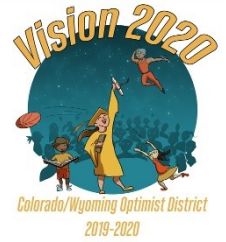




# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

April 3, 2020 – Vol. 44, Issue 27



## Optimist Club of Monaco South



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado  
Serving Youth and the Community for 43 Years  
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012  
[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

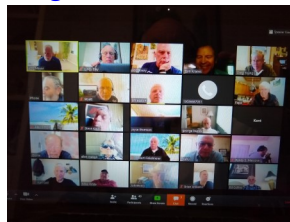


**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

Editor for this Issue—Phil Perington

### Good Morning Optimists Zoom Virtual Meeting

On this Friday, 40+ members met online and we had a great meeting. President **Bob Meyer** signed in and called the meeting to order. **Bob Avery** took roll by video and digital processes and **Craig Eley** verified by capturing computer screen shots, as seen here. There may have been a couple of members not mentioned since some attempted to call-in.



Computer Screen Shot, Craig Eley

Editor: *There is a saying that goes “you’ve had enough when you know what enough is.” Have we had enough of the virus yet? The answer is definitely yes. It’s been quite a learning curve for all of us. We absolutely need to stick together and know in our hearts, that the light at the end of the tunnel will blow away all the darkness. Let’s be confident that in a very short time we’ll all be gathered together again in camaraderie... sharing tales and interesting stories. To every optimist, patience is a virtue. COVID-19 will not take us down. We have important work to catch up on and to make*

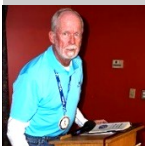
*future plans for. Kids will need our support and goodwill now more than ever. I for one can hardly wait until we all meet again, fire up our engines and get back on the road of Service to our Youth. However, to that end it is with gratefulness that we have a President willing to organize a Zoom meeting, allowing the Club to continue meeting through the magic of virtual contact.*

### Opening Remarks

**President Bob** opened with his usual upbeat welcome and presented our invocation. *“Give us the strength and spirit to aid all those in need of help during these troubled times. Free us from our pride by bringing heartfelt comfort and peace to those suffering, and grace to those who have died, may they Rest In Peace. We give thanks to our leaders, doctors, medical workers and volunteers with our prayers for their wellbeing and safe journey home. May there be redemption and hope for all, both now and in the future.”* The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed by a laughter-filled and hearty *“Play Ball!”*

Continued next page

### Presidential Rants & Raves



*We had our first MSOC membership Zoom meeting on Friday morning. We had 38 Monaco South members, CO-WY Governor **Tony Carpenter**, Lt Gov **Charlie Neumann**, and Breakfast Optimist Club of Littleton Secretary **Gary Olmstead** participate in this hour long meeting. Phil Perington took notes from the meeting, and they are included elsewhere in this week’s **GUMS**.*

*We again mentioned that the Board of Directors approved \$1,000 donations to the Denver Public Schools Foundation Food Security Fund and to the YMCA’s programs to provide food distribution and to provide emergency childcare for the families of first responders and medical personnel. More information about the DPS Foundation Food Security Fund is available at <https://dpsfoundation.org/foodsecurityfund/>. More information about the YMCA’s programs is available at <https://www.denverymca.org/coronavirus-updates>.*

*We were able to fund these donations because several of the youth activities and projects in our 2019-2020 budget*

*were canceled because of “stay-in-place” orders.*

*My timeshare in Frisco will be unavailable for the foreseeable future, as Summit County has ordered the closure of all hotels and timeshare, Airbnb, and VRBO rentals, so, although the MSOC membership drive will continue, I am unable to offer my April week to the “winner” of the membership drive. I do not know when or if my timeshare week will become available later in the year, but if it is, I will give it to the “winner.”*

*During the meeting, **Jim Easton** said he had **Josh LiPuma’s** membership application and that he would mail it to **Greg Young**, along with a \$30 check for Josh’s membership fee and a year’s dues, since Josh qualifies for the “30 Under 30” special membership.*

*If you know of anybody else under 30 who wants to become an Optimist member, please let us know at the next Zoom membership meeting.*

*At this point, we are planning on holding weekly Zoom meetings next Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.*

*Zoom offers a free membership package that permits 40-minute “meetings.” That is a great deal if you want to get your families together for some “family face-to face time” or*

Continued 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\*\*\*\***

friends together for a “virtual cocktail party.” Check out that “free offer” at <https://zoom.us/pricing>.

On Thursday evening, I received a return phone call from [Vitalent](#), the company that Denver’s Belle Bonfils Blood Center merged into, in response an earlier request that I made to see how we can conduct a blood drive in honor of **John Oss**, who continues to undergo blood infusions and transfusions in his battle against acute myeloid leukemia. The Vitalent representative that called me covers the Castle Rock area, but she said she would let her SE Denver-area counterpart know about our interest in conducting a blood drive. She indicated that their bloodmobile is booked for blood drives through the end of May but might be available to us in June. I will continue to explore this possibility and will keep everyone informed. We could coordinate our efforts with the Tamarac Optimist Club, and the American Legion to get a significant turnout at a blood drive.

I have started making a few phone calls each day to keep in touch with Club members. I suggest that you do the same as you are able. All it takes is a few minutes to possibly brighten someone’s day as we all endure the “new normal” of “stay-in-place.” If you find Club members who need assistance, please let me or [Michael Chavez](#) know so that we can set up “phone trees” to help those who may be unable to get out for grocery store trips or medical appointments.

[Joe Marci](#) is looking to finalize the list of members interested in serving as Club officers or Board Directors. Please let Joe know of your interest. Club elections are supposed to be held by the end of April and will have to be held during an upcoming Zoom meeting, since the Denver Mayor’s “stay-in-place” guidelines now extend until May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please find some jokes for our next Zoom meeting so that we can continue to keep things light. Maybe **Tom Hoch** can only seem to find some more [Ole & Lena jokes](#).

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones; practice safe health procedures, and we will see you at some point in the future. If you need to contact me, please call 303-919-4532 or email me at [meyerrob@comcast.net](mailto:meyerrob@comcast.net).

Yours in Optimism,  
**Prez Bob Meyer**

## April Birthdays

This month the following members are celebrating a birthday: **Cesar Camarena**, 15; **Steven Hicks**, 3; **Dick Nickoloff**, 2; **Phil Perington**, 4; **Paul Stratton**, 18; and this month would have been **Don St John** 85<sup>th</sup> on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month. The Monaco South choir was not present, but we wished everyone a very [Happy Birthday](#) virtually.

## Conversations & News

**John Oss Update:** As reported by **Wyatt McCallie** and **Tom Kramis**, **John Oss** is steadily recovering from his medical bout. There have been a couple of minor setbacks, including a fever based quarantine at Swedish Hospital for three days (No COVID-19). Please give John a call or email message of support.

In a late March email John wrote, “I bought a birthday cake to celebrate new life last Friday. My doctor told me that my blasts have gone down from 38 to 13 which puts me in a gray zone close to being out of cancer. I’m thankful for all of my Optimist friends that have given me support in so many ways. I had a high temperature the other day so I had a few days again in the hospital. They’ve knocked down the fever that I had and I’m back home again. I should be getting back on my regular routine.”

**Back from Costa Rica:** **Randy Marcove** reported his trip to Colorado from Costa Rica was aided and abetted by a

US Embassy motorcade escort to San Jose International Airport. Talk about red carpet service ... they even let him keep his passport.

**Christmas Tree Lot Overseer:** **Tom Kramis** announced our tree suppliers are holding Monaco South to last year’s allocation. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for ordering trees. Nothing yet on wreaths, garland, and carrots for the reindeer, however. Santa is in isolation and will be on the job as currently scheduled.

**Board Nominations:** **Bob Avery** asked everyone to submit nominations for next year’s board members and Officers and to be submitted to either him or **Joe Marci** as soon as possible.

**Club Donations:** **Prez Bob** reported the Board approved a \$1,000 donation each to DPS and Schlessman Family YMCA general fund. Also, \$2,000 has been allocated to our Scholarship fund. DPS is distributing food from schools to families in need, as a backup for the inactive lunch program in place until May 11<sup>th</sup> or later.

**Morning Breakfast Cater:** **Greg Young** shared that [Heather Mulqueen](#), our cater, is receiving \$100 a week from the Club and is extremely thankful since it has been used to help pay her mortgage—“little things mean a lot.” He also noted we have a new member approval for Josh, sponsored by **Jim Easton**. Jim and **Michael Chavez** are making sure cards and gifts are being handled and taken care of as needed.

**COVID-19:** **Tom Hoch** shared a tale about North Dakota lifestyles, **Bob Avery** made some positive outcomes of the virus, such as:

- ◇ “we’ll probably see fewer traffic deaths in the short term, and as a result less air pollution.
- ◇ more people reaching out to help their neighbors
- ◇ need to reframe social distancing to “physical distancing.” We can still be social!
- ◇ people are really concerned with helping restaurant workers and leaving bigger tips
- ◇ smile it improves your face value!
- ◇ creative parents “organizing” outdoor scavenger hunts.

Then **Karl Geil** mentioned an uptick in divorce proceedings may emerge. **Tom Glazier** was happy to report the ski highway traffic is way down but the skiers are still as wild as ever. **Alan Malask** was seen still wearing the mask he wore as a greeter a month ago. We hope he is getting it washed.

**Weekly Drawing:** There is some question as to whether or not **Dr. Bob** is adding \$10 a week to the drawing pot. But, it was announced that the lucky card for this week’s drawing was the 3 of Diamonds. There were no winners and name badges could not be verified.

**Super Citizen & Korsoski Award:** **Bob Finkelmeier** shared that he will be contacting all the Super Citizen schools to see if they still want to submit monthly names for the Super Citizen awards and the end of year Charlie Korsoski award, which will need to be mailed to each student this year due to DPS decision to remain remote for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

**Next Zoom Meeting:** **President Bob** offered up a question as to when we should schedule the next meeting, either weekly or bi-weekly. It was decided we will plan on meeting weekly via Zoom next Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. Please check your email for follow up details. He reminded everyone of the importance of keeping the community positive and optimistic and shared his thanks to those who have helped organize the Zoom meetings and Dr. Bob for his guardianship of **GUMS!**

**The Optimist Creed was led by all!**

## In Remembrance of Don St. John



In last weeks **GUMS** the passing of **Don St. John** was reported. In that article it was mentioned that the Club celebrated **Don St. John Day** during **Craig Eley's** Presidency. Craig corrected the editors and shared that Don St. John Day was declared by the Mayor to be July 26, 2013. That was a Friday, and it was at that meeting that we held Don St John Day. At that time **Paul Simon** was club president and he served as MC.

Craig also shared his interview he had with Don a couple of weeks before so he could give a brief biography of Don. Below is Craigs write-up

### Don St. John Biography

By Craig Eley, July 26, 2013



Don is a Denver native, having been born in St. Anthony hospital. In 1936, when Don was 8-months, old his mother was ill, and Don and his sister and 2 brothers were dropped off by their father at the Denver Orphan's Home at Colfax & Albion.

Don's mother later passed away, and Don remained in the orphan's home until 1946, when he was 11 years old. Don says he has only good memories of his years at the orphan's school. There was plenty of food, even during the Depression, and he had lots of kids to play with.

The home had its own elementary school, which eventually closed, and then Don attended Teller Elementary for a year.

During part of this time, Don's father served in WW II, and when he returned he collected Don and his siblings and moved to Junction City, Kansas. After 8-months the family returned to Colorado and lived on Don's uncle's ranch in Dillon. Don continued his education, riding a horse each day to a one room schoolhouse.

After a year in Dillon, Don went to live with his uncle on another ranch he owned in Fraser. Again, Don rode a horse to school.

Don and his father moved around a bit after that, and when he was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Don was placed in the Denver Boys Home at #9 Pearl Street. Don attended Byers Jr. High, and he made friends with a boy named Bill Engle.

They got along so well that one day Bill told his family that he wanted to move into the Denver Boy's Home so he could live with Don. Bill's father suggested an alternative – that Don come live with the Engles.

So through the generosity of the Engle family, Don left the Boy's Home and lived with them at 125 Washington St. and later at 1381 E. Center until he graduated from South High School in 1953. It was at South that Don met Harlan Riffel and Coy Horton, who went on to become valued members of Monaco South.

After high school, Don, Coy, and Harlan all went into the Marines, but they were not stationed together. Don was sent to 29 Palms, California, where he worked as an accountant. Don got out of the service in 1957, and the following year began working at a Commerce City refinery owned by Tenneco. During his 44 years at the refinery, it changed hands 10 times.

Don started as a laborer, and served as the chairman of the refinery's union for a number of years. He attended college at night, earning a bachelor degree and a master's degree with a focus on Latin American history.

In 1975 Don was promoted to management at the refinery, becoming the Directory of Personnel and Safety. His job was later redefined to Corporate Safety Director. As safety director, Don was involved in litigation with the federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration, and had to spend 6 months in court (this is probably more courtroom experience than most lawyers ever get).

Don later became the Industrial Relations Manager for five refineries. Part of his job was negotiating labor contracts with the unions.

Don met Char at the Aurora Lounge one evening in 1958. They were married two years later, and have two daughters - Pam, the principal of Horizon High School, and Diane, the office manager of a Denver law firm. Both are Thomas Jefferson High School graduates. They also have 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, with one more on the way.

Don retired in 2002, and he and Char like to spend time at their cabin near Red Feather Lakes. Don describes himself as not being a joiner, but despite that Coy Horton and John Young got him involved in Monaco South in 1994, which Don describes as one of the greatest things that ever happened to him.

As a member of Monaco South, Don organized our MS 150 Rest Stop for many years, has participated in hundreds of activities and projects, and served as our Club President in 2001-02. He currently serves every Friday morning as the breakfast monitor, putting that Marine Corps accounting training to good use.

On the Optimist District level, Don served for 9 years as the Sgt at Arms at District meetings and Conventions. In this capacity, Don was responsible for accoutrements such as flags and banners were in place and cared for, and that the meeting arrangements were satisfactory.

And today, we recognize Don for his exemplary service to the District, Club and community by proclaiming this July 26, 2013 as **Don St. John Day!**

The **GUMS Newsletter** from that meeting is available for download, [Click Here](#) at [GUMS 07-26-2013](#).



## On-Line Trivia Contest

By Andy Towt



Our first trivia question was a bust. I want to thank **Bill Morgan** for being the only person to respond. Let's give it another go with this question:

**This week's question is:** *What year did John Elway get drafted by the Broncos?*

All answers should be sent via email to [Warren.Allentown@gmail.com](mailto:Warren.Allentown@gmail.com) (Note, this is not my daily email, so don't try to send it to the email as listed in the MSOC directory)

And remember, everyone is on the honor system. Even if your partner is the trivia queen or king of Colorado, you cannot ask them, or go to Google.

### Weekly Greeters

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 4/10/20 | In Person Meeting Suspended<br>Due to Virus<br>Attend a Zoom Meeting<br>starting at 10:00 a.m. |
|---------|--|



## COVID-19 Information

- ◆ John Hopkins COVID-19 map [Click Here](#)
- ◆ Your smartphone is gross. [How to clean it properly.](#)
- ◆ How to disinfect your car without destroying its interior, [Click Here](#)

**Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 43<sup>rd</sup> Year — Chartered in 1976**  
**See the Online Calendar @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/Events/Calendar>**

Due to the need to be cautious during the CONVID-19 outbreak, meetings are virtual until at least May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please check back for updates.

|                   |                |                    |  |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Apr 10            | Fri            | 10:00 am           | Meeting, Legion Hall: Zoom Virtual Meeting                             |
| Apr 16            | Thu            | 7:00 pm            | Monthly Board Meeting: Zoom Virtual Meeting                            |
| Apr 17            | Fri            | 10:00 am           | Meeting, Legion Hall: Zoom Virtual Meeting, 2020-2021 Officer Election |
| <del>Apr 21</del> | <del>Tue</del> | <del>2:00 pm</del> | <del>Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood</del> <b>Canceled</b>          |
| Apr 24            | Fri            | 10:00 am           | Meeting, Legion Hall: Zoom Virtual Meeting                             |
| May 1             | Fri            | 10:00 am           | Meeting, Legion Hall: Zoom Virtual Meeting                             |
| May 2             | Sat            | 7:30 am            | History Day State Contest: <b>To be held virtually in June 2020</b>    |
| May 8             | Fri            | 7:00 am            | Meeting, Legion Hall: <b>To Be Determined</b>                          |
| <del>May 8</del>  | <del>Fri</del> | <del>8:10 am</del> | <del>Super Citizen, Holm Elementary</del> <b>Canceled</b>              |

**2019 - 2020 Officers**

|                |                |              |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| President      | Bob Meyer      | 303-919-4532 |
| Vice President | Steve Kady     | 303-931-1470 |
| Vice President | Dan Rodriguez  | 303-521-5120 |
| Secretary      | Tracy Sorensen | 303-886-1743 |
| Treasurer      | Greg Young     | 303-759-3921 |

**2019 - 2020 Board of Directors**

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Perry Allen                  | 303-521-3453 |
| Noel Hasselgren              | 303-475-7125 |
| Jack Kleinheksel             | 303-751-3602 |
| Tom Kramis                   | 303-917-5299 |
| Allen Malask                 | 303-726-3700 |
| Bill Morgan                  | 303-868-4384 |
| Mark Smith                   | 303-691-9766 |
| John Stoffel                 | 720-837-3013 |
| Everett Gardner (Past Pres.) | 949-246-0984 |

**Past Presidents**

|                 |         |                  |         |                |         |                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|---------|----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Bob Rhue        | 1976-77 | Lupe Salinas     | 1988-89 | Stan Cohen     | 2000-01 | Paul Simon      | 2012-13 |
| Jerry Whitlow   | 1977-78 | Bob Avery        | 1989-90 | Don St. John   | 2001-02 | Jon Wachter     | 2013-14 |
| Bill Kosena     | 1978-79 | Bill Litchfield  | 1990-91 | Jack Rife      | 2002-03 | John Oss        | 2014-15 |
| Duane Wehrer    | 1979-80 | Bill Walters     | 1991-92 | Karl Geil      | 2003-04 | Michael Chavez  | 2015-16 |
| Curt Jefferies  | 1980-81 | Kent Gloor       | 1992-93 | Bryce Slaby    | 2004-05 | Craig Eley      | 2016-17 |
| Frank Middleton | 1981-82 | Gary Strowbridge | 1993-94 | Donlie Smith   | 2005-06 | Jim Easton      | 2017-18 |
| John Young      | 1982-83 | Mark Metevia     | 1994-95 | Paul Bernard   | 2006-07 | Everett Gardner | 2018-19 |
| Pat Bush        | 1983-84 | Bob Safe         | 1995-96 | Greg Young     | 2007-08 |                 |         |
| Bob Hugo        | 1984-85 | Tom Overton      | 1996-97 | Phil Perington | 2008-09 |                 |         |
| Tom Mauro       | 1985-86 | Peter Dimond     | 1997-98 | Ron Cisco      | 2009-10 |                 |         |
| Curt Lorenzen   | 1986-87 | Ralph Symalla    | 1998-99 | Ed Collins     | 2010-11 |                 |         |
| Oscar Sorensen  | 1987-88 | Cy Regan         | 1999-00 | Randy Marcove  | 2011-12 |                 |         |

**Newsletter Committee**

|                    |              |               |              |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Robert Finkelmeier | 303-756-5829 | Paul Stratton | 303-366-6375 |
| George Buzick      | 303-803-2268 | Pat Bush      | 720-254-3741 |
| Robert Wardlaw     | 303-525-2532 | Craig Eley    | 303-758-9499 |
| Phil Perington     | 303-832-4578 | Greg Young    | 303-759-3921 |

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** May **George Buzick**, June **Robert Wardlaw**, July **Pat Bush**

**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.