



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



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Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 40 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
www.monacosouth.org



Editor for this Issue—Phil Perington

Good Morning Optimist

Greeting us this morning were **Chris Dunphy** and **Don Thomson** smiling, shaking hands and bringing good cheer to all in great spirit. While **Frank Middleton** was doing an excellent job at spreading everyone around the room this chilly morning, adroitly applying his crafty sleight of hand card tricks. It was truly a joy watching a master at work.



The air wafted pleasant breakfast aromas of hungry chow hounds were treated to a bounty of fresh fruit and Danish, juice, fluffy scrambled eggs, sausage patties, hash browns, oatmeal, and plenty of hot coffee.

First Bell

President **Craig Eley** gaveled the collected together at 7:05 a.m. sharp and presented his original inspiration: "The week before Christmas at Monaco South." A round of cheers came forth followed by the *Pledge of Allegiance*. (A copy of Craig's mentally stimulation can be seen on page 3.)

Guests

Friend of Optimist (FOO) and longtime member **Leo Hagele** was in the house and having fun laughing and sharing moments with all his friends and fellow Optimist buddies. Editor: *It's always great seeing Leo. BTW, Leo will be always looking for visitors at his Eastern Star Retirement Home on S. Quebec, so give him a call at 303-753-2134. Leo has a birthday on January 5th.*



From the Prez



The Club received a very cute and original handwritten and designed "Thank You Card" from The Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver for our Thanksgiving dinner. It included a delicious looking drawing of a roasted turkey and piping hot pumpkin pie. There are some excellent artists hanging about at the Kids Club.

He then shared a reminder of the present wrapping at the Sewell Center for Children today, hosted by Marilyn Brown Morton between the hours of 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Twelve members have already signed up.

The Chili Cookoff starts at noon on Sunday, December 18th, but entrants should get there a little early and bring their own accoutrements and side additives.



Kids to Breakfast will be held at our year end meeting on the December 30th. Breakfast (free for kids) will start at 7:45 a.m., and the Tommy Walker magic show will start at about 8:20. Tommy Walker, a young, award-winning Colorado magician who was to selected out of hundreds to perform at the Society of American Magicians national convention.

The Academy Optimist Club Annual Christmas Santa Train to the North Pole program led by **Joe and Donna Priester** of the Academy club is looking for a replacement. Traditional Santa, Joe Priester had to leave for California to comfort his sister who is gravely ill. Contact can be made with Mrs. Claus (Donna Priester) at 719-590-1217.

Frank Middleton was invited to the podium to remind everyone of the great job Chris Mulqueen has been doing for our caterer Heather, as she recovers from a broken leg. A familiar brass container was passed around for our annual thank you tip to the Chef. Over \$200 was collected for Heather and her crew.



Frank Middleton, left, recognizes Chris Mulqueen, substituting for Heather, for preparing our weekly breakfasts.
Photo Noel Hasselgren

Announcements

Hamilton Middle School Super Citizen Program: **Tom Mauro** reported that the Super Citizen program at Hamilton was led by moderator **Karl Geil**, had a noteworthy presentation by **Casey Funk**, had assistance from **Dave Peck**, and was overall cheered on by Karl's wife Lesley, who is the social studies team lead and coordinates the SC program at Hamilton. At this presentation, 27 students were recognized in front of their parents with their award.

Bradley International Super Citizen: **Randy Marcove**, a proud new "card carrying" Certified Data Master, shared that Bradley will have their monthly SC program today and will be assisted by **Joe Marci**, emcee, **Aaron Beery**, who attends every ceremony, and **John Oss**, expert photo journalist. Aaron always shows up for all the Bradley SC programs and volunteers at the tree lot every year.

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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

Christmas Baskets: Michael Chavez affirmed that Christmas Baskets will be packed and ready to go by 8 a.m. on Saturday, but bundle up and wear your warm gloves. Ed Collins proudly announced that, "in the tradition of Freddie Pasternack he will be providing toys for the kids as well and the Broncos will win the Super Bowl!" Mike added that the Englewood Optimist Club chartered Wednesday morning with 23 members total. (See follow up article next week.)

MSOC Holiday Party: Chris Dunphy said the Holiday Party will cost is \$5 per person at the door, free parking included. Lots of delicious hors d'oeuvres will be served along with a cash bar and soft drinks.

TJHS ArtFest Book Sale: Tom Glazier reported the Book Sale was a huge success with \$950 raised for the Parent-Teacher program. This was a \$450 increase over last year. Members assistance included **Allen Malask, Gary Strowbridge, Cap Hermann, Don Roth, Russ Paul, Scott Walker, Pat Bush, Michael Chavez** and **John Young**. Special thanks goes out to his two best customers **John Young** and **Cap Hermann**. He also thanked **Prez Craig** for his thoughtful critique and artful use of coupons.

The Brain Bowl is Coming: Karl Geil reminded us that the first Reader training class is just around the corner, Saturday, December 17th. The north tournament is the first and is always the biggest of all the four Brain Bowl Tournaments; therefore, we need plenty of volunteers. Please put one of the tournaments on your schedule. For a schedule of Reader Training [CLICK HERE](#).

Tree Lot Update: Tree commander-in-chief, **Joe Marci** proudly announced sales are 61 trees ahead of last year at this time. We might make a record breaking run this year. Joe shared a big "thank you" to **Steve Kady** for all his equipment management help and assistance. There have been 84 club member volunteering to date. Editor: *Let's see if we can break that 100-glass ceiling. Just 3 hours on the tree lot will really put the Christmas spirit in your blood.*

White Elephant Gift Exchange: Santa **Oscar Sorensen** guaranteed that next Friday, December 23rd is the big Christmas Gift Exchange Party. Bring a gift only a friend or pal might understand. This is a wonderful time for everyone to share laughter, camaraderie, and good cheer. Not to mention a gag gift for innocent bystanders.

Samuel Super Citizen Program: **Kent Gloor** brought us up to date on the happenings at the Samuel Super Citizen Awards. There were 30 proud winners, captured by the sharp eye and camera of **Noel Hasselgren**. Samuels, as Kent pointed out, was the very first school to participate in the Monaco South Super Citizen Program.

King Soopers & Safeway Cards: **Greg Young**, club treasurer, said, "Show me the Money," as he reminds us that "Sooperman" **Cy Reagan** still has plenty of reloadable King Soopers Gift Cards. They make wonderful stocking stuffers for the holidays!

A Fake Santa Story: **Bob Avery** shared a Santa story about a unified team of three kiddos asked him if he was the "Real Santa?" Of course, he said yes! This was immediately met with their question so, who's that guy on the Tree Lot? Santa is everywhere.



Super Citizen Program at Slavens: Stand up and sitting down comedian **Tom Hoch** shared the news surrounding the year end Super Citizen Program at Slavens. He followed with a joke about a guy named Murphy who went to Church one day and To hear more see Tom.

Possibly a Grandson: **Dick Nickoloff** with great delight announced his daughter Sarah, who graduated from TJHS, is pregnant with twins at the magic age 40. The is a Y chromosome so a boy is included in the happy event. Editor: *Congratulations to mom to be!*

Classic Car Optimist Car Club Meeting: District Lt. Gov. **Jon Wachter** reminded us that the Classic Car Optimist Car Club (CCOCC) monthly meeting will be right after the Monaco South meeting. Prospective members or the curious are all invited. Newly appointed president **Dave Peck** will preside. The Bradley International Helping Hands Junior Optimist Club (a club chartered by Jon and Past Gov. George Mills), has raised over \$1,200 and are now deciding how to disburse in supporting their community. Way to Go!

McMeen Super Citizen: **Don Thomson** shared the "winner of the most Super Citizen certificates" earned to date is McMeen Elementary. Since 1992 McMeen has had 3478 SC recipients and for this year 103 to date.

Care 4 Toy Drive: **Steve Kady** who promoted the charge in organizing another successful Toy Drive, on Thursday, December 15th, morning at 6:00 a.m. with assistance from **Kent Gloor**, President **Craig Eley**, **Noel Hasselgren**, plus others, shared, "Once a year CBS 4 Denver collects toys for the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver and over the past four years Optimist Club of Monaco South has supported this drive. This has led to the annual appearance of Santa and club President **Craig Eley** being interviewed by the morning news talent. Santa (**Kent Gloor**) backed his bright red SUV into the entryway of the King Soopers at Yale and Colorado Blvd and as the rear door opened, the toys started rolling out. Several club members rushed to help unload the toys and placed with the others.

Prez Craig was nothing but smiles as news anchor **Brit Moreno** asked about the club's involvement with the Boys and Girls Clubs. The club has been able to raise the bar on this event. After our appearance the first year, several corporations saw us on TV and quickly went shopping and were able to make their donations later in the day. See the Care 4 Toy Drive video clip at <http://cbsloc.al/2hpHu4j>.

KOA NewsRadio also helps out on the toy drive by doing their morning show in the same place. News lady **April Zesbaugh** asked Santa to have her picture taken with him. She then invited him to put on the headphones and join her for an interview about the club.

All in all, the club was able to give some joy to the B & G Clubs and gain some nice publicity about the club and our projects.



It's The Care 4 Colorado Toy Drive Collection Day
Photo CBS4 News video clip



April Zesbaugh with Santa.
Photo Kent Gloor

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The Week Before Christmas at Monaco South

By Craig Eley 2016

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the Club
The guys were at breakfast just eating their grub
The Tree Lot was lit with the greatest of care
In hopes that some customers soon would be there.

When I rang the brass bell in my lovely green shirt
Most awoke with a start, a few stayed inert.
While some no doubt prayed for my swift abdication
They all pledged allegiance this, our great nation.

The list of Club projects was what came up next
Our endeavors are many, and some quite complex.
For one group of guys frigid air doesn't matter, they
Will be delivering food baskets on Saturday.

Each basket is packed by our members with care
To make someone's Christmas, we're happy to share.
And a dozen volunteers from our Club will soon leave
For Sewall Child Center to sort toys it received.

And this Sunday we'll see, though some think it silly
Who in the Club makes the world's greatest chili.
This will take place at the Tree Lot where we
Drill, price and sell real live Christmas trees.

With Joe in the trailer and Russ on the lot
It takes all our members to sell what we've got.

On Oscar! On Steve! On Ralph, and on Wyatt!
If a customer looks at a tree, make them buy it!

On O.C.! On Allen! On Michael! On Bryce!
'Til the day before Christmas we won't cut the price!

And back in the corner a shed sits because
We've made it a house for our own Santa Claus.
To Thomson and Oss who are Santa, with others,
The kids all come in with their dads and their mothers.

In a cheery red suit with a white beard and mane
They give every child their own candy cane.
And they hear what kids want from those toy catalogues
And they kiss all the moms and they hug all the dogs!

And there's Art Fest and book sale and Channel 4 Toys
And there'll be Kids to Breakfast for our girls and boys.
And if that's not enough to keep our schedules straining
Tomorrow's the Club's first Brain Bowl reader training!

And White Elephant gifts! I almost forgot!
We'll all get some crap, whether wanted or not.

But that's what December is always about
At the Optimist Club of Monaco South!

Camaraderie Day

It was pronounced camaraderie was officially in session
by Prez **Craig, Ricardo Ortiz, Karl Geil, Peter Dimond**
and **Paul Stratton** were all dressed full GQ fashion and
looking very sharp indeed. The conversations were loud,
animated and filled with Christmas and Holiday Glee. Great
confidence coursed through the air in anticipation of the
Patriot beat down. **Jon Wachter** and **Scott Walker** were the
big orange duo of the morning. A good time was had by all.

There was a prankster on the loose. Seems like
somebody locked the storage room door from the inside

and all the club stuff was locked out. **Greg Young** rescued a
key from the kitchen crew and our president quickly
regained consciousness.

Drawing with Pot at \$90

The Jack of Clubs was the card to find. **Chris Dunphy**
and **Tom Glazier** draw a card, but no deal. Taking the Cups
were: **Chris Dunphy, Ed Collins (2), Scott Walker, Jack**
Kleinheksel, and **Dick Nickoloff.** **Wyatt McCallie** had a
chance for the pot by wearing his badge, but again, no deal.

New Club Comes to Life

The new Englewood Optimist Club, built around Junior Golf
and other O.I. Programs was officially Chartered on
Wednesday December 14, 2016 at the Englewood Municipal,
Broken-Tee Golf Club. The inducted comprised of 18 new and
5 seasoned Optimist members. Past Mayor **Randy Penn** was
inducted as their first President. Many of the new members
belong to Broken-Tee Members Clubs.



Photo Paul Simon

Weekly Greeters	
12/23/16	Ron Cisco & John Young
12/30/16	OC Larson & Kent Gloor
1/6/17	Al Gapuzan & ?

December Super Citizen Presenters		
Dec 21 @ 1:00	McMeen	Bob Avery
January Super Citizen Presenters		
Jan 18 @ 2:30	MPB	John Scarborough
Jan 26 @ 1:00	McMeen	?
Jan 27 @ 3:00	Bradley	Mark Metevia

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2016-2017 40th Year — Chartered in 1976

Dec 23 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Santa Claus is Coming!
Dec 25 Sun MERRY CHRISTMAS
Dec 30 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Kids to Breakfast, Magician Tommy Walker. Note: Kid's breakfast won't be served until 7:45 am.
Jan 1 Sun HAPPY NEW YEAR

**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 Strowbridge	1993-94	Jon Wachter	2013-14
Mark Metevia	1994-95	John Oss	2014-15
Bob Safe	1995-96	Michael Chavez	2015-16

2015 - 2016 Officers

President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	Chris Dunphy	720-297-3111
Vice President	Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Secretary	Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Jim Easton	720-987-7684
Allen Pierce	303-883-8506
Allen Malask	303-726-3700
Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Rob Gardner	720-263-6203
Wyatt McCallie	303-759-2275
Paul Stratton	303-474-4358
John Swick	720-422-2733
Michael Chavez (Past Pres.)	303-960-5304

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	r.pedersen2658@comcast.net
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NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Jan **Paul Stratton**, Feb **Robert Wardlaw**, Mar **Pat Bush**, Apr **Paul Stratton**

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.