303-349-1280
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Barry Barker	813-545-4533
Par Bush	720-747-5482
Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
John Oss	720-210-8056
Allen Pierce	303-833-8506
Michael Short	970-261-6012
Scott Walker	303-517-1862
Randy Marcove (Past Pres.)	303-667-3663

Newsletter Committee

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Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jpiccinelli@earthlink.net	John Oss	720-210-8056	john.oss4us@gmail.com
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NEWSLETTER EDITORS: May **Robert Wardlaw**, Jun **Pat Bush**, Jul **Paul Stratton**, Aug **John Oss**

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.