



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 12, 2008

Vol. 33, Issue 11

The Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 Denver, Colorado

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for December—Robert Wardlaw



GOOD MORNING OPTIMISTS!!

Today's Greeters

Greeters this morning doing a fine job were **Paul Stratton** and **Randy Marcove**. A beautiful full moon was shaded by a thin layer of clouds as members made their way in.

Invocation and Pledge

President Phil Perington calls the meeting to order. **Paul Stratton** gives the invocation this morning, highlighting the challenge of keeping a cheerful countenance at all times. He then led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Opening Bell

President Perington presented **Greg Young** with a certificate of appreciation for his work on improvements to the Tree Lots' security lights. **Steve Kady** wanted to recognize the great job **Greg** is doing! Also recognized for his work on a handy tool hanger was **Paul Bernard**.

The President's Important notes for the season: The first US President to put up a Christmas tree in the White House was Franklin Pierce. Also mentioned were the history of Christmas cards and more interesting news about trees. See President Perington to talk at length about these subjects and more interesting facts that can improve your life!

"Blessed is the season that engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

Announcements

Eldon Strong reported tragic news of new member **Bob Cornell's** passing last Friday evening. Our thoughts and prayers to Bob's family and those close to him. **Eldon** also had news of his daughter-in-laws impending kidney transplant surgery scheduled for January 22nd. That is good news indeed!

No guest were introduced today, although **Fred Pasternack** met **Tom Mauro's** neighbor at the tree lot and talked up the club to him. Unfortunately, **Tom** dropped the baton, forgetting to invite him to this week's meeting. Say it ain't so Willie.

Mike Snipes received a very nice Thank You Card from the Boys and Girls Club for the Thanksgiving Dinner. **President Phil, Donlie Smith** and others are meeting with the Hyatt Denver Tech Center general manager and executive chief in hopes of securing their services for the future. It is a tremendous undertaking to feed 800+ people, **Donlie** was recognized and given a loud round of applause for his efforts for this years event.

Tom Mauro reported that on Thursday night's citizenship awards presentation at Hamilton Middle School, twelve student were awarded a t-shirt and certificate for being Super Citizens.

Jim Easton served as chief presenter.



Meeting Place
American Legion Hall Post 1
5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado
Every Friday Morning, 7:00 – 8:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Ron Cisco thanked members for their help with moving the furniture for the Habitat for Humanity family. Members helped move two truckloads of items, to a very thankful family. A big "Thank You!" goes out to Jim Robbins, Director of Production at the Salvation Army main warehouse for putting together the furniture and household goods and appliances.

Also, the second session of chili cook off is slated for Saturday, December 13th. OC Larson is announced as winner for week number one. Lead Judge and Master Chili Connoisseur **Ron Cisco** implores those participating to arrive promptly and to bring enough for a healthy sampling—skimping will be frowned upon. Those bringing crackers and appropriate garnishments will be given extra credit.



Gary Laman announced the kids and grandkids breakfast has been moved once again to Friday, December 26th. The entertainment will be Sweet Tart, a healthy voice for children, children's "edutainer", a hip hybrid of kid's favorites. Do you need any more reason than that?

Attention! Colorado Springs Brain Bowl date has changed from April to May 2nd. All other dates printed last week are correct. Brain Bowl is coming!

Tree Lot Update as reported by **Joe Marci**. Eighty-five (85) members have worked the tree lot through Thursday, December 11th. See some members at work at left. Our goal of 100 members is reachable with at least 10 more days of sales to go. Any members who want to help can show up at Monaco and Evans between the hours of 9:00 am through 9:00 pm. This project gives all members a chance to meet many members who aren't able to attend the weekly meetings.

It also allows us to get to know each other in a fun setting at the snowy tree lot. You all come and enjoy helping the club raise the funds which support our many projects.



Frank Middleton speaks out on the mentoring committee and its mission. He introduced 6 new members present this morning out of the 20 who have joined in the past year. This includes 4 who haven't been sworn in just yet. Frank asked us to help out these new members and become involved in their orientation. He also mentioned another breakfast club he belongs to that meets on

Wednesday mornings. At this meeting the food is bland and always the same. This is in stark contrast to what we are served at our meetings. He stated, we are fortunate and thankful for **John Marinos'** hard work and wonderful food. The members joined in thanking John for his culinary efforts.

Oscar Sorensen reminded us that next Friday is white elephant gift exchange. So bring a gift to share.



Cy Regan reported strong grocery card sales this week of \$2,225! Members, consider giving a \$25 grocery gift card to your mail carrier, refuse collector, newspaper delivery person, or other special someone who provides you with superior service!

Drawing today had a pot over \$100, and no big winners were found for the booty.

After reciting the creed, MSOC members went out into the world with a cheerful countenance and set on making this Friday a great one!



Some sad news from **Bill Walters**, "Our Optimist brother (at heart and in spirit) Dudley Mueller passed away last evening, Friday, December 12th. Dudley has been suffering with a bad heart and it finally took him last evening. Even though Dudley was not an official member of Monaco South, he helped us all set-up and serve the Thanksgiving Dinner for the Boys & Girls Club and Girls Inc. for over 20 years. When Dudley was not able to help me do the work, that is when Donley Smith took over this great project with his super team. Dudley lived his life as an Optimist! Please keep Dudley and his family in your prayers."

Speaker for Today

Russel Dains, Celebrate Life International

Our speaker today was Russel Dains, who is a Youth Development Professional with Celebrate Life International (<http://www.celebratelife.org/index.htm>). Russel is also the Vice President of the Westminster Optimist Club. He has been working with youth for nine years and his focus has come to target at risk youth and preventing drop outs. The costs to society of those that drop out of school in terms of incarceration, lost productivity in the work place, and victims' damages, etc. are staggering. With these issues in mind, Russel utilizes a program called Teach One to Lead One (T1L1) to help young people.

T1L1 is a national program focused on building character and leadership in young people through powerful training, practical materials, exciting presentations and hands-on activities. The program has been praised by government officials for being one of the best programs they've seen for combining mentorship with a solid curriculum. Specifically targeting students in the public school system and juvenile courts (ages 12-18), T1L1 equips students with proven life skills and healthy habits, transforming them into responsible citizens.



Russel talked about trying to get these kids to see others and their specific needs instead of focusing on themselves and what they want. He talked about taking three middle school students to the 16th Street Mall and finding a homeless man to take to McDonalds for lunch. He was able to engage in conversation with this person about his personal story, opening the students' minds to what this man was going through.


The exercise seems to have taken hold with one student who told Russel about himself taking a homeless man to lunch after meeting him at the Denver Skate Park near downtown.

The T1L1 program incorporates,

1. Absolute Truths – universal principles such as respect and integrity,
2. Healthy Relationships – showing these kids that the community is committed to their future, and
3. Spirit of Adventure and Celebration – they incorporate activities that engage the kids to share their struggles and look for positive solutions.

Many problem cases have become success stories after finding the confidence in them self that comes from knowing others care for them. Russel believes that teens want direction or a sense of purpose, but have seen little of that in too many cases. Many turn to gangs for the sense of belonging they lack in their lives. Unfortunately, this also results in selfish behavior and violence. Program graduates have a positive influence among their peers.

Monaco South Calendar

Dec 16	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Dec 17	Wed	1:15 pm	Super Citizen, McMeen Elementary School - John Stoffel
Dec 17	Wed	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood - Don Iley
Dec 19	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Santa's Gift Exchange, bring a white elephant
Dec 20	Sat	8:30 am	Christmas Basket Distribution - Legion Hall
Dec 25	Thu		CHRISTMAS DAY
Dec 26	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - <i>Kids to Breakfast</i> , Sweet Tart, a children's "edutainer"
Dec 31	Wed		New Year's Eve
Jan 1	Thu		HAPPY NEW YEAR! 
Jan 2	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - John Young, <i>The Zen of Optimism</i>
Jan 9	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - David Bogosian, <i>O! Personal Growth and Involvement</i>
Jan 13	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102

Past Presidents of the Optimist Club of Monaco South

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

2008 - 2009 Officers

President	Phil Perington	303-832-4578
Vice President	Al Gapuzan	303-770-0499
Vice President	Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Secretary	Rich Wagner	303-362-5328
Treasurer	Ron Gustas	303-770-9640

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George Buzick	303-985-0655
Dick Cohen	303-320-1767
Jim Easton	303-300-2431
Howard Fry	303-300-4466
Les Larson	303-755-1213
O.C. Larson	303-797-7432
Mike Snipes	303-699-9161
Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Greg Young (Past Pres.)	303-759-3921

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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.

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