



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 1, 2017 – Vol. 42, Issue 9

Optimist Club of Monaco South



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 41 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Good Morning Optimist

On the first day of December, 2017 and the start of this Supermoon week-



end, **Eldon Strong** and **Greg Hurd** are serving as our greeters



Eldon Strong
Not sure where Greg Hurd is at this photo take.
Photo Noel Hasselgren

this morning. Greg was standing in for **Russ Paul** who we understand is recuperating at home from a fainting spell. (Editor: In a call to Russ he is doing okay, but is scheduled for more tests this coming week. While Eldon reports that his brother **Warren Strong** passed away in his sleep on Thursday, November 30th. Warren was 70 years old. Our thoughts and prayers are with Eldon and his family, and go out to Russ for a quick recovery.)

First Bell

President Jim Easton rings the bell promptly at 7 a.m. He reports that he has received news this morning that **Ralph Pedersen** has passed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Lois and his family. Ralph was a bright light at the meetings and it was wonderful to share a table with him on many Friday mornings. Ralph was a charter member of our club, one of the original members and he will be greatly missed.

Invocation & Pledge

John Young reads the invocation this morning, "we remember our friend Ralph. We realize that Life is a Race that all of us will finish. Heavenly Father, he is no longer with us, but now with you. Our tenure on this earth is limited, help us not to live in fear of death, but to embrace life."

John then leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Wyatt McCallie introduces **Chuck Johnson**, who visited our Tree Lot and was invited to come. He is a

Memorial Service for Ralph Pedersen

Charter Member



Ralph Pedersen with
Jim Easton & Michael Chavez.

A memorial service will be held for **Ralph Pedersen**, on Thursday, December 7th, @ 2:00 p.m.

Galilee Baptist Church
1091 S. Parker Rd.

Lois Pedersen, Ralph's wife asks that members who attend the service please wear your Monaco South Optimist Name Tag or Optimist Shirt.

retired from the Air Force, and has children who attended Thomas Jefferson High School. After the Air Force he worked at Stapleton Airport as an Operations officer. He then worked at the University of Colorado, and has retired from there as well. He has grown children and grandchildren to spoil, so life is good. Editor: *Welcome Chuck, we look forward to you joining us.*

From the Prez

Prez Jim remembers **Ralph Pedersen** and asks that members who attend the service to wear their Monaco South shirt or name tag.

Jim also reports highlights from the Board Meeting this past week. He also shared a Thank You letter from Girls Inc., for the Thanksgiving Dinner. Jim adds, "If you have a Thank you note you think Jim should send out for someone who has helped us out, please let him know via email and he will get it out."

Tree Lot Chili Cook Off: Jim announces that on Sunday December 17, bring your best chili to the lot before noon and let the tasting begin. Prez Jim says as the reigning champion and will defend his title.

White Elephant Gift Exchange: This year's gift exchange will be at our Friday, December 22nd meeting. Bring a gift only a friend or pal might understand. This

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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*****

From the Prez Continued

is a wonderful time for everyone to share a good laugh and good cheer. Not to mention a gag gift for innocent bystanders.

Announcements

McMeen Super Citizen Program: Don Thomson presented the highlights of the Super Citizen assembly held at McMeen Elementary yesterday. During the presentation one young recipient became emotional with excitement, and in turn so did her mother who started crying, as her teacher attempted to console them both, she too started crying. Pretty soon Don had a trio of emotional ladies who shared an incredible experience. Editor: A great story and just the kind of positive story our community needs. Don, thanks for sharing!



The Brain Bowl: Karl Geil tells us "*The Brain Bowl is Coming*" for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.



Karl is sending around signup sheets for both volunteers and readers. If you plan to be a reader, please sign up for reader training as well. The first training in Denver is Tuesday, January 2, 2018, 6 to 9 p.m. at Hamilton Middle School.

Thanks to Steve Kady: Paul Stratton says, "A Big Thank You goes out to **Steve Kady** for getting the firefighters to help unload the trees last week. A full semi of trees was unloaded in less than an hour with the help of these folks. Paul is serving as one of the Tree Lot day managers and is looking for a strong showing for people coming out to help this weekend. We hope it is a big weekend for sales.

TJHS Art Festival: Tom Glazier also talks about the help from the fire men and women; what a great help! He also plugs the Art Festival Book Sale that is coming up for the TJ Art Fair, Saturday, December 10th. The club will also be helping with parking duties for this event, so plenty of opportunity to help.

Christmas Tree Lot Update: Joe Marci reports that another load of Trees



come in yesterday and they are busy tagging, pricing, and drilling holes into each of them for selling. This weekend looks to be a big one for sales—Joe pounds the beat for help. This is a great

chance to meet other members and serve the community—the more help, the more pleasant the experience.

John Oss shared that the help at the Tree Lot has been wonderful. John has been working almost all day on Friday's.

Tree Lot Santa Haus: Tom Kramis wants to thank **Kent Gloor** who helped design and build the Santa Haus. Tom also recognized **Peter Dimond** and his wife Karla for the space to construct the house, and everyone who had a hand in helping. **Greg Hurd** and **Eldon Strong** on the electrical for the house, they will be running the train starting today. The total hours for the project, is over 800 hours of service getting this made. Well done gentlemen!

Although the Santa Haus was dedicated on Wednesday, November 22nd, the first Santa to see kids in the new Haus was Eldon Strong, on Saturday, December 2nd.



The opening of the new Santa Haus, shown off by Santa, aka Eldon Strong.
Photos Allen Yockey

Optimist Holiday Party: **Kent Gloor** promotes the joint Tamarac and Monaco South Holiday party, "Snowflakes & Sleigh Bells," on Saturday, December 16 at Calvary Baptist Church, starting at 5:30 p.m. Kent is collecting checks for payment of \$35 per person. See the Holiday Party flyer attached to the GUMS distribution email. Kent, also shared his thanks to **John Young** for his generous donation to the Santa Haus.

Channel 4 Toy Drive: **Steve Kady** lets everyone know, that on Friday, December 15th, CBS4, will hold a special day long toy drive at King Soopers, at Colorado and Yale, with coverage during all CBS4 newscasts starting at 5:00 a.m. So Steve is encouraging us all to donate toys and again deliver them at 5:30 a.m. as we have done in years past, with **Kent Gloor** as Santa and **Prez Jim Easton** as the club's spokesperson. "Let us all get a bunch of new toys together as we have done in the past." See Steve should you have any questions or would like to help. See <http://denver.cbslocal.com/together4coloradotoydrive/>.

Do we have a drawing?

Yes, we do and there is \$100 in the pot and the lucky card is the 5 of Hearts.



Members holding tickets this morning and who take a cup include **Robert Wardlaw**, **Joe Marci**, **Tom Hoch**, **Tom Glazier**, **Allan Malask**, and **Wyatt McCallie**. **Jack Kleinhessel** gets his numerous ticket numbers call twice and both times goes for a card, but no luck for Jack on this day.

John Green's name is drawn out of the jug, for a chance at going after the card, but he too is not lucky.

Meeting Close

As the meeting comes to a close, **Prez Jim Easton** leads us in the recitation of the *Optimist Creed*.

Go out and spread the word of Optimism by words and by your deeds!

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT SCHEDULE

Do Not Forget to Sign-Up to Work the Tree Lot. Most Days Throughout the Week of December 4th are NOT at Optimum Staffing Levels.

And, We'll Have a Busy Weekend this Coming Saturday & Sunday.

Visit <http://www.msocxmas.org/> to sign-up

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Our speaker this morning is our own **Perry Allen and Ron Cisco**. Perry is the Club's Dime-A-Day representative, and Ron is again serving as the CO-WY OI Foundation Representative.

Ron explains that the OI Foundation is set up to provide funding for Optimist International's youth and service programs and is proudly supported by individual Optimists, their clubs, and the community at large. This year he has taken on the challenge of being the Optimist International representative, and today he is here to talk about the Foundation.

The Optimist International Foundation (OIF) was established in 1971 exclusively for the charitable, literary, and educational purposes of Optimist International, a community service-based organization committed to creating a more optimistic future for young people through innovative programs. OIF works with Optimist Clubs located in over 2,100 communities in the United States and the Caribbean.

The Foundation has grown steadily since 1971 and is recognized as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Foundation's Board of Directors grants funds to Optimist International each year for the development and improvement of International programs. Programs funded by the Foundation serve 1.5 million children annually. Optimist International Foundation depends on the support from Optimist Clubs and individual Members, the general public, businesses and corporations.

As part of the OIF's outreach they sponsor a Dime-A-Day program. **Perry Allen** has been the coordinator for this program, and has done an excellent job. Perry shares that again this week he has received 8 to 10 checks of a minimum of \$36.50 to support this year round program.

Ron shares that within the CO-WY district 189 people have donated to this cause. Ron's goal this year is to break the 62 members of MSOC who have donated previously.



Ron Cisco & Perry Allen team up to talk about the OI Foundation & the Dime-A-Day Program.

Photo Noel Hasselgren

Perry Allen takes the microphone, and talks about some of the "10 Things Accomplished in 2016" by the Foundation, such as:

- ◇ Paid out \$246,164 to Clubs utilizing the Club Campaign program and added an additional \$10,175 in interest to Club Campaign funds.
- ◇ Supported the launch of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championship Contest through commitment of start-up funding.
- ◇ Helped 269 Optimists help 5,285 children and their families by awarding 20 Club Grants across the U.S.

- ◇ Contributed \$40,908 towards the Optimist International Research Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Johns Hopkins.
- ◇ Assisted Clubs in donating \$68,244 in charitable contributions to their own local Childhood Cancer organizations and hospitals.

Additionally, Perry mentions he has left information cards on the tables on how the foundation serves OI.

Perry says that Tom Overton recently attended a meeting at the Tamarac Optimist Club and that they have a practice that anyone who donates to Dime-A-Day has their name placed in a hat for an annual drawing for prizes. Possibly this is something we should try.

Perry thanks everyone who has donated so far, and encourages others to donate. The program goes on for the entire year, so you can bring in a check at any time. More information about the OIF can be found in their Annual Report at http://www.oifoundation.org/financials/Annual-report-2015-2016_final.pdf.

A Copy of the Dime-A-Day form is attached to the GUMS distribution email. Perry is hoping that MSOC will have a 100% participation in the program. This is truly,

"Helping Optimists Help Kids!"

December Super Citizen Presenters		
Dec 8 @ 1:00	Samuels	Eldon Strong
Dec 15 @ 8:30	Slavens	Mark Metavia
Dec 15 @ 3:00	Bradley	Dave Peck
Dec 19 @ 2:30	MPB	Dave Peck

Weekly Greeters	
12/8/17	Frank Middleton & Michael Chavez
12/15/17	Paul Stratton & Ed Collins
12/22/17	Don Roth & Mark Smith
12/29/17	Steve Kady & Phil Perington

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2017-2018 41st Year — Chartered in 1976

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

Dec 8	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
Dec 15	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
Dec 16	Sat	5:30 am	Annual Christmas Party, Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard
Dec 20	Wed	6:15 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way
Dec 22	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Santa's Gift Exchange
Dec 23	Sat	8:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Christmas Food Basket Delivery
Dec 25			MERRY CHRISTMAS
Dec 29	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Kids to Breakfast
Jan 1			HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018

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

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

2017 - 2018 Officers

President	Jim Easton	720-987-7684
Vice President	Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Vice President	Everett Gardner	924-246-0984
Secretary	Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Harry Arkin	303-941-8800
Ken Duffy	303-880-5072
Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532
Tom Kramis	303-917-5299
Rob Gardner	720-263-6203
Wyatt McCallie	303-759-2275
Paul Stratton	303-474-4358
John Swick	720-422-2733
Craig Eley (Past Pres.)	303-758-9499

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	r.pedersen2658@comcast.net
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jpccinelli@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	rlwardlaw@gmail.com	Craig Eley	303-758-9499	craigceley@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Nov **Robert Wardlaw**, Dec **George Buzick**, Jan **Pat Bush**, Feb **Paul Stratton**

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.