



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

October 16, 2015 – Vol. 40, Issue 3



Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 39 Years
Recognized as Outstanding Service Organization in Colorado in 2012

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—George Buzick



Good Morning Optimist

On this beautiful, crisp fall morning, **Jim Easton** and your GUMS editor for this month, **George Buzick**, greeted us.



Jim Easton



George Buzick

Were you aware that Friday, October 16, 2015 was Boss's Day in the United States, Canada, and Lithuania? It has traditionally been a day for employees to thank their bosses for being kind and fair throughout the year. This day was created for the purpose of strengthening the bond between employer and employee. We hope you were recognized.

First Bell

At the stroke of 7 a.m., President **Don Iley**, rang the bell and called the meeting to order.

Invocation & Pledge

Ed Collins opened the meeting with our invocation and lead our Pledge of Allegiance to our Pledge of Allegiance to our flag of the United States of America.

Guests

Prez Don asked for introduction of guests and was answered by **Paul Stratton**, whose guest was **Evan Husney**. Evan is an attorney and "soccer dad," which is where he met Paul. Hopefully, we will be seeing Evan again, with application in hand!

Speaking of Applications...

We already have five new members this year, including **Curt Merrill**, who switched from being a Friend of Optimism (FOO) to being a full-fledged member of Monaco South. Curt is currently serving as the Governor of the Colorado/Wyoming District. Additionally, **Everett Gardner** moved from being a FOO member to a full-fledged member as well.

Other recently new members include **John Bamford**, **Chris Dunphy**, **Paul Gibson**, **Ross Parrent**, **Don Roth**, **Matt Spampinato**, and **Mike White**.

Please welcome them with Optimism!

Upcoming Visit

Prez Don announced that **Ken Garner**, Immediate Past President of Optimist International (2014-2015) will be here on October 30, to induct all of our newer members. Ken is from the Optimist Club of Fort Worth -Breakfast East, Texas.



Announcements

Super Citizen Presenters: Dr. **Rob Gardner**, who is responsible lining up speakers for the various Super Citizen programs, gave a great example of what to say when you are the presenter for Super Citizen awards. It was brief, humorous and to the point. Check the schedule and plan to be a presenter at one of these programs. It is what we are all about.



Rob Gardner shows us how to do a Super Citizen presentation.

Photo Don StJohn

October 23rd Meeting: **Frank Middleton** reminded us that **Cynthia Coffman**, the Attorney General for the State of Colorado would be our presenter next week. If you have any burning issues, please give them to Frank and he will see that Cynthia is aware of them and includes responses in her presentation.

Thanksgiving Dinner In A Box: Jim Easton and



Allen Pierce announced that Thanksgiving is one of his favorite times of the year to be an Optimist, with the delivery of Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families. The club had budgeted for 10 baskets, but there are many needy families out there. Allen suggested that for \$50 you could buy a basket. Baskets will be prepared by Safeway for delivery on Saturday, November 21. A number of people had pledged to do so by the end of the meeting. They included...

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

these Thanksgiving basket buyers: **Jon Wachter-2, Curt Merrill-1, Paul Stratton-2, Anne & Frank Rowe-2, Jill Hess-1, Don Iley-2, John Greene-2, Bill Morgan-2, Bob Avery-2, Allen Pierce-2, Jim Easton-2, Tom Mauro-1, and Matt Spampinato-1** for a total of 22 additional baskets. To help in the delivery of these baskets, be at the American Legion Hall by 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 21st.

Book Drive: **Steve Kady** has produced flyers that will be distributed to all of our Super Citizen schools—well it was his sons work—and Steve announcing the book drive is to support the Dave Bruton



Foundation. Dave is a Denver Bronco and former schoolteacher. He started the foundation to help improve reading proficiency in lower income communities. We are asking students and parents

in these schools to bring gently used books to school. Optimists will pick up the books and distribute them to those in need at our annual Boys and Girls Club Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday, evening, November 24th. See Steve's flyer attached the GUMS distribution email. Thanks to Steve for organizing this great event!

Thomas Jefferson High School Art Fest: **Craig Eley** announced that this year's Thomas Jefferson Craft Fair has been pushed back to Saturday, December 12th. Craig needs "a few good men" to help crafters unload their wares and generally direct traffic early—7:00 a.m.—that Saturday morning. Good coffee! Good donuts! See Oscar Sorensen actually working!

Tamarac Optimist Club Autumn Gift Boutique: Speaking of craft fairs, the Tamarac Optimist Club is holding their Autumn Gift Boutique and Homemade Bakery sale on Saturday, October 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First Plymouth Congregational Church at 3501 S. Colorado Blvd. and E. Hampden Ave. This year they are featuring more holiday items and homemade jams, jellies, chocolates, quick breads, plus more. Even our own Craig Eley will be promoting his honey. See Tamarac's flyer attached the GUMS distribution email.

Working After Retirement: **Jim VanderKamp** announced that he has recently retired and yet is still willing to work for anyone who can use his talents. Give Jim a call at 720-624-6178 or an email at jevan-derkamp@yahoo.com to keep Jim off of the streets.

MSOC Treasurers Report: Treasurer **Greg Young** reported that the Club ended the year in the black, with approximately \$3,700 net income, or \$7,000 favorable to budget. Immediate past president, **John Oss** and his team to beat projections on income from the tree lot, and held down expenses. They did a great job! Cash reserves improved by \$3,700, to \$47,000, which will allow MSOC to fund a new website project this coming year. The approved budget allows dipping slightly into reserves to the tune of \$8,300 to fund the website and achieve all the pro-

jects we want to do. This of course this assumes a conservative estimate for tree lot sales, and of course, a strong effort by ALL members this year can beat that again. See the financial results and budget attached to GUMS distribution email.

Greg also reminded us that the King Soopers & Safeway gift cards are an easy way to raise funds for the club and can be purchased from **Cy Regan** for only \$10. Good for both groceries and gas at your local market, reload them with your rewards card and benefit both yourself and provide the club with some additional income.

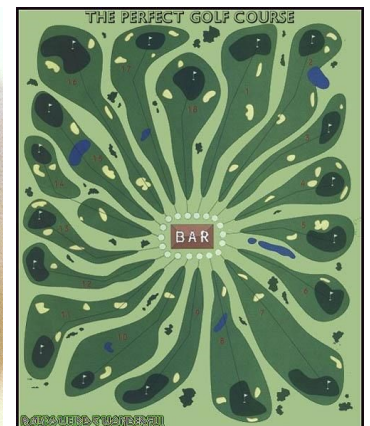
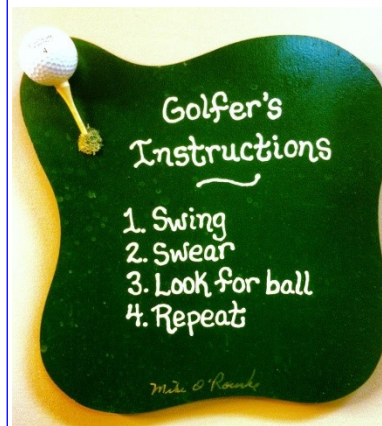
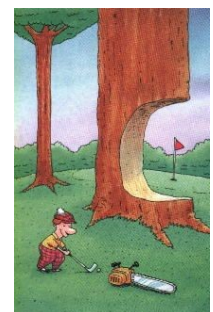
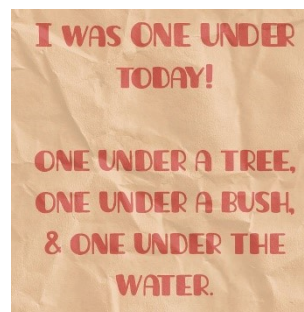
Our treasurer also shared that the annual OCMS dues statement has gone out. The bill is for your annual dues, October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 membership dues. Members may take a \$5.00 discount if dues are paid in full by the due date. Please pay directly to Greg Young at a meeting, or mail a check to his home address.

And last, always fiscal responsible, Greg reminded us payment for breakfast is based on plate count, so take only one plate and only a reasonable amount — "It is not an all you can eat buffet." According to latest reports our new cashier, **Gary Miller** is taking names if you miss him for payment of coffee, donates, and/or a full breakfast.

Weekly Drawing

Yes! There was a drawing. No! Nobody won the \$40 offered by Dr. Bob, even though some, **Curt Merrill** and **Cy Regan** had two chances. Better luck next week as the pot grows to \$50.

Golf Humor for Golfing Members



Ann Rowe

Candidate for Denver Public School Board

Our speaker today was Ann Rowe, wife of member Tom Rowe and current representative of District 1 to the Denver Public School Board, and also Vice President. Ann has been a member of the Board for the past 4 years and is running for office again in this year's general election to be held on November 3, 2015. Ann started by saying that DPS is the fastest growing school system in the state and that the "flight to the suburbs has been reversed." She said that the Board has a "Denver Plan 2020" which reduced the goals for DPS from twenty-one to five. Ann went on to explain the five goals.



Prez Don Iley presents a Monaco South coffee cup to Anne Rowe.

Photo Don StJohn

The plan's primary goal—Great Schools in Every Neighborhood—calls for 80 percent of all DPS students in every neighborhood to attend a high-performing school by 2020. Currently 61 percent of students attend a school rated "Green" or "Blue" on the district's School Performance Framework, and the Denver Plan lays out specific high-impact strategies for DPS to increase the number of high-quality schools in every neighborhood.

When the first Denver Plan was launched in 2005, only 33 percent of students were at grade level on state assessments; DPS had one of the lowest rates of year-on-year academic growth among medium and large districts in the state; and 39 percent of students graduated on-time. Today, 48 percent of students are proficient on state assessments; DPS has ranked at the top in year-on-year academic growth for three straight years among major districts; and the district-wide graduation rate has increased by 23 percent. Persistent achievement gaps continue to exist, however, for students of color, students who are learning English as a second language and students who are in poverty.

The Denver Plan outlines specific goals and strategies designed to close academic achievement gaps and prepare all students for success. In addition to the goal to create Great Schools in Every Neighborhood, four additional goals will guide DPS' efforts.

A Foundation for Success in School: 80 percent of DPS third grade students will be at or above grade level in read-

Ready for College and Career: the four year graduation rate for students who start with DPS in ninth grade will increase to 90 percent. DPS will double the number of students who graduate from college from 1,100 to 2,200.

Support the Whole Child: ensuring that each school environment encourages students to pursue their passions and interests, supports physical and mental health, and ensures students continue to develop socially and emotionally.

Close the Opportunity Gap: the graduation rate for African American and Latino students will increase by 25 percentage points, to 89 percent. Third grade reading and writing proficiency will increase by 25 percentage points, to 75 percent.

John Wachter asked Ann if she was aware of the study that said that 3rd grade reading proficiency was the single best indicator of future success. Ann said that she was and that currently only 60 percent of students are at grade level. Ann also said that emphasis is being placed on English Language Learners in an attempt to bring them up to the standards.

Karl Geil said he was aware that there was strong support for Spanish speakers, but wondered what support there was for other languages. Ann said that, to the extent possible DPS provides support for other languages on an "as needed" basis.

When asked about opportunities for higher education, Ann said that the Denver Scholarship Foundation was established 7 years ago to provide the tools, knowledge, and financial resources essential for success in attaining a post-secondary education. She also mentioned the concurrent enrollment program, which allows high school students to be enrolled in college classes while attending high school. Ann closed by saying that she believes the current school board has done an excellent job and that she hopes to continue to serve in her capacity as a Board member in providing a school system that is "What's best for the kids!"

Weekly Greeters

10/23/15	Casey Funk & Nick Newey
10/30/15	John Bamford & Paul Stratton
11/6/15	?

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

October Super Citizen Presenters

Oct 21 @ 2:30	MPB	George Buzick
Oct 22 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Dave Peck
Oct 23 @ 3:00	Bradley	Dave Peck
Oct 29 @ 1:00	McMeen	?

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

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

Oct 23	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Cynthia Coffman, Colorado Attorney General
Oct 24	Sat	8:00 am	CO-WY District 1st Quarter Conference, Douglas County Fairgrounds
Oct 30	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Boys & Girls Club
Now 6	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Now 13	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 Stowbridge	1993-94	Jon Wachter	2013-14
Mark Metevia	1994-95	John Oss	2014-15
Bob Safe	1995-96		

2015 - 2016 Officers

President	Don Iley	303-840-7706
Vice President	Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
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	rlawardlaw@gmail.com	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	craigceley@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Oct **George Buzick**, Nov **Robert Wardlaw**

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.