



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

December 19, 2008

Vol. 33, Issue 12

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

Members and guests were greeted this morning by **Gary Strowbridge** and **Aaron Hersch**.

Invocation and Pledge

President **Phil Perington** calls the meeting to order. **Ralph Pedersen** gave the invocation this morning. Ralph talks about the decision to talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person we meet. These topics are also important to discuss with young people. Our words do make a huge impression to others about how we live our lives. He then led us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Welcome Guests!

Guests this morning include **Frank Middleton's** son Scott, who thought he was going to have a quiet Friday morning, but he certainly started it out right by coming to our meeting. Thanks Scott! The next guest we met was Mike Chavez who became interested in the club after meeting Harry Johnson in a local restaurant and getting some good information regarding MSOC.

Announcements

The club received a very nice Thank You card from Mental Health Center of Denver. They thanked the club for the donations we provided.

Gary Laman reminded us that the kids and grandkids breakfast will be one week from today—Friday, December 26th. Good reports on the scheduled entertainment for that date will be enjoyed by all.

Karl Geil gives the reminder for the Brain Bowl. Please review dates for training for those hoping to become Alex Trebek types. This is one of the largest projects for the Optimist International clubs in the Colorado-Wyoming District, so please sign up and help MSOC. Upcoming Brain Bowl Competition, Saturday, January 24th at Fairview High School in Boulder, and Saturday, February 7th at Overland High School. The third installment will be Saturday, April 11th at University of the Rockies in Colorado Springs. Reader training for this event is mandatory, but there is a fast track available for veterans.

Training sessions are set for:

- Saturday, January 17th @ 9 am, Valmont Church in Boulder
- Thursday, January 22nd @ 6:30 pm, Overland High School, and
- Saturday, January 31st @ 9 am at Overland High School.

Paul Bernard attended the Cherry Creek High School Craft Fair featuring vision impaired students. He was impressed by their talents and said it was a great socialization opportunity for some great kids. This sounds like an event worth getting involved in!

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 updated us on the second round of the Great Chili Cook Off, which took place last Saturday at the Tree lot. Saturday was also the day Santa made his first visit and with blue skies and mild temperatures, the kids were able to enjoy their time with the bearded one. Your editor's 5 year old was able to tell "Santa's substitute" about the catchers mask he wants so badly. Back to the chili, after tasting the fare, and some re-tasting **Greg Young** is announced as the winner. Fine Job Greg!



With announcements completed, Santa arrived, aka **Oscar Sorensen**, and the annual White Elephant Christmas extravaganza was under way. Santa has long blond hair this year that flowed beneath his stylish cap. He appears healthy and as sharp mentally as can be recalled. He commented on how happy he was to be back with MSOC and assured us he had ample time to reward all the good lads.



Santa started out by rewarding those who had to leave early. Quickly **Todd Olson** was ushered up to receive his 4-foot tall lava lamp. Beautifully received and given, and in the spirit of the season a sense of calm came over the room as Santa called up one after the other to see what reward each would have for a year well spent. **Don Iley** received two tiny fold out chairs, perfect for resting the body after a long day of hiking. Which is to say, they each might accommodate the left and right cheek if used together. **Bob Hugo** received a "go go" Santa that looked just right.

One-by-one members, were treated to succinct commentary and sage advice as Santa regaled us with stories of adventures past. He seemed as though he knew each member intimately and took great care in their well being. This is no better demonstrated by the gift **Ron Cisco** received. The book, entitled "Sex After 60" appeared magically to help what might ail an otherwise erstwhile traveler or even the odd MSOC member. Ron left Santa anxious for events to unfold. **Doug Morton**, dressed nattily in a snappy sweater, received his gift with such enthusiasm, it was deposited directly after opening.

In short, the event was a huge success. Santa was able to lift the room's spirit and holiday resolve. So long Santa, and healthy travels!

Cy Regan reported on Grocery Card sales of \$1,675.00 this week. That was a pretty good number and Cy seemed happy if not a bit distracted after Santa's visit.

Tree lot update. (Written by **Joe Marci**) Despite the cold weather, the Tree Lot has enjoyed brisk sales this past week. We expect to sell all the remaining trees in the next 3 to 4 days. Ninety-three (93) different members have worked so far at the lot, as well as 15 student volunteers from George Washington and Thomas Jefferson High Schools. The lot has really been helped by the 11 Tamarac Optimists who priced trees after the 2 loads were delivered. Thanks to all who have made this another successful fundraiser!

After thirteen weeks of no one winning the notorious Monaco South Pot **Greg Young** had a chance to draw by wearing his MSOC name tag. He pulled the Ace of Spades thanks to the assistance of



Shown l to r, President Phil Perington, Greg Young, and Craig Eley.

Craig Eley, who drew Greg's name, President **Phil Perington**, who held the name jar, **Ron Cisco**, who shuffled the 41-card deck of cards, and **John Young**, who provided ongoing encouragement.



REMEMBER THIS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

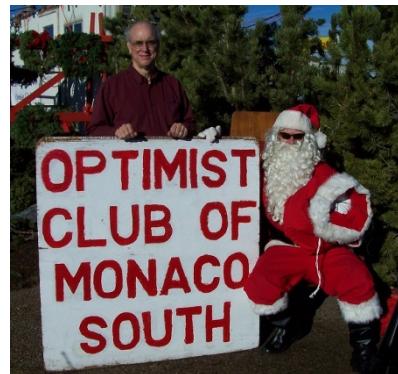
According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should remember this when they are assisting us to find the way!

Pictures of the Week



Joe Marci, on left, captain of the tree lot and **Elton Strong** look over the progress at this years tree lot.



Craig Eley and Santa try to attracting customers for the tree lot and for photo ops with Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, or Kris Kringle.



Another Santa, **Russ Paul**, enjoyed his warm sunny day and the Christmas Holiday environment.



Santa, **Howard Fry**, with one of our customers.



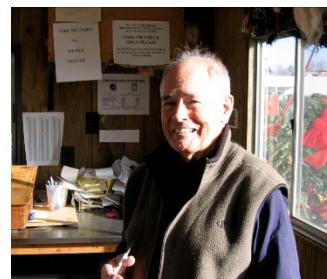
Oscar Sorensen, on left, and **OC Larson** show how hard it is to work at the tree lot.



Les Larson, on left, and **Bryce Slaby**, enjoy some hot chili during the annual chili cook-off.



Mike Snipes, right, serves as one of the Santa photographers.



Cy Regan tries to keep up with sales as the chief cashier.

Monaco South Calendar

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>OI Personal Growth and Involvement</i>
Jan 13	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Jan 16	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Jan 21	Wed	1:15/2:00 pm	Super Citizen, McMeen Elementary School - Les Larson
Jan 21	Wed	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood - Randy Marcove
Jan 23	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Arvin K. Rao, MD - <i>South Denver Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist (ENT) & Allergy Clinic</i>

**Past Presidents of the
Optimist Club of Monaco South**

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Kent Gloor	1992-
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	93	
Bill Kosenko	1978-79	Gary Strowbridge	
Duane Wehrer	1979-80		1993-
Curt Jeffries	1980-81	94	
Frank Middleton		Mark Metevia	1994-
	1981-82	95	
John Young	1982-83	Bob Safe	1995-
Pat Bush	1983-84	96	
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Tom Overton	1996-
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Peter Dimond	1997-
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	98	
Oscar Sorensen		Ralph Symalla	1998-
	1987-88	99	
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Cy Regan	1999-

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

Board of Directors

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

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Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@g.com
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jpiccinelli@earthlink.net

THE OPTIMIST C R E E D — 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.