



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



December 26, 2014 – Vol. 40, Issue 13

Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 38 Years
Recognized as Outstanding Service Organization in Colorado in 2012

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—George Buzick, with the help of John Oss



Good Morning Optimist

Here we are on the day after Christmas, December 26th, the 360th day of 2014, Boxing Day, and the start of the week-long celebration of Kwanzaa. But on this day at the American Legion Hall, after a snow fall of between 3 to 4 inches, many did not make this meeting.

Even this weeks editor missed out due to a four foot snow drift in his driveway. However, for those that did show, about 24 or so, they were greeted by charter member, **Ralph Petersen**. Also present and filling in for **Frank Ross**, was **Jack Kleinheksel**. As Prez **John Oss** says, *"The banners were all hung at the stage with care, the podium was in place, and Tom Hoch was drinking coffee. It is very much like Santa and his elves. It's all in place when I arrive. Whoever does the preliminaries rains an optimistic air on the whole operation."*

Invocation & Pledge

Randy Marcove opened the meeting with thanks for Optimist wisdom. He prepared by reviewing a work of **John Young** and **Craig Eley**'s. John Young had given a full presentation at the first meeting of 2009. Randy and John each repeat, *"The Optimist lives well, laughs often, loves much, looks for the best in others, gives the best he has, and leaves the world a better place than he found it."*

Announcements

With not many in attendance, the announcements were light and sparse. However, a few noble members shared some newsworthy items.

Tree Lot Update: The tree lot seemed to close on Tuesday, December 23, with only a very few left. Overall, **Greg Young**, sitting in for **Joe Marci**, reported

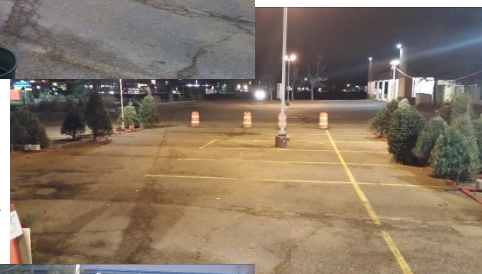


we sold just over 1,050 trees. **Gary Miller** closed out the tree sales by accepting an offer for the tree in the Santa House as it was being cleaned out. As the Prez shared, *"We started off with pallets laid out to keep trees out of the large puddles of water. A great draught followed. Then, a snow, a melt, and the place was a lake once*

*again. It seems fitting. We are very fortunate for the organization and management leadership of **Joe Marci**, **Greg Young**, **Gary Miller**, and **Mike Miller**. A hundred and one members worked on the lot this year. That is a new record. A big thank you to all that helped out and provided assistance. Another year of our club activities can follow."*



What the tree lot looked like on late Saturday evening, December 20th.
Photos Steve Kady



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******

Award Continued

Brain Bowl! There was no **Karl Geil** or **Paul Simon** present to shout out the “*Brain Bowl is Coming*,” but it was once again mentioned that the CO/WY Optimist Brain Bowl will be here and is much like a recent national “Jeopardy” show featuring kids as the reason that one of the young contestants became interested in learning a lot of miscellaneous stuff.

There are a record number of teams in the North this year. That means we need a record number of readers and helpers. The first Saturday and Tuesday of January is set up for reader training and qualification. More are needed, so come on out. The North Brain Bowl is January 10th. Let Karl Geil or Paul Simon know when you plan to go to reader training.

2015 Reader Training Dates

- Saturday, January 3, 2015
9:00 a.m. to noon
Valmont Presbyterian Church
3262 61st Street
Boulder, CO 80301
- Tuesday, January 6, 2015
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Hamilton Middle School
8600 E. Dartmouth Avenue
Denver, CO 80231
- Saturday, January 24, 2015
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Euclid Middle School
777 W. Euclid Avenue
Littleton, CO 80120

The Four Competitions are:

- ⇒ 2015 North Region Tournament
Saturday, January 10, 2015
Stanley Lake High School
9300 W 104th Avenue
Westminster, CO 80021
- ⇒ 2015 Central Region Optimist Brain Bowl
Saturday, January 31, 2015
Heritage High School, Littleton, CO
- ⇒ 2015 South Region Optimist Brain Bowl
Saturday, February 7, 2015
Horizon Middle School, Colorado Springs, CO
- ⇒ Championship Tournament, Optimist Brain Bowl
Saturday, February 21, 2015
Hamilton Middle School
8600 E Dartmouth Avenue
Denver, CO 80231

Christmas Dinner: Bob Avery reported on a beautiful event at one of the Colorado prison dining rooms. Proud inmates prepared tables for family reunions, and a special meal served December 25th. The warden made a point of being present. Bob witnessed a man and his wife together for the first time in fifty years. The leadership of Steve Smith, Director, Colorado Correctional Industries and the warden demonstrate compassion. Bob has led many visits for the

club see many of the prison industries. Many inmates are developing pride in their work. They have a strong work ethic by the time of their release. They become productive members of our work force, in much higher proportion than those not touched by the prison industries program. This December 25th demonstration of compassion with dignity and respect for all speaks well for our state.

Speaking of Compassion: After hearing this touching story, **Prez John** shared, “*Ruthie and I witnessed a beautiful exchange of love between sisters on December 25th. We were guests of Jessica Sheu. During dinner, Jessica’s sister called from Beijing. She was concerned that Jessica was likely alone and lonesome. Long past state enforced separation of mother and family was the foundation for the call. Jessica’s mother, an engineering professor at Tsinghua University, spent twenty years in political exile. She saw her three little girls, and husband only two weeks per year. The rest of the time was at hard labor. Finally the family was reunited and remains strong. Jessica chose to immigrate to the US. To this day the sisters communicate, though separated by one ocean and half a continent. Jessica states that breaking the strong families was the reason for her mother’s forced exile. Strong families were a threat to the rulers of the day. Thankfully the human spirit is above the deprivations of this world. There is now exchange between top US entrepreneurs and Tsinghua University. Tim Cook CEO of Apple, and Mark Zuckerberg founder of Facebook both visited the end of October. May compassion and love win out.*”

Breakfast Price Increase: Treasurer **Greg Young** announced, all who missed breakfast this morning missed an outstanding meal. Made from scratch, we had two kinds of quiche, roasted potatoes with onions and peppers, pancakes, waffles, biscuits and gravy, and juice and coffee. The good news is this only cost \$7.00! HOWEVER, due to the improvement of the meal quality and costs, we are having to raise the price to \$8.00, effective January 2nd. This includes breakfast, juice, and coffee tax and tip. Served buffet style, please take a reasonable portion. Oatmeal and coffee and juice are available for \$6.00.

Just coffee **or** Juice **or** a roll/donut is \$2.00. Coffee **or** Juice with a roll/donut are \$4.00. **Donuts are NOT** included in the meal price! **Coffee is not free** to those who bring their own containers.

Please be honest and pay for what you consume. If not, prices may have to increase to cover those who partake but do not pay. Thank you!

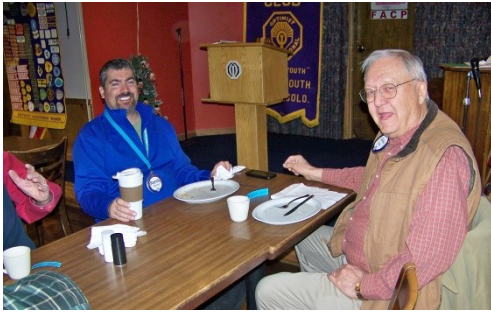
Let the Camaraderie Begin



Photo Don StJohn

Continued on the next page

More Camaraderie



Drawing

Yes, even with a small turnout there was a drawing, and it was a lucky one for some. Although there were only four cups, which went quickly, the big pot which was \$140 bucks, it was not expected to be taken. However, everyone was proven wrong when **Allen Pierce** took it home with the five of hearts. **Tom Mauro** shared the celebration.



Weekly Greeters	
1/2/15	Curt Boell & Joe Marci
1/9/15	Craig Eley & ?
1/16/15	Robert Wardlaw & Michael Chavez
Need Friday morning greeters, see Jon Wachter, 303-204-5645 or jon_wachter@msn.com	

Super Citizen Presenters Jan.

Jan 14 @ 8:00	Highline	?
Jan 19 @ 1:30	McMeen	?
Jan 21 @ 2:30	MPB	Jim VanderKamp
Jan 30 @ 1:40	Univ. Park	?
Jan 30 @ 3:00	Bradley	?

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

Jan 1

New Year 2015

Jan 2	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Karl Geil, The Brain Bowl is Here!
Jan 9	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Jan 10	Sat	7:00 am	Brain Bowl North Regional Tournament, Standley Lake High School, Westminster, CO
Jan 15	Thur	6:30 pm	Meeting, Legion Hall - Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Jan 16	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Jan 23	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA
Jan 30	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - TBA

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

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Bob Safe	1995-96
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Tom Overton	1996-97
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Cy Regan	1999-00
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Stan Cohen	2000-01
John Young	1982-83	Don St. John	2001-02
Pat Bush	1983-84	Jack Rife	2002-03
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Karl Geil	2003-04
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Greg Young	2007-08
Bob Avery	1989-90	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Bill Walters	1991-92	Ed Collins	2010-11
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Randy Marcove	2011-12
Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Paul Simon	2012-13
Mark Metevia	1994-95	Jon Wachter	2013-14

2014 - 2015 Officers

President	John Oss	720-210-8056
Vice President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	Don Iley	303-840-7706
Secretary	Curt Boell	303-980-1893
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Barry Barker	813-545-4533
Pat Bush	303-750-9409
J. R. Gieck	949-636-7614
Tom Glazier	303-522-5214
Cap Hermann	303-587-5575
Jack Kleinheksel	720-938-1760
Fred Pasternack	303-758-3754
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384
Jon Wachter (Past Pres.)	303-204-5645

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: Jan **Robert Wardlaw**, Feb **Pat Bush**, Mar **Paul Stratton**, Apr **Phil Perington**

T H E O P T I M I S T 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.
 To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.