



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

March 13, 2015 – Vol. 40, Issue 24



## 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](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for this Issue—Paul Stratton



### Good Morning Optimist

**Russ Paul** and **Barry Barker** welcomed all this morning with a “*Top o’ the morning to you!*” greeting on this Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the second Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> for this year — one more to come in November.



Gary Strowbridge  
Photo Don StJohn

Russ was one of about a dozen men resplendent in white tuxedo jackets as displayed here by **Gary Strowbridge**. Gary will be leading the MSOC Pooper Scoopers as they make a clean sweep at Denver’s 2015 St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday.

### Invocation & Pledge

**Harry Fegley** delivered some wise words reminding us to carry optimism as a philosophy of life wherever we may go, and then led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

### Guests

Last week’s speaker and candidate for Denver City Council District 4 **Halisi Vinson**, brought us doughnuts as a thank you for all we do. Thanks right back at you Halisi — most appreciated!

**Harrison Philips**, last week’s guest of **Michael Chavez**, came back once more, so we must have done something right! We look forward to having you join us Harrison.

### From the Prez

President **John Oss** called, **Jon Wachter**, **Pat Bush**



and **Greg Young** to the front. They were there for a presentation from CO/WY Governor **Abigail Nicholas** to recognize Monaco South for achieving Honor Club status last year 2013-

Recognition for being an Honor Club; from the left, Pat Bush, Greg Young, Abigail Nicholas, Jon Wachter, and John Oss.  
Photo Don StJohn

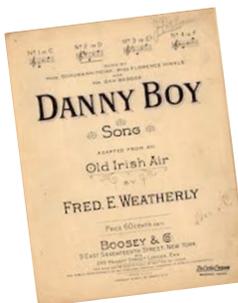
2014. She read the official pronouncement from OI and congratulated these offices and the whole club.

### Announcements

**St. Patrick’s Day Parade:** **Cy Regan** reminded us the Saturday is the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The white coats (some with tall green hats) joined Cy up front for some Irish songs, along with some other talented voices (thank goodness). We were treated to: the singing of *My Wild Irish Rose*, *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*, and of course, *Danny Boy*. More about the surprising

origin and history of “*Danny Boy*,” this 100-year-old song on page two.

Continued on the next page



### St. Patrick's Day Parade

A *Denver Post* newspaper reporter, states that “*Young and old delight in Denver’s St. Patrick’s Day parade.*” Of course one of the recognized parade groups were the shenanigans of Monaco South Optimist Clubs, “Pooper Scoopers,” cleaning up after some equestrian riders.



Young St. Patrick’s Day Parade viewer takes delight in what Bryce Slaby is handing out.

Photo Craig Eley

**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

### Office Supplies for Distribution: Ralph Pedersen



shared that he is in touch with a corporation that is closing their Denver office. They have many boxes of staples, adding machines, file folders, etc. to give away. Members

who have connections with elementary schools may want to find out if any of those school offices would be interested. Contact Ralph Pedersen for distribution at 303-759-3384 or [r.pedersen2658@comcast.net](mailto:r.pedersen2658@comcast.net).

### Brain Bowl Championship: Karl Geil

reports the final Optimist Brain Bowl of the year, the Championship Tournament, will be held at Hamilton Middle School on Saturday, March 21, 2015. We still need volunteers to work as Time Keepers, Score Keepers, Runners, Proctors for the written test, Scoring Room Assistant and more. This event was originally scheduled for February 21, but was rescheduled due to weather and travel concerns. The very best of the Brain Bowl teams from Colorado and Wyoming will be competing to determine the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Champions. If you have never experienced an Optimist Brain Bowl before, this is the one to see. Volunteers need to arrive around 6:45 a.m. and get settled into the school cafeteria by 7:00 for training. Most volunteers will be done at lunchtime, and lunch will be provided. After lunch, we still need to staff 12 competition rooms for one round and 6 competition rooms for two more rounds. Please sign up, so we know how many lunches to order, and, more importantly, please show up. This competition is very, very important to the kids.

### Brain Bowl Technical Gear: Frank Ross

asked for some help - he helps getting the buzzers and buttons to the Brain Bowl on March 21<sup>st</sup> since he will be out of town. Please reach out to Frank if you are available to assist.

### Get Well Tom Kramis: Tom Kramis



Tom Kramis

had a snow-boarding accident recently, a scary one that involved broken ribs, broken scapula, and a collapsed lung. Past president **Jon Wachter** passed around a get well card and reports that Tom is now back home after surgery. Best wishes for a speedy recovery Tom!

### Member Directory Update Time: Tom Mauro

let us know that it is time to update the directory. If you need to change any information on your listing let Tom know. Additionally, **Craig Eley** is working on updating photos for the directory. After the meeting Craig will be available, so see him in his studio. Craig will provide the makeup, photo editing and airbrushing.

### Western Hoedown: Bryce Slaby

announced the upcoming Hoedown. It is on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and your \$46 ticket for two, includes dinner. No additional fee to dance! Beer will be \$3, wine \$4. Then Governor Abigail Nicholas did a far better job than Bryce talking it up. There are three clubs participating and about 40 people signed up thus far.

### TriStar Regional Basketball: Michael Chavez



reported that the TriStar regional basketball tournament will be at North High School on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. Please let Michael know if you can help out. It is always a fun event!

**Monaco South Election: Oscar Sorensen** says that club elections will be the first part of next month. **Don Iley** (president), and **Michael Chavez** (vice president) have expressed interest. Oscar is looking for board members. Reach out and let Oscar know!

## Danny Boy History

At the requested by some of our Irish singers, here is origins of the song "Danny Boy."

*Last year marked a century since the song "Danny Boy" first weaved its way into Irish folklore. Its melody could be heard at President Kennedy's funeral and it also played at the farewell to Elvis Presley. The ballad that has proved irresistible to some of the biggest names in music is a song of love and loss—a lament for those missing home and each other.*

*"Danny Boy" arrived a century ago and never left. But arrived from where? Most people assume it's from Ireland, but it's not. It was written by an Englishman. That Englishman was Fred Weatherly, a prolific songwriter—and later successful lawyer—who published 1,500 songs.*

*"One of the mysteries has always been is how this Englishman, who'd never been to Ireland, very upper crust, British, could write something that immediately took off for the Irish," said Anthony Mann, Weatherly's great-grandson. "Fred wrote so many songs that he never knew which one was going to be a goer. It was like launching a series of pigeons really."*

*Actually, at first "Danny Boy" didn't fly. The words were right but the tune was wrong, which is where Weatherly's sister-in-law, Margaret Weatherly, comes in.*

*Margaret Weatherly was an Irish immigrant who sailed to America with Fred Weatherly's brother in search of silver in Colorado. It was on a trip back to England in 1912 that Margaret Weatherly introduced Fred Weatherly to the ancient Irish melody, "The Londonderry Aire."*

*Fred Weatherly fused that haunting melody with his heavy-hearted words and something magical happened. "Danny Boy" became a hit.*

*"He meant for it to be popular, he meant for it to be universal," said music journalist Andrew Mueller. "There's a very careful avoidance of specifics."*

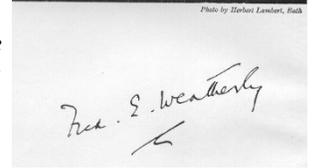
*Mueller told CBS News' Charlie D'Agata that world events were about to lend the song a terrible resonance.*

*"One hesitates to call the first World War a stroke of luck, but I think for any work of art to endure it needs a stroke of luck and his lyrics for "Danny Boy" were published in 1913, a year before millions of people were finding themselves having to say goodbye to people who they hoped against hope that they might one day see again," he said.*

*The theme of longing also struck a chord with many Irish emigrants who headed to America to escape the famine back home. Through the decades, the song became woven into the cultural fabric of the U.S. and beyond, often as a final farewell.*



Photo by Barbara Lambert, PAH



Our speaker today was **Governor Abigail Nicholas** with her "State of the District address." She reported that there are 2,496 Optimist clubs worldwide with approximately 70,483 members. Twenty (20) new clubs were added but we lost 24 since last year. There are also 15,000 Junior Optimist International (JOI) members.



Governor Abigail Nicholas  
Photo Don StJohn

Our district has 36 clubs with less than 30 members. The Optimist International President, said that without bringing in new members, Optimist International will go away in 10 years.

Abigail passionately charged us with a message to please continue to build our club and plant the seeds for new clubs.

**Greg Young** mentioned that there is an OI program that members 18 to 30 years of age can join for a year without paying dues.

You can read more from OI President,

**Ken Garner** by [CLICKING HERE](#).

In COWY there are 56 clubs, down four from last year, with 1,584 members. We have 10 JOI clubs with two coming this year. Monaco South Optimist Club is the largest club in the CO/WY District and Tamarac Optimist Club is number two. The Buena Vista Optimist Club, in Buena Vista, CO has eighty (80 members and is number three.

### There was a Drawing!

With \$40 in the big pot and the 3 of Clubs was the goal for: **Keith Gallaway** and **Phil Perington**, who both came up empty.



Cups went to:

- **Ed Collins**
- **Terry Shroyer**
- **Bryce Slaby**
- **Robert Duvall**
- **George Buzick**
- **Allan Malask**

**George Buzick** was wearing his nametag at the critical moment, but no luck drawing a card.

### Danny Boy History Continued

*Elvis said he thought "Danny Boy" was written by angels and asked for it to be played at his funeral. At Princess Diana's church service, the words were different, but the haunting melody of "The Londonderry Aire," the same.*

*And after the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, the strains of "Danny Boy" rose from the memorial services of so many Irish-American police and firefighters who were among the victims.*

*Reference, CBS Interactive Inc.*

*In addition see:*

<http://www.musicfolder.com/blog/about-danny-boy/>

<http://www.standingstones.com/dannyboy.html> — go here to hear the original tune.

Weekly Greeters	
3/20/15	Tom Glazier & Allen Malask
3/27/15	Ron Cisco & Pat Bush
4/3/15	Phil Perington & John Young
4/10/15	Carl Brown & Frank Ross
<b>Need Friday morning greeters, see Jon Wachter, 303-204-5645 or <a href="mailto:jon_wachter@msn.com">jon_wachter@msn.com</a></b>	

Super Citizen Presenters March		
Mar 19 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Karl Geil
Mar 25 @ 2:30	MPB	Pat Bush
Mar 26 @ 1:30	McMeen	?
Mar 27 @ 3:00	Bradley	Mark Metevia
<b>Be a Super Citizen Presenter See Rob Gardner, 720-263-6203 <a href="mailto:gardnerrb@gmail.com">gardnerrb@gmail.com</a></b>		

Mar 19 Thu	6:30 pm	Meeting, Legion Hall - Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Mar 20 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Mar 27 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Celeste Archer, National History Day in Colorado
Apr 3 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Apr 3 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Apr 10 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Apr 11 Sat	5:30 pm	Western Barbeque & Hoedown, Outpost Square Dance Club

**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	<a href="mailto:rfinkelmeier@comcast.net">rfinkelmeier@comcast.net</a>	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	<a href="mailto:r.pedersen2658@comcast.net">r.pedersen2658@comcast.net</a>
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	<a href="mailto:jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net">jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net</a>	Phil Perington	303-832-4578	<a href="mailto:perington@msn.com">perington@msn.com</a>
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	<a href="mailto:rz6267@gmail.com">rz6267@gmail.com</a>	Paul Stratton	303-366-6375	<a href="mailto:pcstratton@comcast.net">pcstratton@comcast.net</a>
George Buzick	303-803-2268	<a href="mailto:gtbuzick@comcast.net">gtbuzick@comcast.net</a>	Pat Bush	720-254-3741	<a href="mailto:pbush@bushreese.com">pbush@bushreese.com</a>
Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	<a href="mailto:rlawardlaw@gmail.com">rlawardlaw@gmail.com</a>	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	<a href="mailto:craigceley@gmail.com">craigceley@gmail.com</a>

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** Mar **Paul Stratton**, Apr **Phil Perington**, May **George Buzick**, Jun **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.