

Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

February 28, 2014 – Vol. 39, Issue 24

Optimist Club of Monaco South



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



Good Morning Optimist

On this last day of February, smiles and handshakes were the order of the day as Immediate Past Governor **Phil Perington** and illustrious member **Ron Carlson** greeted those members who decided to share their Friday morning with their fellow Optimists. All in attendance warmed up the room.



Invocation & Pledge

With the invocation and pledge, Prez **Jon Wachter** asked that we all give a welcome Optimist greeting to our neighbors.

From the Prez

President Jon announced that the family of Gary Laman, will hold a *Celebration of His Life* to share fond memories and humorous stories on Saturday, March 15, 11:00 a.m., at Mountainview Community Christian Church, 40 E. Highlands Ranch (HR) Pkwy, Highlands Ranch 80126. A reception will immediately follow the service. Directions from C-470 and Broadway: go south on Broadway for 2 miles to HR Pkwy, turn left (east) onto HR Pkwy and the church is on the right. Memorial donations may be made to The Denver Hospice, 501 South Cherry Street, Suite 700, Denver 80246, or to Mountainview Community Christian Church. Anyone wishing to send condolences to Joyce Laman, her address is 13950 E. Linvale Place, Aurora, CO 80014.



President Jon then shared that he had the pleasure of acting as Master of Ceremony for the Eagle Award recognition dinner at which 600 people were present. This annual presentation, originally organized by **Donlie Smith**, recognizes those Scouts who have achieved the pinnacle of scouting, the Eagle Scout. Eight awards were presented. **Jack Kleinhessel** shared that the overall winner, Austin Armstrong had been quite a challenge for his mentor on the project. After the award ceremony, Austin said

that receiving the award had change his entire life. **Phil Perington** commented on one Eagle Scout who completed his project, in spite of the fact that he is blind.

Jon was a busy person, as he also attended the initial meeting of the Bradley International *Junior Optimist Club*, which will be known as the “Helping Hands” club. Thirty charter members were present, as well as Jon and other members of MSOC. We look forward to working with them in the future! Speaking of Bradley, their Super Citizen program will be held today.



Welcome Back

Prez Jon also recognized a few members whom we have not seen for a while. **Fred Pasternack** just returned from Cancun and brought an imaginary guest, whose name was Curt Brinkerhoff. Unfortunately, nobody but Freddie could see Curt. More real was the guest of **Michael Chavez**, whose name is Amir Keyami. We hope you see you back Amir.



Prez Jon Wachter
Photo Don StJohn

Additionally, we welcomed back **Al Perington**, **Mark Goodbody**, **Ron Carlson**, **Les Larson** and **Casey Funk**.

Announcements

Super Citizen Programs: In addition to the program at Bradley, to be held this afternoon, **Greg Young** announced that the Lowry Elementary School Super Citizen program overseen by **Paul Stratton** and presenter **Frank Middleton**, had excellent attendance. **Kent Gloor** announced that the Samuels Elementary School's Super Citizen program, thirty awards had been handed out.



Kent Gloor
Photo Don StJohn

To be a presenter at one of these Super Citizen programs, see **Rob Gardner**.

Continued on the next page

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



Tri Star Basketball: Michael Chavez thanked those who made the Tri Star Basketball program at the Boys and Girls Club such a success. Among those staffing this program, in which 45 kids participated were: **Ron Cisco, John Stoffel, Mike McMahon, Gary Strowbridge, Cy Regan, Joe Marci, Don Thomson, Al Gapuzan, Greg Young, Donlie Smith, Russ Paul** and, of course, Michael, the prime mover of this event. Thank you Michael!

The Brain Bowl is Over: The Brain Bowl is over, **Karl Geil** yelled. He then thanked the many Monaco South members who participated in the four different Brain Bowls held over the past two months. Karl said that almost 20 percent of the Optimist workers for last week's Championship round were members of our club and that without them, it would be very difficult to staff this type of event. Editor: *Kudos to **Karl, Paul Simon, Rich Urbanowski and Connie Ackerman** for yet another fantastic Brain Bowl season.* This years championship results are attached to the GUMS distribution email.



Frank Rowe
Photo Craig Eley

Oratorical Contest: Frank Rowe asked for a few more volunteers for the Oratorical Contest, which will be held at George Washington High School on March 20. Participants will include students from GW, Thomas Jefferson, and South High School. If you know of any students who are interested in participating, please contact Frank. The topic for this year's contest is "*How My Passions Impact the World.*"

MSOC Officer Election: Oscar Sorensen announced the candidates for the 2014-2015 officers and Board of Directors. Those who have volunteered to run are: President, **John Oss**; Vice Presidents, **Craig Eley** and **Don Iley**; Board Members, **Allen Pierce, Jack Kleinheksel, Cap Hermann, Allen Malask,** and **Shawn Mahaffey.** Editor: *Thanks to those who have stepped up to help determine the actions of one of the finest clubs in all of Optimist International!*



Only MSOC has the techniques for doing this the best!
2013 file photo

St. Patrick's Day Parade: Gary Strowbridge says he still needs "*a few good men*" to assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the streets of downtown Denver, in the wake of equine participants in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15. See Gary for more details.

Congressional Youth Awards: Pat Bush reminded us that an informational meeting on the "*Youth Congressional Award Program*" would be held here at the Legion Hall on Sunday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m., and last about an hour and a half. See *Adviser Flyer, Youth Flyer,* and Program Brochure for details on the GUMS distribution email.

Colorado History Day

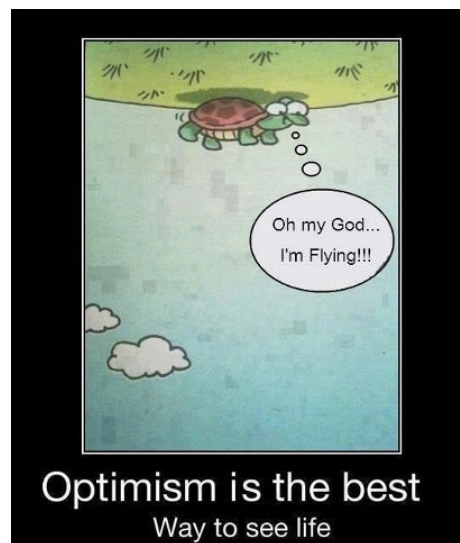
President Jon introduced **Kendra Black**, who made of plea for member support for the upcoming Colorado History Day. There will be 14 contests throughout the state. Denver Public Schools contest will be at Hamilton Middle School on Saturday, March 22 and finals will be held on the campus of the University Colorado Denver on Saturday, May 3.

Kendra was soliciting both monetary and staffing support. With minimal training, you can participate in this event. You can find more information attached to the GUMS distribution email and by visiting the website: <http://www.nhd.org/coloradopage.htm>. Kendra also shared that she is throwing her hat in the ring for District 4 representative to the Denver City Council to replace Peggy Lehmann, who is term limited.

Drawing & Closing Bell

With \$70 at stake, neither **Cy Regan**, nor **Paul Bernard** were able to draw the *Ten of Spades*. Better luck next week!

Some Humor



Shared by Jim Piccinelli



I pointed to two "old farts" across the bar from us and told my friend Herbie, "That'll be us in ten or so years." He turned to me and said, "That's a mirror, you dumb crum bum."

Our Speaker, Marci Elder
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Rocky Mountain School for Expeditionary Learning

Marci Elder, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Rocky Mountain School for Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) was our speaker for today. Marci shared some information regarding the school. Following is an excerpt from her and their website: <http://www.rmssel.org/>.



Marci Elder
Photo Don StJohn

RMSEL is a Denver Public School of choice and is a vital partner of five Denver-area school districts: Aurora, Cherry Creek, Denver, Douglas County and Littleton. It is a non-profit organization actively involved in the renewal of public education and the Public Education and Business Coalition. Expeditionary learning captures the power of Outward Bound principles and research and combines them in the classroom to promote high academic achievement and character development.

RMSEL was founded on the ideals of Outward Bound and organizes its curriculum around multidisciplinary learning expeditions. Academic achievement and character development are placed together at the core of the curriculum. Academic standards are based on K-12 a portfolio assessment system which makes explicit the criteria by which success can be measured and documented in the accomplishment of high academic and character standards. Emphasis is placed on a high value of: Interdisciplinary learning; Collaborative learning; Active engagement in real issues, content and skills; Development and demonstrations of deep knowledge, higher-order thinking skills and effective communication; and Service and character.

The school is housed in the former Ash Grove Elementary School building 1700 South Holly Street. We now enroll 390 students in grades K-12, with an approximate mix of 185 students from Denver Public

schools, 39 from Douglas County schools, 102 from Cherry Creek schools, 31 from Littleton Public schools and 33 from Aurora Public schools.

RMSEL serves a socio-economically diverse population comprising 25% students of color, which reflects the diversity of the five sponsoring districts.

Expeditionary Learning recognizes that effective assessment is impossible unless one has clearly defined standards. We require students to meet skill and content requirements identified in the Colorado State standards.

Students, at the end of 3rd, 5th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade, present their portfolios for evaluation by a panel of people who represent the RMSEL community, and then discuss their work in terms of effective communication, deep knowledge and higher order thinking. This demonstration of understanding is meant to further uncover student skill and knowledge. Students whose work is not judged by the passage panel and crew leaders as meeting passage requirements are not promoted until they demonstrate that they have completed the required work and attained the necessary knowledge and skills.

Ms. Elder's purpose in attending our meeting this morning was to recruit volunteers for evaluation panels. Seventy-five people are needed and training is provided by the school. Initial reading will take place on Saturday, May 17 and panel presentations will take place the following Tuesday and Thursday. If you would like to volunteer you can call Marci at 303-759-2076 x2226 or email her at melder@rmssel.org. See her handout information attached to the GUMS distribution email.

Super Citizen Presenters for March

Mar 12 @ 2:30	MPB	Ed Collins
Mar 20 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Pat Bush
Mar 28 @ 9:30	Holm	Fred Pasternack
Mar 28 @ 12:45	McMeen	Mark Metevia
Mar 28 @ 3:00	Bradley	?

Be a Super Citizen Presenter
See Rob Gardner, 720-263-6203
gardnerrb@gmail.com

Weekly Greeters

3/14/14	Tom Glazier & Mark Metavia
3/21/14	Bob Avery & Rob Gardner
3/28/14	Al Gapuzan & Jim Vander Kamp
4/4/14	Nick Newey & Tom Hoch

Need Friday morning greeters,
see O.C Larson, 303-797-7432 or
larson1942@comcast.net

Monaco South Calendar

Mar 7	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Rod Winget, Making Movies
Mar 14	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Mar 19	Wed	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Mar 21	Wed	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - John Hames, TV Star

**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: Mar **Robert Wardlaw**, Apr **Pat Bush**, May **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.