



September 12, 2008
Vol. 32, Issue 50



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

Optimists Bring Out the
Best in Children



The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976

Denver, Colorado

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue— Craig Eley (craig@eley.net)

Monaco South Celebrates 32nd Installation Banquet

A large crowd of Monaco South members and their spouses and friends descended on Blossoms Restaurant on Saturday night, September 13 for the 32nd Optimist Club of Monaco South Installation Banquet.

After some time to chat followed by an excellent dinner, President **Greg Young** brought the meeting to order by offering his "Quote of the Year" from Harry

Truman: "A pessimist is one who makes difficulties out of his opportunities. An optimist makes his difficulties into opportunities."



John Young (r), the winner of the Marlin Kent Eternal Optimist Award, with Marlin Kent (l).

The Marlin Kent Eternal Optimist Award was presented by Greg to John Young, a former MSOC president and the sponsor of dozens of members. Greg mentioned some of John's numerous

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Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1

5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado

Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.

Proceedings of the Meeting of September 12, 2008

Invocation & Pledge

Nick Newey led us in an invocation in which we were encouraged to foster a desire for good government in our youth, because they will form the governments of the future. Then we joined him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

A gaggle of guests presented themselves at the meeting. **Fred Pasternack** introduced **Troy Montoya**, a retired fireman who said he was joining the Club. **Frank Middleton** brought **Aaron Hersch**, who stated that he, too, was turning in an application for membership. **Bob Avery** announced that **Mike Willis**, the Colorado Rockies employee of the year, was among our visitors today, and **Peter Dimond** brought **Kale Smith**, who he said was a new first time father (probably needed to get out of the house!). **Jim Easton** introduced his friend, **Wood Thibodeaux**, and **Bill Walters** boasted that his guest, **Jeff Carter**, had even agreed to fill in as speaker this morning (see story on page 5).

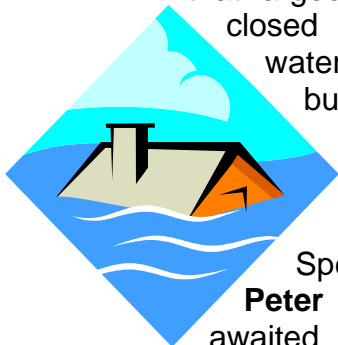
Finally, **Karl Geil** presented his guest, **Susan Gustin**, the state director of Colorado History Day. She had spoken at the Club in February, and came today to thank the Club for its contribution to and participation in this year's History Day.

Wisdom from the Prez, Truth from Eldon

President Greg Young solemnly advised us that "a good time to keep your mouth closed is when you're in deep water." **Eldon Strong** agreed, but substituted another word for "water."

Swimmingly

Speaking of deep water, **Peter Dimond** gave us the long-awaited results of the Ft. Lupton Optimist Duck Race. **Allen Yockey's** duck came in 4th, nosing out (or beaking out) **Greg**



Young's bird, which came in 5th. For their ducks' efforts, Allen won \$50, and Greg took home \$25. Pete read a thank you note from Colleen O'Neil of the Ft. Lupton Club, who reported that the event was sold out, with 1,000 entries, and that everything went "swimmingly." At least they did for Allen and Greg!

Hurrahs from Hamilton

The Club received a thank you note from Hamilton Middle School for donating school supplies for those students whose families have a hard time making ends meet. **Oscar Sorensen** received kudos for heading up this great project, which helps students in six different area schools.

100% Day is Next Friday

100% Day is the one meeting a year where we try to get every member to attend. A special breakfast is planned, so you'll want to make a particular effort to attend!

Budget Meeting This Monday

President-Elect Phil Perington announced that the 2008-09 budget will be worked on at a meeting this Monday, September 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., # 102. If you haven't submitted a budget request for your project yet, you had better be there!

Welcome Back, John!

It was great to see Monaco South stalwart **John Moser** back at a Club meeting after months of challenging medical adventures.



Photo by Don St. John

Club President **Greg Young** presented John with an award for his work in helping to arrange for the never-ending line-up of excellent Friday morning speakers.

Get Well Soon, Marci!

Marc Goodbody isn't so good these days, having broken a hip. We all wish him the best and hope to see him at a meeting soon. The GUMS Committee will muddle through without him, but it won't be easy!

Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books are still available from **Joe Marci** for \$25 each. Proceeds go to the Club's Robert Sullivan Scholarship Fund.

Replace Don St. John!

Don St. John, our Bingo Manager, has been on the job for ten years and is going to retire. He and his wife, **Char**, have put in countless hours organizing this fundraiser, which contributes \$2500 per year to the MSOC



budget and also helps the Tamarac Club, which participates with us. Bingo is held the 4th Thursday of every month at Berry's Bingo on Federal Blvd.

Someone needs to step forward to relieve Don and Char, beginning in October. No one expects the new manager to put in a decade, but unless someone volunteers, we will have to give up this project. We have to give notice soon, so if you can help with this long-standing and worthwhile fundraiser, let **Greg Young** know ASAP at 303-388-1110.

Memories

Joe Marci reminded us that the Memory Walk is Saturday, September 20 from 7 to 10 a.m. The event benefits the Alzheimer's Association and will take place in City Park near the Zoo and Museum parking lots. We have guaranteed that 12 MSOCers will show up, and just that many have said they would be there. So if you have signed up, show up!

Saxophone Needed

Bill Litchfield has a grandson who is an aspiring Kenny G but needs a saxophone to get started. If you have one collecting dust, what better way to be a friend of youth than to give or loan it to him? If you can help, call Bill at 303-782-0465.

Groceries

Cy Regan, the Sultan of Safeway Cards, cheerfully reported that Club members bought a very respectable \$1725 worth of grocery cards at today's meeting.

Drawing - No Guts, No Glory

Although there were only three cards left to draw from for the jackpot, no one wanted to give it a try. Everyone whose number was pulled went for the sure thing - about \$5.85 - instead of the \$20 pot. When all the cash cups were gone, **Tom McKee** had no choice but to go for the big money. With a 33% chance of success, he pulled it off!



Monaco South Calendar

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sept 15 Mon 6:00 pm | Budget Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., # 102 |
| Sept 16 Tue 6:30 pm | Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., # 102. |
| Sept 19 Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie & 100% Day. |
| Sept 26 Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker TBA. |
| Oct 3 Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Welcome our new president, Phil Perington, and his 2008-2009 Officers & Board. |

Monaco South Celebrates 32nd Installation

(From page 1)

contributions to the Club, including his recent stint as a GUMS editor and his long history of providing caps, shirts, jackets and many other items with the Club's name on them. Greg shared John's Optimist philosophy with us: "Do all the good you can; by all the means you can; for all the people you can; for as long as you can."

Another former president, **Karl Geil**, was presented by Greg with the Optimist of the Year Award. Karl's acceptance speech consisted of a pitch for the Brain Bowl, one of the Club's largest projects and one which Karl co-chairs with **Tom Mauro**.

Greg went on to report that during the past year the Club has had few difficulties and lots of opportunities. He thanked all the Club members who "worked to make this Club fun and of service to youth."

Greg noted that over the past year the Club had spent thousands of hours on over 30 youth-oriented service projects. He related that we have taken in 12 new members, most of whom are under 50. He urged us to foster and mentor these new members so that they will someday become the leaders of the Club.

The outgoing Board members were thanked for their hard

work during a successful year, and then Immediate Past President **Paul Bernard**, who is also the District Lt. Governor for our zone, swore in the new officers and Board.

Everyone agrees that the Club's new membership plaques are very handsome, and it's no secret that our incoming president, **Phil** "only one R" **Perington** has lusted after owning one of them, even though he is long past the status of new member. Membership Chair **Bill Wells**, apparently tired of Phil's whining, had a plaque made up for Phil. Bill couldn't be present to present it, so that task fell to Greg Young. Phil seemed quite pleased until he noticed that his surname had been spelled incorrectly. The final ignominy - - there was a bill attached for \$74.08 addressed to Phil!

Despite all adversity, Phil took the podium to give us a glimpse of his goals for 2008-09. He wants the Club to become a 501(c)(3) charitable institution, regardless of how Optimist International's interminable negotiations with the IRS turn out on that subject. This would allow the Club to receive tax-deductible donations and to be exempt from paying sales tax on goods it purchases for its own use.

Noting that the year's motto is "Five for the Kids," Phil declared that he would seek to raise our membership by five, to 135. Then he asked all committee and project chairs to give a brief explanation of what they do and how many youth their work impacts. The numbers were astounding.

(Continued on next page)



Karl Geil receives Monaco South's Optimist of the Year Award.



Incoming President Phil Perington (l) was presented with his long-awaited membership plaque by 2007-08 President Greg Young (r).

Die? Not Today

Jeff Carter came to the September 12 Monaco South meeting as **Bill Walters'** guest, but volunteered to fill in and tell us about his life when the scheduled speaker was a no-show.

Jeff attended the University of Hawaii on a diving scholarship, and hoped to participate in the Olympics. But the United States' 1980 boycott of the Olympics (in response to the Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan, which Jeff found ironic) dashed those hopes. So he joined the Navy and learned to be a pilot, in the hope of becoming a commercial airline pilot when he got out. But when he left the Navy, the economy was such that the airlines were not hiring pilots.

Jeff took a job with a helicopter company, flying tourists around the Grand Canyon. Then a call came to assist with a forest fire near Tucson, Arizona. So Jeff went to the site of the fire and was flying supplies to the firefighters when he crashed on the side of a mountain. He and the helicopter debris tumbled a quarter mile down the mountain and came to rest in the middle of the fire that he was fighting. Although Jeff was wearing a fire-proof flight suit, the material was melted by the 3000 degree heat and adhered to his skin in places.

Pulled from the flames by firefighters, Jeff recalls asking one of his rescuers "Am I going to die?" "Oh yeah," the man answered, "but not today."

Jeff was in a coma for two months, during which some of the more painful of the dozens of surgeries he underwent were performed. Major burns on his face resulted in many surgeries just to reconstruct his eyelids, which still do not function properly. Consequently, his vision is blurred, which has ended his flying career.

Now a health insurance agent, Jeff is married with two young children. He is used to children staring at his face and wondering what

happened to him, and he is happy to tell them. But he does not let his accident define his life or who he is. To Jeff, the accident is just a point of time, and he treats it like the ups and downs we all face in life.

Through his church, Jeff has decided to try to help others by raising funds to help a foster mother. The hat was passed at the meeting and Club members contributed \$211. We all felt privileged to have heard Jeff's horrific yet inspirational story.



Jeff Carter

Installation Banquet

(From previous page)

Phil pledged to keep the Club's Friday meetings fun, a place where "when you walk in that door, nobody is safe!"

The evening culminated with the presentation of the past president's blue jacket to Greg, after which he was congratulated by all the past presidents in attendance. Greg thanked them and the crowd, especially Paul Bernard, who planned the banquet and pulled it off without a hitch!



Lt. Governor Paul Bernard (l) helps 2007-08 President Greg Young (r) don the traditional past president's blue jacket.

**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		

2007 - 2008 Officers

President	Greg Young	303-759-3921
Vice President	Phil Perington	303-832-4578
Vice President	Al Gapuzan	303-770-0499
Secretary	Rich Wagner	303-362-5328
Treasurer	Ron Gustas	303-770-9640

Board of Directors

Russ Paul	720-941-6161
Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Scott Walker	303-517-1862
Bill Wells	303-757-8013
Dick Cohen	303-320-1767
Mike Snipes	303-699-9161
Les Larson	303-755-1213
Howard Fry	303-300-4466

Newsletter Committee

Craig Eley	303-758-9499	craig@eley.net	Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jpiccinelli@earthlink.net
Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Bill Walters	303-697-7252	wwalters43@msn.com
Marc Goodbody	303-202-1610	mlgoodbody@gmail.com	Robert Wardlaw	303-759-0360	rlawardlaw@comcast.net
Marlin Kent	303-779-0778		John Young	303-692-8202	johnandclaire@comcast.net
Jim Leuschner	720-851-7102	flyleusch@aol.com	Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.com
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.com			

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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