



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

August 11, 2017 – Vol. 41, Issue 45



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

(Pardon the roughness of this issue of GUMS, due to computer technical issues.)

Our greeters this morning were **Cy Regan** and **Al Gapuzan**, however, **Russ Paul** and **Joe Marci** handled the chores in the early going.

Invocation & Pledge

Randy Marcove lead us with the invocation by asking that we make all of our friends feel that there is something in them. That "something" should be a feeling of worth and goodness that can help them have the confidence to fulfill their potential. He then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Dan Rodriguez joined us again for breakfast. Dan runs Signarama on S. Monaco and has helped us with some signage.

President elect Jim Easton introduced his twin brother **Craig** and nephew **Josh** visiting from out of state.



Josh, Jim, & Craig Easton
Photo Noel Hasselgren

Finally, **James Dockter** was introduced for the second time by **Frank Middleton**. James is employed with the Boy Scouts of America and needs to be encouraged to become a Monaco South Optimist.

Welcome to all of our guests. We hope that you will join us in our work with the youth of our community!

Update on OC Larson

Don Thomson reported that **OC Larson** has been admitted into the Brookdale Senior Center at 6450 S. Boston Street. He is receiving treatment for dementia and gastro intestinal issues. He has been in Brookdale for the last week. Don says he believes that visitors are allowed but it would be very difficult to give OC a telephone call. Send your best to OC or stop by.

Announcements

March of Dimes, Mudd Volleyball: The Mudd Tournament was held last Saturday, August 5th at the Majestic Commerce Center in Aurora. As we have for several years, we provided the parking chores for the tournament. **Pat Bush** reported that we were surprised when we found that the City of Aurora required the entrance into the field had to be move down off of 32nd Parkway near the entrance into the volleyball site.

This required cars to make a sharp U-turn at the entry access then loop back around a snow fence before entering the main parking area. The MSOC volunteers had to guide the cars through this obstacle course despite having a skeleton crew of just six. But we managed to get it done with just two fender benders and one roll-over. Pat thanked **Joe Marci**, **Gary Miller**, **Noel Hasselgren**, **Ron Gustas** and the rookie, but still quite capable **Mike White** for their service in the parking lot.




Pat reports that fortunately none of the parking attendants had to deal with this or even get into this mess.

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

Celebrate Optimism & Officer Installation:

 Celebrate Optimism and Office Installation Banquet will be held at Heather Gardens on September 16th. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. Michael Chavez will be passing around a sign-up sheet in the coming weeks and will let us know the program headliners as they become available.

OI Junior Golf & Rockies Game:

Joe Marci still has two tickets to the August 20th Rockies Game against the Milwaukee Brewers. They cost just \$15.00 each and will benefit the Optimist Junior Golf program for 2018. Joe said these last two tickets are right behind each other so you can take a guest and do not even need to sit next to them. What more can you ask for? However, he added, you can watch the home plate umpire miss calling the balls and strikes and share a word or two.

OI Junior Golf & Skin Cancer:

Speaking about OI's Junior Golf International Tournament, that is held annually in Florida is now over, **Gary Strowbridge** proudly announced that his granddaughter had participated in it. More importantly, however, Gary said he has been getting treatment for skin cancer that was found during his routine physical exam. He pleaded with fellow members to be sure to get an annual physical as it could save your life, and to see your dermatologist annually.

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation:

Ron Gustas is looking for some help with setting up the JDRF OneWalk event. The walk will take place on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds. However, he needs help loading the truck at the JDRF Office on Friday, September 8th. The JDRF office is located at 2727 Bryant Street in Denver.

Ron also needs help setting up the team canopies, tables, chairs, and signage at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds on Saturday morning, September 9th. See Ron over the next couple of membership meetings to sign-up. Of course, you can also donate to any or all of the three walk teams that are associated with Monaco South. See http://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?fr_id=7018&pg=entry.

Volunteer Needed:

Steve Kady was looking for a volunteer this morning. He did not say for what; just that he needed a volunteer. **Tom Kramis** quickly answered the call to find out it was to help trim trees at the Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale Ave. Tom said he did not mind that and he would use his previous experience; however, he was delighted to hear that somebody else will be picking up the limbs.

South by Southeast Event:

Greg Young once again reported that the South by Southeast Event, (Sounds like a movie title) will be held next Saturday, August 19th at Bible Park. **Greg Young** reports that he has volunteers for the morning and afternoon but nobody for the evening shifts. If you have some free time next Satur-

day evening, your help could be used. Give Greg a call if you can help. See the details of this event and the musical line-up on the *GUMS* distribution email.

4th Quarter District Convention:

One reason for the difficulty in getting volunteers for the South by Southeast Event is because the Colorado/Wyoming District Convention is also next weekend — August 17 - 20th in Breckenridge. Monaco South always has several members in attendance at the District Conferences and Convention and this one will be no different. Stay tuned for a report on happenings at this year's Convention. By the way, all members are invited and you can just go up for the Saturday's activities. There will be officer training; installation of district officers, including the first ever Junior Optimist district officers; a luncheon and much more. While you cannot get the early bird discounts there is still time to register for the convention.

Today's Drawing

The winner's today were Prez **Craig Eley**, **Jack Kleinheksel**, **Eldon Strong**, **Bob Meyer**, our guest speaker **Jason Romero**, **Greg Young**, **Dick Zolman**, and **Karl Geil**. While **Ron Gustas** was the name badge winner. But, he too did not make the correct draw.

We also had some bonus prizes this week in the form of almost completely expired Entertainment Books, thanks to **Joe Marci**. Those lucky winners — if you can call them that — were **Jack Kleinheksel**, this month's editor **Pat Bush**, and **Tom Glazier**.

Attention Super Citizen Representatives

At next weeks meeting, please be sure to meet and greet the representatives from your Super Citizen School. As in the past, the center table will be available. Robert Wardlaw will be available to greet them and to serve in his role of Citizenship Chair.

Pictures from the Meeting



Jason Roero & Frank Middleton



Cy Regan greets Don & Char StJohn



Morning camaraderie & Paul Gibson



Breakfast buffet line.
Photos Noel Hasselgren

Relentless Jason Romero

Motivational Speaker • Blind Ultra-Athlete • Humanitarian

Frank Middleton introduced our speaker this morning, **Jason Romero**. Jason is a businessman, humanitarian, ultra-endurance runner, and motivational speaker. He is also legally blind. Jason was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa in childhood when a routine eyesight test detected loss of sight.

Retinitis Pigmentosa is a degenerative disease that starts with dark spots in one's field of vision and progresses to loss of peripheral vision resulting in tunnel vision, reduced acuity, night blindness and eventually total blindness.

Rather than succumbing to the inevitable, he kept a positive attitude and began finding ways to cope with the loss of vision while maintaining a near normal life style. He began by sitting in the front row of classes with thick glasses; turning to binoculars, then reading with several lamps and a magnifying glass. Jason still kept honors level grades and graduated at the top of his class at the business school at the University of San Diego. He then pursued a law degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Jason married and has three children and became a general manager for General Electric. In 2007, he helped start a school for children with Autism.

Jason was a multi-sport athlete in school but became interested in long distance running after watching his uncle run. He ran his first marathon while in law school but did not get serious about it until 2010. He pushed his running into the ultra-endurance class taking part in the 135-mile run through Death Valley and the Leadville 100-mile race through the Rocky Mountains. This race has to be completed in a 30-hour time limit which required Jason to run through the night. These races would present many challenges to a visually impaired runner but, Jason would always find ways around these obstacles. He would carefully study the courses and memorize the terrain. He learned to use trekking poles to feel the terrain. He would follow guides wearing reflective wrap around their angles and describe upcoming obstacles while he wore a bright headlamp to get through the night racing.



Jason Romero
Photo Noel Hasselgren

In 2013, Jason fell into depression when his eyesight significantly worsened, which forcing him out of work and going on disability income. He also had to give up driving, all the while of going through a divorce.

Choosing to not go on medication for his depression, his doctor advised him to engage in rigorous exercise. Jason then wanted to show the world what blind people could achieve so he decided to run across America in a period of 60 days to set a record.

To get ready, Jason embarked upon an 18-month preparation period. This required rigorous training, building a support team, carefully planning a navigational route across the US, and fundraising. To avoid night running to the greatest extent possible would

require him to average 50 miles in the 10 to 12 hours of daylight available each day. Therefore, he had to improvise ways to deal with traffic on the roads especially the semi-trailer trucks, learn how to deal with injuries, find places to sleep and when to eat. Finally, he had to raise funds to finance the endeavor by soliciting donations and recruiting sponsors.

On March 24, 2016 Jason left the Santa Monica Pier bound for New York City. Along the way Jason faced the challenges of overcoming pain and injuries, changing flat tires on his support car, even pulling the car out of soft sand, running through all kinds of weather conditions, wearing out dozens of running shoes and facing down cars and trucks on the highways.

He described how complete strangers would offer support along the route including giving escorts, running short distances with him, offering food and drink, and medical attention, and donating money. Finally, on May 23, 2016 at 8:30 in the evening, Jason climbed the steps to New York City Hall to complete his 3,060-mile run in just under the 60-day goal. During this run, Jason earned the nick name of **"Relentless Romero."**

Thank you for the inspiring talk, Jason! With having to overcome so many obstacles to compete a run like that, you would make a perfect Optimist member.

Weekly Greeters

8/18/17	Brian Wilson & George Buzick
8/25/17	Allen Malask & John Swick



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

See the Online Calendar @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/Events/Calendar>

Aug 17-20	CO-WY 4 th District Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Breckenridge, CO
Aug 18 Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Super Citizen School Principals to Breakfast
Aug 23 Wed 6:30 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way
Aug 15 Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Ken Wigg, Second Wind Fund
Sept 1 Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
Sept 7-9	Second Honeymoon Getaway in Glenwood Springs, CO

**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	Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Secretary	Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
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

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS: August **Pat Bush**, September **Paul Stratton**, October **Phil Perington**

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.