



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

December 11, 2015 – Vol. 40, Issue 11



Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 39 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Pat Bush



Good Morning Optimist

It was to be a day of transition from warmer to colder weather as a front comes through later in the day.



But there was nothing but warm smiles at the American Legion Hall on this Friday morning. There were no greeters present early. **Bryce Slaby** and **Tom Kramis** were our scheduled

greeters. Bryce was surprised when he found out that it was his turn to greet saying he usually gets a reminder call, but quickly got into the spirit once he found out. Tom showed, but he was greeted rather than serving as a greeter.

Invocation & Pledge

Greg Young delivered the invocation saying it is difficult to wear a cheerful countenance at all times when the world presents so many terrible events. But we should take joy with each new day when we have so many friends to support us when we have to face such events. He then lead us in the *Pledge of Allegiance to our flag*.

From the Prez

Thank You Notes: President **Michael Chavez** announced that we received thank you notes from Girls, Inc. and a couple of the recipient families of one of our 83 Thanksgiving Food Baskets. The Girls, Inc. thank you was for the turkey dinner that we served to the members and their families.



Adopt a Family: Prez **Michael** also announced that one of our service schools asked if we would adopt one of their families with four children and make their Christmas wish come true. The parents have no jobs and can't afford to pay for gifts for their children. School administrators figured they would need a couple of hundred dollars to get one gift for each child. The Monaco South Optimist Club came through by passing a hat for donations and collected \$222 dollars.

Announcements

David Bruton Book Drive: **Steve Kady** shared that our Book Drive was so successful at collecting children's books last month that we had hundreds of books left over. **Tom Glazier** added that the remaining books would be donated to his book sale at the T.J. Arts and Craft show tomorrow. He was still looking for some help to staff the book sale for a couple of hours in the morning.

Fire Station 22 Thank You: While Steve had the floor, he said Prez Michael treated Denver Fire Department Station 22, located at Hampden & Monaco, to a wonderful dinner of barbecue from Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q.

Station 22 Tower crew were nice enough to come



down to the Christmas tree lot three times to help make sure our banner sign would fit. Twice they were there to measure it. They wanted to make sure that the banners were going to fit properly and not blow off if a big wind came up. The third time they hung the banners and bungee tied them down.



Photos Steve Kady

Firefighters have to buy their own food while on duty. This dinner was a way of saying "thank you for helping us out."

King Soopers & Safeway Gift Cards: **Greg Young** announced that the King Soopers and Safeway card programs have returned about \$600 to the club over the last couple of months. This increase was due to the concerted efforts of members to use the gift card for their purchases of food and household products from these stores. **Ron Cisco** thinks the increase

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

was due to his using gift cards to purchase lunch items for the tree lot. King Soopers returns 5% and Safeway 4% of the purchase amounts back to our club. Greg encourages members to give the gift cards to friends and service providers and remind them that the gift cards are refillable. Since the products purchased with the cards are products we use every day and without exception, can a fundraiser for the club be any easier?

Tree Lot Chili Cookoff: Ron Cisco stated the annual Chili Cookoff will be held at the tree lot trailer on Sunday, December 20th. All chilly lovers are challenged to enter their favorite chilly into the contest. Although this not a sanctioned event by the



[International Chili Society \(ICS\)](#), a champion will be determined and appropriately recognized. All you have to do is prepare a pot of the chilly and bring it to the tree lot

trailer on that Sunday morning. The pot should be big enough for the celebrity judges and club members in attendance to each have a taste. Be forewarned, some club members may turn the taste into a meal.

Urban Peak Drive: Ron Gustas said, this was the last week to donate household goods and cash to T1DOC's drive for Urban Peak. Urban Peak provides outreach services to teens that are homeless or about to become homeless. Ron and other T1DOC member's have been collecting goods over the last several weeks and will be delivering what has been collected to Urban Peak next week.

Dime-A-Week: Greg Young, standing in for Perry Allen, said he has Dime-A-Day pins for those who have donated to the program this year (since October 1st). To be eligible for this coveted pin, one only needs to donate \$36.50 (one dime each day for this Optimist year) to the Optimist International Foundation. You get a tax deduction for the donation, the donation supports our work with youth and you get this stylish pin. It is a win-win all around. *What are you waiting for? Make a donation NOW.*

Christmas Tree Lot Update: Joe Marci indicated that we have a load of trees coming in tomorrow morning and we need some extra guys to unload, drill and price the trees. We also have many shifts short on staffing and need help throughout the weekend.

Last weekend was a record breaker in terms of tree sales. We sold over 330 trees last Saturday and Sunday alone. This weekend figures to be equally big. We have received many positive customer comments on Yelp and other websites.

To date, over 75 different members have worked the tree lot. The goal is for 115 members to work at least one shift. If you are one that has not yet worked, there is still time to help make the lot a success and reach our member activity goal. Just give any of the Lot Day Managers a call or go on line to volunteer to work. This project provides over 80% of the club funding for the entire year. It is important that all members support the project.

Tree Lot Sales: Speaking of the Tree Lot, Phil Perington reports, this is Jessica Heckman and her new husband Christopher buying their first Optimist Christmas tree. Jessica was a winner of the CO/WY 2006 Oratorical Contest. She was sponsored by the Boulder Breakfast Club. They are joined by tree



lot volunteers Harry Fegley and Jack Kitchell. What a happy little get together for everyone.



Photos Phil Perington

White Elephant Christmas: Oscar Sorensen re-



minds all members that the Christmas "white elephant" gift giveaway is this coming Friday morning. You do not want to miss Santa giving out some of the strangest but highly sought after gifts. Santa has also been known to give Christmas advice as well. Members are encouraged to bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift for the giveaway but Santa also brings a few extra gifts so do not let forgetting a gift prevent you from joining us.

Christmas Toy Drive: Steve Kady is again leading a project that is becoming a tradition. For the past several years he, along with members, has collected new toy donations to be given to the Channel 4's Care 4 Colorado Toy Drive for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver. In past years Steve and Santa Clause has taken a truck load of toys to King Soopers at 2750 S. Colorado Blvd. (S. Colorado Blvd and Yale) at 6:00 a.m. and present the toys to the Toy Drive. It has been a very good publicity spotlight on our club and what we do in the community. He is looking for an under employed Santa to accompany him again this year. The presentation will be on Wednesday, December 16th. If you are a Santa with some time to spare, Steve could use your help. Give him a call. [Thanks to Tom Hoch, here is what happened last year, CLICK HERE.](#)

Super Citizen: Robert Wardlaw reported that



seven Super Citizen presentations are scheduled this coming week. Presentations will be held at Bradley, Hamilton, Holm, McMeen, Most Precious Blood, Samuels and Slavens schools. He invites members to come out and see the presentations and see the delight of the kids and their families have when they receive the awards.

TREE LOT SIGN UP

Go to <http://www.monacosouth.org/>

Log in at the Members Only Page

We need help early this coming week, afternoon & evenings. Also next weekend.

Our last big push!

Announcements Continued

Doug Morton Update: Doug Morton has been admitted into a Highline Place Senior Living Center for full time care. He is in the memory unit. Highline Place is located at 6767 S. Broadway in Littleton. He is able to receive visitors.



Drawing Winners

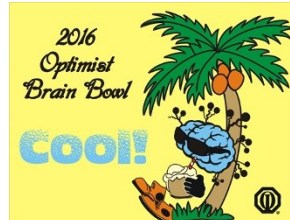
The lucky drawing winners were **John Oss, Paul Stratton, Don Thomson, Noel Hasselgren, Lynn Jones and Everett Gardner. OC Larson, Ron Gustas, and Karl Geil** all won shots at the \$120.00 pot but came up with the wrong card. The pot just keeps growing!



Overview of the CO-WY Brain Bowl

Karl Geil

Karl Geil was our speaker this morning. Karl is one of the driving forces behind the Optimist Brain Bowl which is coming up next month. The Brain Bowl is an academic competition for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students much in the style of the old G.E. College Bowl of the 1960's era. Karl describes it as Jeopardy with teams. Karl gave us a brief history of the Brain Bowl.



It was started in 1983 by the Buckingham (now Gateway) Optimist Club. They ran it for about 10 years until their club struggled to staff the competition and the chairman grew tired of the effort to pull it off. That is when Karl asked if Monaco South could take it over and he made it a District wide project. It has grown tremendously and now has over 200 teams from 60 schools in three regional competitions with a final championship tournament. The championship tournament is held at Hamilton Middle School for the top six teams in each grade level from each of the regional tournaments.

The Brain Bowl is widely recognized across Colorado and Wyoming as a quality academic competition and has won project awards at the international level. The three regional tournaments will be held at Stanley Lake High School on January 9th for the north region; at Heritage High School on January 30th for the central region and the south regional will be February 6th in Colorado Springs. The championship will be February 20th. Karl will need volunteers for readers, proctors, timers, scorekeepers, runners and data entry. A total of 135 to 150 volunteers will be needed at each tournament. Those volunteers will come from and many as 35 Optimist clubs across Colorado/Wyoming District. You can learn more as well as sign up to work the Brain Bowl at www.optimistbrainbowl.org.

You will be amazed at how much these student know and surprised at what they do not know.

[See another one of Tom Hoch's video clips on the 2014 Brain Bowl Competition by CLICKING HERE.](#)

December Super Citizen Presenters

Dec 16 @ 1:00	Samuels	Gary Strowbridge
Dec 16 @ 2:30	MPB	Don Roth
Dec 17 @ 1:00	McMeen	Mike White
Dec 17 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Karl Geil
Dec 18 @ 3:00	Bradley	Everett Gardner

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

Weekly Greeters

12/18/15	Ron Cisco & John Young
12/25/15	Merry Christmas — No Meeting
1/1/2016	Happy New Year — No Meeting
1/8/ 2016	?

Help, Help, Help — we need Friday morning greeters, see Jon Wachter, 303-204-5645 or jon_wachter@msn.com

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2015-2016 40th Birthday Year — Chartered in 1976

Dec 17 Thu	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way
Dec 18 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Santa Gift Exchange
Dec 19 Sat	8:00 am	Christmas Food Basket Delivery
Dec 25 Fri	-----	Merry Christmas! — No meeting — eat breakfast at home —
Jan 1 Fri	-----	Happy New Year — No meeting — eat breakfast at home —
Jan 2 Sat	9:00 am	Brain Bowl Reader Training, Valmont Presbyterian Church, 3262 61 st St, Boulder
Jan 5 Tue	6:00 pm	Brain Bowl Reader Training, Heritage High School, 1401 W. Gaddes Ave., Littleton
Jan 8 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
Jan 9 Sat	6:45 am	Brain Bowl, North Regional, Standley High School, 9300 W. 104 th Ave., Westminster
Jan 15 Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
Jan 21 Thu	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way



**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		

2015 - 2016 Officers

President	Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
Vice President	Open	
Vice President	Randy Marcove	303-840-7706
Secretary	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Barry Barker	813-545-4533
Pat Bush	720-254-3741
Jim Easton	720-987-7684
Tom Glazier	303-522-5214
Cap Hermann	303-587-5575
Allen Malask	303-726-3700
Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Allen Pierce	303-883-8506
John Oss (Past Pres.)	720-210-8056

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	Phil Perington	303-832-4578	perington@msn.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rz6267@gmail.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	rlwardlaw@gmail.com	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	craigceley@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Nov **Robert Wardlaw**, Dec **Pat Bush**, Jan **Paul Stratton**, Feb **Phil Perington**

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.