



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

January 9, 2015 – Vol. 40, Issue 15



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—Robert Wardlaw



Good Morning Optimist

Cold and grey are present this morning as we gather for our meeting. **Craig Eley** does the work of two people and welcomes members as we enter. Harry must have overslept.

Even though this is the third straight Friday with snow and ice, attendance is growing once aging. Three weeks ago we had approximately 25 and today we may have had 50 in attendance as evident from the announcement line. See photo below.

First Bell

President John Oss rings the bell promptly at 7 a.m. and invites us to greet out neighbors with a smile and handshake, good to see everyone this morning!

Invocation & Pledge

Don Thomson delivers the invocation this morning. The prayer is for the New Year, and all that we may do in it. This chance will not happen again, we must do what we can to seize this chance and make the best of our world. Don then leads us to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting begins.



Guests

Guests this morning include **Noel**, here with **Gary Miller**. **Paul Bernard** takes a moment to welcome **Kendra Black**, a MSOC Friend of Optimist (FOO) member, Tam-arac Optimist Club and Type 1 Diabetes Optimist Club member. Welcome to all!

GUMS Correction

President **John Oss** takes a moment to thank last week's editor, **Pat Bush** for his work on last week's edition. Thank you Pat! Pat tells us he did make an error in thanking Hensel Phelps Construction, when in fact the thanks was to Haselden Construction for their help with the generator at the Tree Lot this year. Thank you Pat for clarification.



Announcements



Inline for making an announcement, Frank Middleton, Karl Geil, Paul Simon, Rob Gardner, and Mike McMahon get ready.

Photo Don StJohn

East High School Winner: **Tom Mauro** tells us about Denver East High School winning again at the National Constitution competition in Washington DC. Each year East High fields an entirely new team of students for this very rigorous event. This is a truly impressive accomplishment for a local school achieving excellence in education.

Excellence in Teaching: Speaking of excellence in education, **Tom Mauro** reminds the group that our own award for a local teacher who demonstrates excellence in the classroom will be awarded again this year. If you know of a teacher who fits the criterion, please let Tom know.

Outstanding Faculty: In another recognition of excellence, **Tom Mauro** was elected "Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year 2014" by Argosy University. Tom has been teaching undergraduate course for Argosy for the past two or three years. Congratulations Tom!

New Grandpa: **Frank Middleton** announces he is a new Grandpa. His granddaughter McKenzie was born on January 7. Congratulations Frank!

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******

Announcements Continued

Brain Bowl: **Karl Geil** announces that the Brain Bowl is upon us. Saturday, January 10, the north competition will be held at Standley Lake High School. Volunteers are needed to be in place by 7 a.m., and with over 100 teams competing, the event looks to be another big day for the kids. **Paul Simon**, who is coordinating the volunteers for the Brain Bowl asks for a show of hands from those who will be helping tomorrow and gives a big Thank You to the club for its help!

Super Citizen Presenters: **Rob Gardner** takes the lectern and rings the bell for presenters for upcoming Super Citizen assemblies. We are close to halfway through the school year and we need a strong finish.



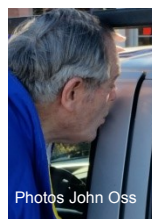
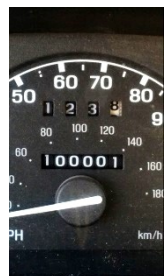
Presenters for these assemblies are asked to give a short speech on the value of citizenship and help hand out certificates and T-shirts at the assemblies. It is a wonderful way to get involved with one of the signature events of this club. Openings are available in February, see Rob to get on the list.

Polar Plunge for Special Olympics: **Mike McMahon** is once again taking the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics and is asking members to join him in a refreshing jump into Cherry Creek Reservoir for a great cause. The event will take place in February and if you are not able to join Mike, you can pledge money to help support this event.

MSOC Annual Ski Day: **Bob Avery** tells us about Optimist Day on the slopes at Copper Mountain. Let Bob know you are coming and he will make breakfast. He is also lining up the hot tub for some après ski afterwards. More details as we approach the January 26th Annual gathering for this fun day.

Know Brainer: **Don and Joyce Thomson** along with **Mike Chavez** recently put on a mock trial for the Know Brainer at Southmoor Elementary, 3755 South Magnolia Way. The kids participating had a great time and performed very well and it looks like this event has another school participating for this year. Don also mentioned that this school looks like an opportunity to join the ranks once again, for our Super Citizen program. Great job Don, Joyce and Mike!

John Young and his Truck: **Prez John** tells members about a truck that works almost as hard as its owner does. As the photo at left shows, "it goes the extra mile." He had the occasion recently to have **John Young** give him a ride in his truck and was more than impressed with the volume of miles this vehicle had amassed.



At left, left Jon expresses appreciation for his truck.

Thank you John for the work you have done over these years and for your truck, which has been through it as well.

Photos John Oss

Happy Birthday Leo: Steve Kady and Allen



Leo Hagele with his complementary birthday dessert at the Black-eyed Pea.

Photo Steve Kady

Yockey had dinner recently with our own FOO member, **Leo Hagele** and reports a spry and energetic meeting with lively conversation. Leo celebrated his 94th birthday on January 5th. Those interested in the like are encouraged to give Leo a call at 303-758-0919. You might also consider picking Leo up for our Friday

meetings, since he no longer drives. Leo lives at the Kentucky Circle Village, 4901 E. Kentucky.

Do We Have A Drawing?

Prez John, do we have a drawing? Yes and there is a small pot this morning waiting for an enthusiastic audience. Lucky ticket holders this morning include **Paul Stratton** (twice), **Frank Ross**, **Terry Shroyer**, and then **Phil Perington** picks the lucky card. Way to go Phil!

Optimist Creed

Kendra Black then leads the group reciting the Optimist Pledge, words to live by.

Go out to this beautiful day and spread the word of Optimism!

Bits from Modern Philosophers



John Glenn ...

"As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder."



Jean Kerr ...

"The only reason they say 'Women and children first' is to test the strength of the lifeboats."



David Letterman ...

"America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked."



Old Italian proverb ...

"After the game, the King and the Pawn go into the same box."

Kendra Black

Candidate for City Council representing Southeast Denver (District 4)

Paul Bernard introduces our speaker this morning. **Kendra Black** is no stranger to these parts and we are honored to have her speak again with us about her upcoming campaign for Denver City Council. This seat is being vacated by another friend of Monaco South, **Peggy Lehmann**, who is term limited. Peggy's City Council office, at 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102, has housed the clubs Board meeting for many years and we are of shared purpose in the betterment of our community.

Kendra Black is a southeast Denver Native, having been born and raised in Denver, attending Thomas Jefferson High School and earned her Bachelor and Master Degrees from the University of Colorado. Her parents bought the house she grew up in on South Harrison in 1954, her mother attended and graduated from East High School. She is running for City Council with the idea that service to community is a privilege that each citizen can enjoy.

Some of the issues that Kendra hopes to advance include growth, affordable housing, and development. Denver is experiencing a rapid rise in growth, becoming the #1 choice for young people moving to begin their careers. This has resulted in higher costs for housing with demand only expected to increase. The result being that young families wanting to buy a first home are being priced out of the market. The ripple effect of the tight housing market then creates higher rental rates and so on, leading to problems of homelessness and strains on the city to be able to support its citizens. Traffic and road conditions are another issue that will need attention. The condition and safety of busy thoroughfares make for difficult decisions. Some of the major streets in our area, Colorado Boulevard, Monaco and University, to name a few, make pedestrian and bicycle traffic unpleasant if not dangerous.

The movement towards multimodal transportation will



Kendra Black
Photo Don StJohn

require planning to ensure these areas are places people can move about efficiently. Light rail stations that run along I-25 continue to be developed and bring higher concentrations of people and businesses to those hubs. The city has placed a high priority on how these stations are structured and the people who populate the area move about.

Schools in our part of the city are a focal point for each neighborhood. How these schools teach our kids and work within the community is another area Kendra hopes to focus on. When schools are high performing, they add value and positive impact on the homes surrounding them. This is a direct impact on what we do with our club and with programs such as Super Citizen, Brain Bowl, and Know Brainer. We applaud Kendra's ideas.

Kendra believes that citizens need to be involved with how their community is developed. As the city changes and grows, these decisions become very important to the aesthetic and functional workings for daily life. No one wants to lose the sights and views that this great city holds, how we maintain those and make structures that house a growing population are pieces of the puzzle that need to fit. The city has an annual budget of over \$1 Billion, over half of that going to public safety. Kendra has been co-chair of Denver's Citywide Bond oversight committee, and task force overseeing the DPS Bond.

Kendra understands what it takes to get the job done. She will bring that dedication and work ethic to the city. Editor, *Well done and great speech.*



Past CO/WY District Governor and MSOC President, Phil Perington, Kendra Black, and MSOC President John Oss share a smile.

Photo Don StJohn

Weekly Greeters

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1/9/15 | Craig Eley & Harry Arkin |
| 1/16/15 | Robert Wardlaw & Michael Chavez |
| 1/23/15 | Bob Avery & Keith Galloway |
| 1/30/15 | Nick Newey & Steve Kady |
| 2/6/15 | Gary Strowbridge & Jon Wachter |
| 2/13/15 | Jack Kleinheksel & George Buzick |
| Need Friday morning greeters, see Jon Wachter, 303-204-5645 or jon_wachter@msn.com | |

Super Citizen Presenters Jan.

| | | |
|--|------------|----------------|
| Jan 14 @ 8:00 | Highline | Rob Gardner |
| Jan 21 @ 2:30 | MPB | Jim VanderKamp |
| Jan 30 @ 1:40 | Univ. Park | Joe Marci |
| Jan 30 @ 3:00 | Bradley | Jon Wachter |
| Jan 29 @ 1:30 | McMeen | Bob Avery |
| Be a Super Citizen Presenter See Rob Gardner, 720-263-6203 gardnerrb@gmail.com | | |

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|--------|------|---------|--|
| Jan 10 | Sat | 7:00 am | Brain Bowl North Regional Tournament, Standley Lake High School, Westminster, CO |
| Jan 15 | Thur | 6:30 pm | Meeting, Legion Hall - Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102 |
| Jan 16 | Fri | 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day |
| Jan 23 | Fri | 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Mark Hardcastle, Doing More with Your Life |
| Jan 30 | Fri | 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - David Walcher, Arapahoe County Sheriff |
| Jan 31 | Sat | 7:00 am | Brain Bowl Central Regional Tournament, Heritage High School, Littleton, CO |
| Feb 6 | Fri | 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Stephanie Villafuerte, Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center |

**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 Strowbridge | 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: Jan **Robert Wardlaw**, Feb **Pat Bush**, Mar **Paul Stratton**, Apr **Phil Perington**

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.