



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

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Optimist Club of Monaco South



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

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



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Good Morning Optimist

Don't know about you, but your editor woke up to a very loud morning with much thunder but no rain. While the morning was cool and overcast, the morning



Tom Mauro & Jon Wachter do a double shake on Donlie Smith.
Photos Noel Hasselgren

optimist greeting was sunny and warm starting with a recognition and welcome from **Tom Mauro and Jon Wachter**, obviously Colorado Rockies fans. Here you see what **Donlie Smith** had to go through this morning.

The Prez is Back

Our long-lost **President Craig Eley** has returned after a month away. He went to the Optimist International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico then continued on to a vacation in the Scandinavian nations of Europe.



Invocation & Pledge

In his first official act since returning, **President Craig** called on **Ron Cisco** to give the invocation and lead the pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Returning Members

President Craig was not the only one to return after an extended absence. **Oscar Sorensen** also made it back and he looks good after a compression fracture in his spine. Welcome back, Oscar!

As did **Tom Hoch** who said he was heading out again, after returning from a vacation in Minnesota.



Oscar Sorensen & Tom Hoch

From the Prez

Honor Club: Prez Craig mentioned that he met many Optimist members from different clubs at the OI convention in Albuquerque. He was asked by another attendee about our club's status to make honor club for this year. Craig indicated that we were down about 10 members so that honor club was probably out of the question. When he told the Optimist we had about 120 members, the new acquaintance said it would only take 10% of the club to bring in one new member before the end of September to make honor club.

Craig had forgotten how big our club is and that it would not be that hard to find the new members needed to make honor club. Therefore, *"let us make this happen for Craig."* Ask a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, client, customer, or fellow worshipper at church to come take a look at us by working on a project or visiting a meeting. As someone once told me, *"If you do not ask the question, you haven't given them a chance to say YES."* Ask someone this week. We can do this.



Announcements

South by Southeast Event: Greg Young reminded us that Councilwoman **Kendra Black**, was looking for volunteers for her "South by Southeast" event, to be held on

Saturday, August 19th at Bible Park. The event runs from 10 a.m. until well into the evening. There will be live music and entertainment from various local groups throughout the day, great food, and many activities. Members can sign up for three hour shifts through the day. Greg Young mentioned that he was pretty well set for volunteers in the morning but it was skimpy for the afternoon. Catch Greg if you can help.

Brent's Place Pancake Breakfast: Paul Bernard reported on Brent's Place Pancake Breakfast held last Saturday, July 29th at the Fitzsimmons Medical Cam-

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

pus. The Monaco South and Tamarac Square Optimist Clubs served pancakes, sausages, fruit, and beverages to several hundred walkers, runners and other vol-



unteers participating in the annual fundraiser for Brent's Place. Brent's Place provides safe clean housing for patients and families that have been temporally displaced to get cancer treatment. Brent's place was started in 1997 by Donn and Linda Eley after they suffered extreme difficulty finding such housing when they were displaced for their son, Brent's cancer treatment. Donn was at the fundraising event last Saturday and spent some time visiting with the Optimists.

Paul read a very nice thank you note from Donn for all of our help through the years. That is what makes the effort worth it. Monaco South members working this year's event were **Al Gapuzan, Harry Arkin, Mark Metevia, John Greene, Don Thomson, Pat Bush, Don Roth, David Telpner, Joe Marci, Les Larson, Kent Gloor, Jon Wachter, Jack Kitchell, and Michael Chavez** and a special thanks to our fearless leader, **Paul Bernard** for all he does.

Celebrate Optimism Banquet: Michael Chavez

announced that the Celebrate Your Optimism Banquet will be held at Heather Gardens on Saturday, September 16th this year. Michael promises much more information about the event as we get closer.



OI Junior Golf:

The Optimist International Junior Golf Tournament continued this week with the older boys and girls playing at the PGA National in Florida. Cole Krantz from Windsor was the highest finishing boy from the CO-WY District. Cole shot a 75, 75, 78, and 78 to finish in 38th place. The girls were led by Caroline Jordaan from Lakewood. She shot 77, 79, 74, and 78 finishing in 31st place. **Joe Marci** reported that **Bob Meyer** and **Barry Barker** were at the event and watched our players shoot 23 rounds in the 70's. Editor: *I wish I could shoot just one round in the 70's.*

Joe mentioned, we help send some 40+ junior golfers to "The Optimist" each year. Joe has already started to fundraise for next year's Junior Golf event. He has tickets to the August 20th game against the Milwaukee Brewers. These are always fun events and tickets cost just \$15.00. *Let us help Joe and the Optimist Junior Golf program by going to the ballgame.*

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation: Mike McMahon made several announcements regarding the upcoming fundraising events for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). You can enjoy a meal at **Old Chicago**, 1280 S. Colorado Blvd. on Wednes-

day, August 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to closing with 10% of the sales proceeds going to JDRF. In addition, three walk teams will be participating in the JDRF OneWalk this September 10th. We can make donations to any one of the teams or, better yet, to all of the teams. See Mike or Ron Gustas for more information. The "Walk" website is at http://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?fr_id=7018&pg=entry.



Super Citizen: With the school year about to start, so is the Super Citizen program. **Robert Wardlaw** reports that the school principals will be at our breakfast meeting in two weeks. We run the Super Citizen program in nine southeast Denver schools. One school dropped out this year. We will be looking for presenters as the program gets ramped up.



CO-WY District Convention: Paul Simon reminded us that the District Convention is coming up on August 17th through 20th in Breckenridge. If you are going up for just one day, Saturday, August 19th would be the day. 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.

Palisade Peaches: Dr. **Bob Finkelmeier** says there will only be one shipment of peaches this year. If you missed this opportunity, it is lost until next year. As reported, "Palisade growers say they are harvesting only 20 to 40 percent of their normal crops due to unusual April and May temperature swings." If you have not already ordered, it is too late.

Drawing

Drawing winners this week included Jack **Kleinheksel**, **Ed Collins** (Twice, he said he now was leaving town.), **Bob Avery**, **Pat Bush**, **Harry Arkin**, **Steve Kady**, and **Tom Hoch**. This week the pot continues to grow with only about a dozen cards in the stack.

Photos from the Meeting



Our speaker today was Lynn Wells from The Academy for Lifelong Learning. The



Academy is an organization that provides a variety of learning experiences to adults. Classes are as small as a few people and delivered in a discussion group style or can get as large as a few dozen and be conducted as a lecture style class. Courses are held once per week for two hours and last from three to ten weeks. They are on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday during the day. Classes are offered in areas like history, economics, science, fine arts, music, photography, computers, religion, literature, law, film, and writing. There are up to 60 different courses held each semester so a member can find just about any subject he or she may be looking to find. The learning environment is friendly and unpressured. There are no grades or degrees to be earned.

The Academy was started in 2002 by people who wanted to provide opportunities for adults to keep



Lynn Wells
Photo Noel Hasselgren

expanding their knowledge base and to be engaged in their world. It has grown to about 1,000 students per semester. One must be a member of the Academy before enrolling in a class. The membership fee is \$25.00 per semester. The tuition for a course generally runs \$10 to \$12 per class so the cost for each course varies depending on the number of classes conducted for that course during the semester. The classes are held at Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Ave, at S. Monaco Avenue and E. Hampden.

The fall semester will be starting this September. The Academy is holding an Open House where you can experience a class, learn more about the Academy, meet course leaders, ask questions, register for fall classes, and enjoy snacks and door prizes. The open house is this Wednesday, August 9th at the Calvary Baptist Church. It runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You can learn more about the Academy by visiting www.AcademyLL.org. The upcoming course calendar is at <http://academyll.org/courses/>.

On Facebook visit, <https://www.facebook.com/AcademyLL/>.

A bit of history about "God Bless America"

Shared by Jim Tapp

Frank Sinatra considered Kate Smith the best singer of her time, and said that when he and a million other guys first heard her sing "God Bless America" on the radio, they all pretended to have dust in their eyes as they wiped away a tear or two.

Here are the facts: The link at the bottom will take you to a video showing the very first public singing of "GOD BLESS AMERICA." But before you watch it, you should also know the story behind the first public showing of the song.

The time was 1940. America was still in a terrible economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe and Americans were afraid we would have to go to war. It was a time of hardship and worry for most Americans.

This was the era just before TV, when radio shows were HUGE, and American families sat around their radios in the evenings, listening to their favorite entertainers, and no entertainer of that era was bigger than Kate Smith.

Kate Smith was also large; plus size, as we now say, and the popular phrase still used today is in deference to her, "It ain't over till the fat lady sings."

She might not have made it big in the age of TV, but with her voice coming over the radio, she was the biggest star of her time.

Kate was also patriotic. It hurt her to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America, and faith in her fellow Americans. She

wanted to do something to cheer them up, so she went to the famous American song-writer, Irving Berlin (who also wrote "White Christmas") and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country. When she described what she was looking for, he said he had just the song for her. He went to his files and found a song that he had written, but never published, 22 years before, way back in 1917. He gave it to her and she worked on it with her studio orchestra. She and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from God Bless America. Any profits would go to the Boy Scouts of America. Over the years, the Boy Scouts have received millions of dollars in royalties from this song.

This video starts out with Kate Smith coming into the radio studio with the orchestra and an audience. She introduces the new song for the very first time, and starts singing. After the first couple verses, with her voice in the background still singing, scenes are shown from the 1940 movie, "You're In The Army Now." At the 4:20 mark of the video you will see a young actor, sitting in an office, reading a Variety newspaper; it's Ronald Reagan.

To this day, God Bless America stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits of her fellow Americans, I doubt whether she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry. And for many generations of Americans to follow.

Now that you know the story of the song, I hope you'll enjoy it. Many people don't know there's a lead in to the song since it usually starts with "God Bless America" ... So here's the entire song as originally sung ... ENJOY!

Kate Smith introduces God Bless America — YouTube @

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/TnQDW-NMaRs?rel=0>

Weekly Greeters	
8/11/17	Ken Duffy & Cy Regan
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 11	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Relentless Jason Romero, Only blind person to run across America
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

**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

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	r.pedersen2658@comcast.net
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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.