



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



October 14, 2016 – Vol. 41, Issue 2

Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 40 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
www.monacosouth.org



Editor for this Issue—Pat Bush

Good Morning Optimist

Guests

On this National Dessert Day, we gathered for our weekly breakfast meeting. Our greeters were **Bob Avery** and **Jim Easton**, standing in for **Dick Zolman** who brought a guest.



They were kept busy with not only greeting, but taking attendance and “shooting the breeze.” By the way, there were no signs of a breakfast desert.

We are off to a fast start this Optimist year. We had several guests visit us this Friday. **Jim Easton** introduced his son **Evan**. **Mike McMahon** introduced **Rob Brewer** whom he just met recently. Rob mentioned to Mike that he wanted to get involved with a volunteer community group and that was all the motivation Mike needed to ask Rob to visit us for breakfast.

Dick Zolman introduced his son-in law, **Chris Schutzenberger**.

Randy Marcove introduced **Flip Norton** visiting from Newton, Massachusetts to pay final respects to a mutual friend at a funeral.

Joe Howard visited us for the second time. He was invited by past governor, **Joe Priester** and he has turned in an application to become our first new member of the 2016-17 Optimist year.

Although **John Scarborough** did not make it back to this meeting, his father-in-law and guest from last week, **Ed Leuty** did. Ed was introduced by **John Oss** and said he had a membership application and check in hand to be our second new member for 2016-17.

Announcements

Tamarac Optimist Club Autumn Boutique: Mark



your calendar for Saturday, October 29, and plan to come to the Tamarac Autumn Boutique and Homemade Bakery. This annual event is held at Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard, Denver, corner of Hampden and Monaco, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Enjoy a wide variety of handmade gifts for yourself, friends, family, and décor for your home, and the best variety of baked goods and candies.

All proceeds serve children in our community, says past Tamarac president **Nancy DeNiro**, through many projects based on our mission:

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, community, and ourselves!



Photo Noel Hasselgren

First Bell

*Editor: I guess we are pretty tough on presidents in this club. In just his second week in charge, President **Craig Eley** had to take a sabbatical and missed this week's membership meeting.*



VP Chris Dunphy
Photos Noel Hasselgren

*It is either that or he takes his own words seriously and is already training a future replacement by having Vice-President **Chris Dunphy** conduct the meeting. This is not Chris's first rodeo as he has substituted for past-president **Michael Chavez** a couple of times last year.*

Invocation & Pledge

Chris had several capable assistants with **Bob Avery** and **Jim Easton** handling the membership greeting, while **John Swick** delivered the invocation and led the pledge.



John Swick



Bob Avery

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*****

Continued on the next page

Announcements Continued

FRACSOC Pancake Breakfast: Phil Perington

had more information for us about the Front Range American Cancer Society Optimist Club pancake breakfast. It will be held on Sunday, October 23rd at Fiddler's Green. The set-up will be located near the pedestrian bridge over I-25. The event will be serving pancakes to approximately 1500 people walking in a fundraiser for cancer research. If you can help out, give Phil a call.

Super Citizen Presentations: Don Thomson

announced that a Super Citizen Award Presentation will be held at Slavens Elementary School after this morning's meeting. He invites all members to attend a SC presentation to see the pride and joy of the students and parents when they become an award winner. There is also a presentation at Samuels Elementary at 1:00 p.m. today. Or, mark your calendar for the MPB presentation, on Wednesday, Oct. 19th, at 2:30 p.m., Hamilton's on Thursday, Oct. 20th, at 5:30 p.m., McMeen's on Wednesday, Oct. 26th at 1:00 p.m., and Bradley's, on Friday, Oct. 21st at 3:00 p.m.

Green Valley Ranch Golf Tournament: Bob Meyer is looking for volunteers to work the Green Valley Ranch Golf Tournament this weekend. They are expecting around 150 kids to participate. The tournament runs both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers need to be at the golf course around 7:30 a.m.

Thank You Note: Ron Gustas

passed around a thank you note from the staff at  JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). They appreciated all our help with setting up their annual Dream Gala and their OneWalk. The staff have only six people so these fundraising events could not happen without groups like Monaco South and the T1DOC (Type 1 Diabetes Optimist Club), which was sponsored by Monaco South Optimist.

First Quarter CO-WY Conference: District Governor **Paul Simon** announced that the First Quarter Conference is coming up on Saturday, October 22nd. The conference will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Avenue. The conference gets started at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast. There will be training sessions on building JOI club's and membership. There will also be information available about the various district projects including the Brain Bowl, Tri-Star Basketball, Junior Golf, the Oratorical Contests and much more. Lunch will be served with District Awards and the key note speaker is Kenward Bradley with Colorado Feeding Kids. Attendees will then package meals for Colorado Feeding Kid project after lunch. Do not miss — You can register at the door.



Halloween Pumpkin Patch is Open: Bob Avery reminds us that Boy Scout Troup 457 is selling Halloween pumpkins at the Greenwood Community

Church on the corner of Holly and Belleview. The Scouts will be selling pumpkins over the next couple of weekends. Funds help the troop and subsidize summer camp for many boys. With just a little creativity and a skilled carver, these pumpkins can transform into the best Jack-O-Lanterns in the region.

Duty to God & Country Breakfast: Bob Avery also reported that the Boy Scout "Duty to God and Country" breakfast will be held on Friday, November 4th, starting at 7:30 a.m. at the National Western Stock Show complex, 4655 Humboldt Street. They have postponed honoring of the memory of **Doug Morton** until January as reported in last week's *GUMS*. But you can still enjoy the other festivities at the breakfast. See Bob for tickets and more information.

Poinsettia Sale: Evan Easton, son of **Jim Easton**, visited this morning to take orders for Poinsettia plants this holiday season. Money raised will help offset costs for a school trip to Washington D.C. There are three different size and cost options. Evan said, "the more money he can raise selling the plants, the less his dad will have to pay." If you buy Poinsettia plants for the holidays, what better way than helping a kid earn a trip to our nation's capital. To contact Evan email Jim at jim.easton.co@gmail.com or call 720-987-7684.



Drawing Winners

Drawing winners this morning included Evan, always-a-winner, Easton. After holding a winning ticket, he went for the big money; unfortunately, his luck ran out and he pulled the wrong card from the deck. Cup winners were Flip Norton, **Randy Marcove's** guest, **Wyatt McCallie**, **John Oss**, **Oscar Sorensen**, **Tom Glazier** and your editor, **Pat Bush**. Those who had winning numbers but losing cards were **Allen Malask** and **Harry Fegley**.



Dues Time: Since this is the beginning of the New Optimist Year, National dues must be paid shortly so he would appreciate prompt payment from all Monaco South members. Please help by submitting your dues payment to Treasurer, **Greg Young** no later than by the end of October.

KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY YOUR
DUES

A Bit of Humor



It's called **reading**.
It's how people install new software into their brains.



"I figured you should have breakfast in bed on your birthday. Can you reach the stove okay?"

Walker Stapleton
 Colorado State Treasurer
 Ballot Initiatives

Introduced by **Frank Middleton**, our speaker today was **Walker Stapleton**, Colorado State Treasurer. Walker started his talk by saying that despite Colorado having a constitutional requirement to balance the budget; Colorado does not have a Triple-A Credit Rating. It has only a Double-A rating primarily because it is too easy to change the Colorado Constitution. Some of the ways it might be changed this election cycle include Amendment 69 called "Colorado Care" a single payer health care program covering all Coloradoans. The proposal would make Colorado the first state to opt out of Obama Care.



Walker Stapleton
 Photo Noel Hasselgren

It was put on the ballot when efforts in Vermont failed to get it implemented there. The primary reason for the failure in Vermont was the consensus opinion that the costs would wreak havoc on that state's economy. The Colorado proposal would raise an employer's tax on his total payroll by 6.67%, an employee's income tax would increase 3.33% and it would impose a 10% tax on all other revenue streams including investment returns, capital gains and pensions. An individual could keep his private health insurance plan and federal health plans such as Veterans benefits and Medicare but they would still be subject to the taxation for Colorado Care. The taxes can be raised as needed without limitation by Tabor. To qualify for coverage, a person would only need a Colorado address. The only reason it is on the ballot is because of the ease in changing the Colorado Constitution. Colorado Care would not be subject to the oversight of any Colorado government agency and once elected, Colorado Care trustees could not be recalled. Walker stated his opposition to this amendment.

He also opposes Amendment 70 increasing the minimum wage from the current \$8.31 per hour to \$12.00 per hour over three years. This is a 44% increase and would drive many small businesses into bankruptcy. This is espe-

cially true in rural Colorado where small business owners just cannot match the increase in the prices of their goods and services. Some have stated that it would be good for the economy because the additional earned income would be spent in the local economy. They forget, however, that it would drive up prices of goods and services. Then other workers will want raises and pretty soon the \$12.00 per hour wage will not be a livable wage.

Amendment 71 otherwise called "raise the bar" would make it more difficult to get constitutional amendments on the ballot. It would require 2% of the voters in each state senate district to sign the petitions meaning it would require board support across the state to get an initiative on the ballot. It would also require a 55% approval vote to change the constitution. While he has some reservations about this amendment he is more apt to vote yes on this amendment than on any of the others.

Walker sits on the board of PERA (Public Employee Retirement Act). He has been sounding alarms about the fiscal stability of this agency for years says they have been projecting unrealistic 8% returns on investments when actual returns have been more in the range of 5% to 6%. This has left PERA at only 60% funded currently. If one were to use more realistic projections, PERA would only be 45% funded. Unless this is addressed in the near future, the Colorado tax payer will be in for a rude surprise and hefty tax increases.

Walker also briefly addressed the marijuana issue in Colorado. While the tax revenue has been at about 150 million dollars annually, compared to the state budget of 25 billion dollars, it is but a drop in the bucket. The tax revenue from pot will not be the saving funding that many predicted. The problems keep coming to light like the problems of illegal grows in rural counties where they have very limited resources. The pot grows soak up electricity

Continued below

Walker Stapleton Continued — and water in large amounts.

The law enforcement resources are also limited and can't keep up. Another issue is that people are getting bogus medical marijuana prescriptions because there are no taxes on medical marijuana. He reports that 80% of the 400,000+ prescriptions are written by about a dozen doctors. Walker ended his talk by apologizing for bringing such pessimism to a meeting of Optimists.



Weekly Greeters	
10/21/16	Paul Gibson & Michael Chavez
10/28/16	John Oss & John Swick

October Super Citizen Presenters		
Oct 19 @ 2:30	MPB	Dave Peck
Oct 20 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Curt Merrill
Oct 21 @ 3:00	Bradley	Jon Wachter
Oct 26 @ 1:00	McMeen	Mark Metevia

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2016-2017 40th Year — Chartered in 1976

- Oct 21 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
- Oct 22 Sat 8:00 am First Quarter Conference, Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500, E. Hampton Ave.
- Oct 26 Wed 6:30 pm Meeting, Legion Hall: Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way
- Oct 28 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
- Nov 4 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA

**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	Michael Chavez	2015-16

2015 - 2016 Officers

President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	Chris Dunphy	720-297-3111
Vice President	Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Secretary	Randy Marcove	303-840-7706
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Jim Easton	720-987-7684
Allen Pierce	303-883-8506
Allen Malask	303-726-3700
Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Rob Gardner	720-263-6203
Wyatt McCallie	303-759-2275
Paul Stratton	303-474-4358
John Swick	720-422-2733
Michael Chavez (Past Pres.)	303-960-5304

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	rlawardlaw@gmail.com	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	craigceley@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Nov **George Buzick**, Dec **Phil Perington**, Jan **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.