



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

May 6, 2016 – Vol. 40, Issue 31



Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 39 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw for Pat Bush



Good Morning Optimists

On this Kentucky Derby and Mother's Day week-



end, it appears as Spring has returned and we have a beautiful sunny morning greeting by our official greeters **Allen Malask** and **Jack Kleinheksel**. Thank you!



First Bell, or Top of the Hour

Vice President **Chris Dunphy** takes the microphone and tells us that president **Michael Chavez** is late arriving and the meeting will start under the capable hands of treasurer **Greg Young**. Greg is able to locate the bell and starts the meeting off officially.

Greg delivers the invocation this morning ...
"Everlasting God, thank you for giving us another day to make our Optimism Come True. Thank you for the Fellowship we enjoy when we come together and for this opportunity. Let us make the most of this opportunity." Greg then leads us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Call for Announcements

To get us started, Greg mentions that we received a nice *Thank You Card* from the East High Constitutional Scholar team that recently competed in the national competition in Washington DC. The team finished in the Top 10. Congratulations to East High School Constitutional Scholars!

Announcements

CO-WY 3rd Quarter Conference: CO-WY Governor **Curt Merrill**, touts the upcoming District Conference starting on Friday, May 13 with the District Executive Board meeting and the District Conference on Saturday, May 14, starting at 8 a.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy, 7401 S. Clinton. There are 118 people registered and he is looking for a strong contingent from Monaco South Optimist Club. Also, the District has welcomed 165 new members this year. Exciting news for area Optimists.

Curt adds that also Saturday the District Finals of the Oratorical Contest begin at 1 p.m. at All Saints Lu-

theran Church, 15625 E. Iliff Ave. Aurora, CO. And, on May 3rd Thomas Jefferson Senior Awards Ceremony will announce the Sullivan Scholarship Award winners. The event will be at the Radisson Southeast Located at I-225 and Parker Road at 7 p.m.

Know Brainer: **Don Thomson** provides a recap of this past weekend the "Know Brainer" Event on Saturday April 30th and shares it was a great success. The Monaco South and Tamarac Optimist Clubs hosted 8-schools, 15-teams, 100-kids. Forty Optimist volunteers assisted. Southmoor Elementary School had both a 1st and 3rd place winner. While Slavens Elementary School was the 2nd place winner. Thanks to all the volunteers that made this event possible.



Pictured are some of the volunteers that made this event successful.
Photo Jim Easton

Denver Teachers' Awards Banquet: **Tom Mauro** reminds members of the upcoming Denver Teachers' Awards Banquet on May 12. Optimist Club of Monaco South will be awarded the *Helen Phelps Outstanding Community Service Award*. Those interested in attending should contact **Mike Chavez** and reserve their seat. It will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on Quebec. Tom also mentions that this is DPS' highest award and encourages members to attend. Along with the club being recognized, OCMS will award our Outstanding Teacher Award to a teacher from University Park, so come out and support the club and DPS teachers!

DTC Optimist Wine Tasting: **Tom Overton** follows up with a tasty reminder about the Denver Tech

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******

Continued on the next page

Announcements Continued

Center Optimist's Wine Tasting at Citron Bistro, May 21. The event will be from 2-4 p.m. and will include fresh spring wines paired with imaginative hors d'oeuvres. Call Tom for \$35 presale tickets, and save yourself \$5. See the flyer attached the distribution email.

Aurora Symphony Orchestra: Jack Kleinheksel announces the Aurora Symphony Orchestra will play its last of the season concert on Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m. The performance will be at North Middle School Auditorium. For tickets visit www.aurorasymphony.org. Jack's wife Georgia is the principal basses.

Colorado History Day: Karl Geil shared that he attended the recent Colorado History Day event and acted as Judge along with **Joe Marci**. They could have used more judges for this event and it was an excellent event for the kids. Karl suggests, consider to volunteer for this event next year.

Gateway Optimist Club: Gateway Optimist Club is having a Pancake Breakfast May 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Village Inn at Mississippi and I-225. **Michael Chavez** has tickets, which are \$8 per person.

CO-WY District Optimist Golf Scramble: **Joe Marci** reminds us that two events are coming up that will benefit Junior Golf. The first will be the CO-WY District Optimist Golf Scramble, May 24, at Park Hill. The second is Rockies baseball game June 12th. Joe has 200 ticket for this game. See Joe and support Junior Golf program.

MS Run The US: Optimist Club of Monaco South will be at City Park, May 29th with a tent and all the trimmings to welcome Kaitlyn Morgan as she finishes her leg of the MS Run The US. MS Run the US, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to raising disease awareness and funds to further research in the fight to end multiple sclerosis (MS). Monaco South members can donate on behalf of recently departed loved ones Pat Sorensen and Jean Arkin. More details regarding the club's activities on May 29, will follow.

More on CO-WY Conference: Governor-Elect **Paul Simon** talks about the upcoming District Convention, Saturday May 14th. The Conference at Maggiano's Little Italy will feature OI Vice President Al Clark. Also featured will be the CO-WY Oratorical contest winner and the Communication Contest winner for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Channel 9 Amelia Earhart will also speak. Registration at this date is \$35, of which the club will reimburse you \$25. You can register online at district website www.optimistcowy.org.

He also adds that Friday, May 13th is Casino Night to benefit CO-WY Childhood Cancer. The event will be held at South Metro Denver Realtor Association, 4899 S Lincoln Court. Tickets are \$35 and includes \$1000 of play chips, food, prizes, entertainment and a whole lot of fun. Tickets can be purchased early or you can purchase them at the door. Paul puts a plea in for volunteers to deal Blackjack, with half-price admission for

those who help out. See the flyer attached to GUMS distribution email.

Special Olympics: **Mike McMahon** promotes Special Olympics which will hold a track meet in Brighton on Saturday, May 14th and they need volunteers to help with the operation. It is called the *Denver Metro Athletics Meet* and will be held 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Brighton High School Stadium. See Mike for details and opportunities.

T1DOC On Line Auction: As Greg Young reminds us about the capability to signed up for the **Awards Banquet** using the club's *Square Up* phone app. your tab.

Also, he shares that the T1DOC On Line Auction is going on now, please visit the website and bid on items. This will help send 30 kids to summer camp. The goal is to raise \$7,000 from the sale of these items, so please participate. See the flyer attached.

PDF Version of OCMS Directory: **Paul Bernard** has loaded the new directory to the OCMS webpage @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/>. To retrieve go to the "Members Only" tab, and use the credentials are "member" and "Denver76." Give the pdf file time to download and save to your computer.

Wake Up Sleepy Head

President **Michael Chavez** is here, after over sleeping, and we are so thankful that it was something as innocent as that. This is just in time to ask, "Do we have a drawing?" Yes, we do have a drawing this morning and there is a pot totaling \$80. Members who hold winning tickets this morning include **Jim Easton, Jack Kleinheksel, Dick Zolman, Gary Strowbridge, and Greg Young**. No winner of the big pot is awarded. Michael Chavez then draws John Oss' name from the plastic jug and since he is wearing his name tag he gets a chance to pick the lucky card. But he too comes up empty! The pot continues to grow!

Photos from the Meeting

Captured by Don St. John



Greg Young asks, "has anyone seen or heard from the president?"



Jon Watcher asks, "is that him over there?" Allen Malask say, "are you kidding?"



State trooper Bellmann, stands up and asks, should I call for an all State bulletin?

Continued on the next page

State Trooper Bellamann Hee Respect for Law Recipient

Steve Kady introduces our speaker this morning, State Trooper Bellamann Hee. He is here to talk about a harrowing incident that happened on March 12, 2014. Trooper Bellamann now celebrates this as his *Life Day*. Many people who have experienced near death experiences celebrate the day of the experience as their *Life Day*. See the news story and video of this terrible accident by [clicking here](#).

Trooper Hee was born and raised in Hawaii and he considers being a State Trooper as his 4th career. After graduating high school, he entered the Navy and served for 6 years as a pilot. Once home he worked for his father's marketing agency and then with the Hawaii State Attorney General's office. It was with this position that he also worked with the local Optimist Club and became aware of the Optimist's mission of helping youth. He has now worked as a State Trooper since 2005.

A little over 2 years ago, Trooper Hee reported for work and became aware of a high speed pursuit that was taking place and being covered on television. The car chase, which had begun in Longmont with a stolen car with a 4-year-old inside, was now headed in a direction Trooper Bellamann knew well. He was directed to get involved and to do what he could to stop this criminal. As he raced to his car, he tried in his mind to consider where the chase would be considering his travel time. How much time would he have to get where he needed to be.

Trooper Bellamann started his speech by showing us the video of him being hit by the minivan. As the TV cameras showed he was seconds from being hit full on by the speeding vehicle which would have killed him. That video has been shown around the world and he is amazed at the support he has received from long lost friends and strangers alike. His recovery, or "his journey" as he calls it, has been a long one including seven surgeries and continuing rehabilitation. This support has motivated him to continue this work to make himself the best that he can be. His Dr. has told him that he very nearly lost his leg from his injuries, it truly is a miracle that he stands before us in the fine condition that he is.

Trooper Bellamann also tells us how appreciative he is



Bellamann Hee, center with Michael Chavez and Greg Young.
Photo Steve Kady

of all the people who came to his aid after the incident. The EMT's who transported him, the staff at the hospital who stabilized him, the surgeons who operated on him. His leg had been shattered into 24 pieces and he suffered from compartment syndrome which can result in amputation as well. As a side note, his secondary weapon that he had strapped to his ankle prevented that bone from being shattered.

Throughout the chase it was evident that this criminal had no concern for others, driving the wrong way at high speeds on very crowded highways and streets. He car jacked another vehicle near Brighton and this person was a

clear danger to the public. It is the work of law enforcement that we, the public, rely on them to stop this danger. As Trooper Bellamann laid out his stop sticks in an attempt to puncture the tires of the criminal's vehicle he saw out of the corner of his eye the speeding vehicle approach. He made a desperate attempt at launching himself out of the way.

The minivan struck his left leg and sent him helicoptering off the side of the highway. Trooper Bellamann estimates that he lost consciousness for 30 seconds and when he came to, shock and adrenaline took over. He attempted to belly crawl to his car to continue the pursuit. Other officers at the scene stopped him and though they did not realize the severity of his leg injuries they were able to help until the ambulance arrived. He recalls that during this time he did not feel pain only intense heat. The chase was concluded a short time later and the criminal has been since sentenced to over 160 years in prison.

During his 19 months of rehabilitation and recovery, Trooper Bellamann has tried to be mindful of the effects of the medications he has been on and despite the pain has been very adamant about limiting his use of them. He recounts how during his physical therapy he has built up his strength to where he can push over 300 lbs. on the sled used to test his leg strength. He also mentions the power of positive thinking and how this has helped him during his journey. He realizes he has changed because of this incident and his experience but he remains optimistic.



May Super Citizen Presenters

May 18 @ 1:00	Samuels	Joe Marci
May 18 @ 2:30	MPB	Dave Peck
May 19 @ 2:15	Univ. Park	Dave Peck
May 19 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Curt Merrill
May 26 @ 9:00	Lowry	Paul Stratton

Weekly Greeters

5/13/16	Aaron Beery & Craig Eley
5/20/16	Eldon Strong & Jim Vander Kamp
5/27/16	Bob Avery & Kent Gloor

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

May 13 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TJHS Essay Contest Winners
May 14 Sat	8:00 am	CO-WY 3rd Quarter Conference, Maggiano's Little Italy, 7401 S. Clinton, Englewood, CO
May 19 Thur	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way
May 20 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
May 27 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA



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

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Tom Overton	1996-97
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Cy Regan	1999-00
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Don St. John	2001-02
John Young	1982-83	Jack Rife	2002-03
Pat Bush	1983-84	Karl Geil	2003-04
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Greg Young	2007-08
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bob Avery	1989-90	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Ed Collins	2010-11
Bill Walters	1991-92	Randy Marcove	2011-12
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Paul Simon	2012-13
Gary Stowbridge	1993-94	Jon Wachter	2013-14
Mark Metevia	1994-95	John Oss	2014-15
Bob Safe	1995-96		

2015 - 2016 Officers

President	Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
Vice President	Chris Dunphy	720-297-3111
Vice President	Randy Marcove	303-840-7706
Secretary	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Barry Barker	813-545-4533
Pat Bush	720-254-3741
Jim Easton	720-987-7684
Tom Glazier	303-522-5214
Cap Hermann	303-587-5575
Allen Malask	303-726-3700
Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Allen Pierce	303-883-8506
John Oss (Past Pres.)	720-210-8056

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	r.pedersen2658@comcast.net
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Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rz6267@gmail.com	Paul Stratton	303-366-6375	pcstratton@comcast.net
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NEWSLETTER EDITORS: May **Pat Bush**, Jun **Paul Stratton**, July **Phil Perington**, Aug **George Buzick**

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.