



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

July 18, 2014 – Vol. 39, Issue 37



Optimist Club of Monaco South



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 37 Years
Recognized as Outstanding Service Organization in Colorado in 2012

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—George Buzick



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Good Morning Optimist!

On this 199th day of 2014, **Rod Winget** and **Bob Avery** met us with smiling faces. Only 166 days left until yet another year is history. You're old if you remember watching the coverage of Senator Edward M. Kennedy after he drove his car off the bridge to Chappaquiddick Island. (Kennedy escaped, but Mary Jo Kopechne drowned.) You are really, really old if you remember first hand, the great Fire of Rome, which occurred on this date in 64 AD. To refresh your memory, *"During the night of July 18, 64 AD, fire broke out in the merchant area of the city of Rome. Fanned by summer winds, the flames quickly spread through the dry, wooden structures of the Imperial City. Soon the fire took on a life of its own consuming all in its path for six days and seven nights. When the conflagration finally ran its course it left seventy percent of the city in smoldering ruins."*

First Bell

John Oss, president-elect called the meeting to order and asked John Young to read the invocation and lead the pledge.



Prez-elect John Oss takes charge of the Friday meeting!
Photo Don StJohn

Guests

Paul Simon had two guests today. One, **Bill Wells**, we already know fairly well, since he was a member of our club until a couple of years ago. With Bill was **Max Jackinski**. Max is married to Bill's daughter. Bill is a neighbor of

Paul. Editor: *We need more people to ask neighbors friends and business associates to attend our meetings or one of our functions, in order to recruit more members.*

John Oss introduced his guests, **Tom and Caroline Graumann**. Tom Graumann is known as the "Twice Rescued Child" and does a program regarding his experience in escaping the Nazis. Perhaps Tom will provide us with a program at some later date.

Another special guest and part of the program today, was **Donna Priestler**, past governor of the Colorado/Wyoming District and a Friend of Optimist member of Monaco South. Donna always brings enthusiasm, vim and vigor to our meetings.

Announcements

Palisade Peaches: Dr. **Bob Finkelmeier** announced that fresh Palisade peaches would be here in mid August and circulated a signup sheet. You cannot get much fresher than this, as the peaches are brought over the mountains in a refrigerated truck to Bob's house on the day after they are picked. Unlike peaches bought at the grocery store or sold by other groups to be picked up on a specific date these peaches are picked a little riper and handled by hand the old fashioned, or in an "artisanal" way. \$25/box or lug for peaches you cannot beat. \$3.50 per box comes back to either Monaco South or Tamarac Optimist Club, depending on sales. Give Bob a call, or a sign-up sheet will be circulated again next week.



Brent's Place Pancake Breakfast: Paul Bernard

Brent's Place reiterated last week's announcement of Brent's Place Breakfast and indicated he needed a few more bodies to help with cooking and serving the pancakes. If you are available on July 26, sign up and show up at Presidents Park on the Fitzsimmons Campus in Aurora.

March of Dimes MUDD Volleyball: Greg Hurd, substituting for **Cy Regan**, announce that the march of Dimes Mudd Volley Ball Tournament would give everyone the opportunity to "tell people where to go," while directing traffic and parking cars before the start of the event. This too, requires early rising, as Greg would like us all to be there by 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 2.



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Installation of Officers 2014-2015

MARK & CHANGE YOUR CALENDAR the MSOC installation of the 2014-2015 club officers will be **Saturday, September 27, 2014** at **Highland Park Pavilion**, formerly Delmonico Hall, at 3220 Federal Boulevard, across from Highland Park.



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

Installation of Officers 2014-2015: Paul Simon men-



tioned that this year's installation dinner is taking on a whole new look and name.

The Celebrate Your Optimism Gala takes place at

5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 (NOT Sept. 20 as previously announced) at the former Delmonico Event Center at 3220 Federal. Yes indeed, we will usher in **John Oss** as the new president along with his new administration, but we also will be celebrating our accomplishments under President **Jon Wachter** during the past year and enjoying the company of one another and our guests. Please note: first-timers—those attending this event for the very first time—will be discounted \$10 on their dinner tickets as will their accomplices, or dates for the evening! Special recognition will be paid to club rookies, those in their first year of membership. The price and a signup list (complete with carpool signup) will be available starting at our club meeting this coming Friday. Questions, suggestions (but not gripes), contact Paul Simon.



Paul Simon
Photo Don StJohn

Los Vegas - Optimist 2014 Convention

By John Oss

Greg Young, Kent Gloor, Phil Perington and myself attended this years convention. One women, in a presidents elect training session, shared a moving experience. She joined Optimists because she had a very negative attitude, which she recognized was dragging her down. She adopted the Optimist Creed. Her life and the life of her family followed in a major turn for the good. She also found her profound experience helped to energize her club. She took less than a half dozen sentences to move the entire group. Our presidents, past and new: Jean Claude "JC" St-Onge, past; Ron Huxley, present; and Ken Garner, elect; did us proud. The new OI President Elect Ken Garner gave a very stirring speech. He explained the criteria that will be used this year to identify the top club in optimism. [CLICK HERE](#) The criteria seems designed for Monaco South, see below:

The Best - Le Mieux - Lo Mejor	
Optimist Club of the Year	
• Service Projects	30 Points
• Member Development	25 Points
• Community Awareness	25 Points
• Increase Volunteer Base	10 Points
• New Community Efforts	10 Points
Total	100

This can be taken as a calling for our club to reach out to both kids, and our fellow optimists. **Paul Simon** and **Donna Priester** asked leaders of various stripes to rise, during their leadership presentation. Nearly all of the members stood. Our club has performed "club visitations" in the past. Wisdom and leadership is welcome from all who reached out to other clubs. All our members can join in reaching out. The example of Optimists from all nations sharing in the uplifting of *optimism* was inspiring.



Flags were on display from as far as Uganda. The international gathering was a bilingual event. The fifteen or so percent French speaking Canadians are very proud. The US flag stood high upon the stage as well, being the host country. There was a sense of unity for all sixteen countries represented with banners proudly displayed.

CO/WY District Convention: Convention rates for rooms are available through Monday, July 21, 2014. The gathering will be over the weekend of August 16th. Information and convention registration forms are available on the *CO/WY 3rd Quarter Newsletter*, [CLICK HERE](#).

Winton Train Holocaust Survivor Visitor: **John Oss** introduced **Tom Graumann**. Tom was one of the 669 children rescued from Slovakia, now the Czech Republic, in August 1939.

The year was 1939, and 29-year-old British stockbroker Nicholas Winton was set to leave for Switzerland on a ski holiday when he answered his phone. It was a friend conducting humanitarian aid in Prague, Czechoslovakia. This friend described the refugee camps in which he worked, and asked Winton to abandon his holiday, come to Prague, and lend a hand.

Englishman Nicholas Winton took three weeks from work in December 1938 to conclude a rescue from the Nazis. He collected contributions of fifty pounds sterling per child, arranged for papers for each child to immigrate to England, scheduled a train, and found English families to take the children. The Czech families recognized the dire need, accepted the rescue offer, and sent their children to safety.

Tom was one of those children. All of Tom's family was wiped out. The faiths of children, adopting families, and Winton included agnostic, Jew, and Christian. All of the children were judged Jew by the Nazis. Winton celebrated his 105th birthday May 19, 2014 with about a hundred people in the Czech embassy in London.

Tom has put the mistakes of the past behind him and pressed on. John said he never expects to meet a greater optimist example than Tom. Tom has been a great inspiration for many here and in Europe. He speaks multiple languages. He has recounted his story in German classrooms, but more commonly in Czech and US assemblies. His story is briefly told in a trifold brochure. [CLICK HERE](#) to view and/or download the trifold. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the May 20, 2014 Guardian article about Winton's 105th birthday celebration.

Another interesting article about Winston can be found here, titled "*Winton's train: Remembering a Holocaust hero*," by Rachel Boehm. published January 22, 2010 on the Trains Magazine website at <http://trn.trains.com/en/Railroad%20Reference/Railroad%20History/2010/01/Wintons%20train%20remembering%20a%20Holocaust%20hero.aspx>. Additionally, a video clip titled, "*Man who saved over 600 kids from Nazis gets a touching surprise*," @ <http://www.godvine.com/Man-Who-Saved-Over-600-Kids-From-Nazis-Gets-a-Touching-Surprise-1737.html>.

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS MONACO SOUTH NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

We need 15 new members to achieve honor club. So bring your friends, neighbors, sons or grandsons... get them to join and receive a discount on your next year's dues. Don't forget, for only \$100, you can make them a *Friend of Optimist*, and it counts too! See Greg Young for details.

Our Speaker, Donna Priester & Paul Simon

You are an "Optimist Leader"

Donna Priester, a member of Colorado Springs Academy Club and past governor of the CO/WY District and our own past president, **Paul Simon** spoke today on leadership in Optimism. Paul started the program by saying that it is no surprise to anyone that Optimist Clubs, as with many civic organizations, are "Aging Out," i.e., the average age is increasing annually. This means that either we are not recruiting younger members, or those that we are recruiting are not staying with the program. A corollary to this is that many of the members have already held leadership positions, so while it is not too difficult to staff the activities in which we participate, it is extremely hard to find people willing to assume the leadership positions in our organization, from the Governor down to committee chairs. Everyone is willing to participate, but nobody wants to lead.

Donna commented that while we are all more than willing to do things for kids, it seems nobody wants to put the time and effort into organizing these activities. Donna recognized **John Young** as one of those who is willing to give the extra effort by awarding him the Professional Growth and Involvement (PGI) Level 7 Award, which is a gold backing for his Optimist Pin. PGI is the Optimist International program, which reflects degree of participation in Optimist Activities, including recruiting new members. Only an elite few achieve the Level 7 and John should be congratulated for



John Young recipient of the PGI Level 7 award, recognized by Donna Priester, past COWY governor.

Photo Don StJohn

this achievement.

Donna also said that although programs such as PGI recognized people for their activities, most people were not striving for recognition but for self-fulfillment through helping others. Donna also talked about the importance of multi club activities and how clubs should work together to ensure enough resources to carry out our programs with excellence and gave such examples as the Optimist Junior World Golf Tournament, the Brain Bowl, the Santa Train and others, in which several or many clubs participated to make these events successful.

However, all this takes time and effort to organize, so it is really important that we all participate, not only at the 'doer' level, but also as leaders willing to give that extra effort to ensure success. "If not you, then who."

Donna mentioned the election of the new President of Optimist International was a great inspiration for the future, as the gentleman elected is in his 40's. Ken Garner will bring a refreshing new perspective on Optimism and we need to follow his lead in modernizing the functioning of all of our clubs, including the use of various social media. To this end, the Colorado/Wyoming website is currently being updated to be as up to date as possible.

The message conveyed by both Donna and Paul was that the "Leaders of Optimism are you." Whether at the District Level, as a Club President or Secretary/Treasurer or as a Committee Chair, the only way our organization will continue to be successful in serving youth is if we have the leadership to ensure not only success, but excellence.

Drawing & Final Bell

One Hundred and Ninety Bucks! That is the amount that Dr. Bob announced you could win by simply pulling the Nine of Spades from the deck of cards tended by **Ron Cisco**. Both **Phil Perington** and Eldon **Strong** had their lucky numbers called, but



neither was able to come up with the elusive Nine of Spades. Even though **Steve Kady** was wearing his name badge, he too was unable to pick the right card. Stay tune for next week as the pot grows to \$200.



With that the *Optimist Creed* was recited!

Weekly Greeters	
7/25/14	Jack Kleinheksel & Casey Funk
8/1/14	Frank Middleton & Lynn Jones
8/8/14	Tom Glazier & Allen Malask
8/15/14	Elton Strong & Howdy Fry
8/22/14	Gary Miller & ?
Need Friday morning greeters, see O.C. Larson, 303-797-7432 or larson1942@comcast.net	

Do You Recognize This Head?



GUMS is offering a prize for the first person to identify this head. Photographer Don StJohn took this picture a few weeks back and we have not seen the heads owner since that date. To claim your prize contact the *GUMS* staff.

July 25	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker Pending
July 26	Sat	7:00 am	Brent's Place Kid's Cure for Cancer pancake breakfast - See Paul Bernard <i>New Location: General's Park, 1561 Quentin Street, Aurora (NE Corner of Colfax and Peoria)</i>
Aug 1	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker Pending
Aug 8	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Aug 15	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 Strowbridge	1993-94	Paul Simon	2012-13
Mark Metevia	1994-95		

2013 - 2014 Officers

President	Jon Wachter	303-204-5645
Vice President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	John Oss	720-210-8056
Secretary	Pat Bush	720-747-5482
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
J. R. Gieck	949-636-7614
Jack Kleinheksel	720-938-1760
Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Fred Pasternack	303-758-3754
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384
Michael Short	970-261-6012
Scott Walker	303-803-3338
Paul Simon (Past Pres.)	303-300-9940

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	John Oss	720-210-8056	john.oss4us@gmail.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.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: Aug **Robert Wardlaw**, Sept **Pat Bush**, Oct **Paul Stratton**, Nov **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.