



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 20, 2019 – Vol. 44, Issue 12

Optimist Club of Monaco South



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

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw



Good Morning Optimists

On this Friday, the 354th day of the year, we have another mild and clear December morning. Our greeters this morning are **Eldon Strong** and **Tom Hoch**. Both decked out with “official greeter badges” and their morning coffee.



First Bell

President **Bob Meyer** rings the morning bell and asks us to greet one another and to share an *Optimist Welcome!*

Invocation & Pledge

President **Bob** calls on **Perry Allen** to read the morning invocation, which states, “Happiness comes from a presence of mind that allows us to spread that feeling to those in our circle of interaction. Attempt to achieve the happiness that allows us to call ourselves Optimists.” Perry then lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

Guests

Bob Avery introduces **Chandler Milliken** who visited last week and has returned. This morning Chandler brings an application and check for membership. Welcome back Chandler and we are glad you are joining us!

Chandler is a General Manager with Crest Exteriors, an experienced roofing system company located in Centennial.

From the Prez

Prez Bob starts by sharing some birthdays for this date, December 20th. They include, Samuel Mudd, co-conspirator of John Wilkes Booth, 1833; Harvey Firestone, founder of Firestone Tire & Rubber, 1868; and Dick Wolf, producer of all the “Law and Order” TV series, 1946.

And some of the events for this date include, 1606, Virginia Company settlers leave London to establish Jamestown, VA; 1820, Missouri imposes a one-dollar bachelor tax on un-

married men aged between 21 and 50; 1880, NY’s Broadway lit by electricity, becomes known as “the great white way”; 1920, Bob Hope becomes an American Citizen; 1924, Adolf Hitler is freed from jail early, having served only 9-months of a 5-year sentence for “beer hall putsch”; 1940, Connie Mack acquires controlling interest in the Philadelphia Athletics baseball team for \$42,000; 1981, the Cleveland Browns set a team record for 9 fumbles & 10 turnovers; and in 2018 new figures show the average U.S. male weighs 198 pounds and stands 5’9”, and women weigh 171 pounds and stand 5’4”.

Thank You Notes

Prez Bob reads “Thank You” card from **Girls Inc.** for the recent Thanksgiving Dinner held there on November 21st and for the recent donation of a Christmas Tree.

He then reads a “Thank You” note from **Bradley International** to **Jon Wachter**, saying “Dear Jon, Thank You from Bradley PTO, your commitment to this school allows our kids to earn their full potential.”

He also reads an email from Bob Krech, a Gateway Optimist, who promoted the support for Wreaths Across America that places wreaths on headstones of veterans.

Tree Lot Closing

Before calling for morning announcements, **Prez Bob** reports that after this morning meeting we will be tear down the Christmas Tree Lot. *All Hands are needed!* Can you believe another season of selling the trees is already over? Ninety 90 MSOC members worked the lot and put in 1,500 volunteer hours during this holiday season. *Thanks to everyone!*

Announcements

Christmas Tree Lot: Following up on closing the Tree Lot, **Tom Kramis**, Tree Lot Overseer, announces details on the break down. The remainder of trees and wreaths will be included in distributed with Christmas food baskets on Saturday. Editor note: “Great job this year Tom and Thank you for all your hard work!”

Santa Hauz Closing: **Craig Eley**, Chief Santa Wrangler, takes the mantle to report how happy he was “to be so strong

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******

Announcements Continued

strong that nothing can disturb your piece of mind," and thanked all who portray the Santa role this year.

White Elephant Gift Exchange

With meeting time at a premium this morning for the Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange, **Craig Eley**, aka Santa, reports that he spelled "beard" wrong and brought "bread" instead to get the festivities going. With that members line up to receive their present from Santa.

Some of the gifting giving levity includes, **Mike McMahon** gets a cuddly toy. **Paul Stratton** receives a new shower head. New member design-ee **Chandler Milliken** gets a new bobble head Rockies figurine. **Dick Nickoloff** gets a disco ball.

Mark Metevia gets a two Santa like beanie type toys that are absolutely the cutest. **Don Roth** receives a porcelain pot with animal remnants included. **Steve Avery** gets a roll of George Bush toilet paper, which looks pretty good these days. **Phil Perington** gets a medium decorated wreath, beautiful. **Dave Peck** receives an old and strange looking bottle of whiskey. While **Ron Gustas** gets a growler and a full can of Fat Tire.

Pat Bush is given gets a Rudolph Beer Bottle which was suppose to give you a red nose. And as always animated **Steve Kady** receives a special gift from Santa, lots of tissue paper, then a holiday box with a Bronco koozie.

Greg Young lucks out with a big gift, a slightly used portable five-gallon outdoor sink! That will be awesome for the Tree Lot, for years to come should it find itself there. **Tracy Sorenson** gets a digital picture frame. **Jim Easton** obtains a umbrella for the head, the band looks great.

Mike Chavez receives a bunch of cables for an old stereo system. **David Telpner** was presented with a Sea Horse Windchime in a great shade of white. It will be a classy addition for his porch area.

Allen Pierce walks off with a Bronco license plate frame, which actually looks very functional and some sort of a deodorant collection. While **Jon Wachter** gains possession of a set of small wood picture frames. Jon tells us to submit photos and he will hang them on the Tree Lot Trailer wall for next year.

Gary Miller gets a couple of steins, that look very functional. **Prez Bob** receives a cup with the makings for hot chocolate, including something that looked like miniature marshmallows, perfect for regifting. **Mike White** lucked out with a desk size golf bag and an assortment golf items that might go in the golf bag.

Frank Middleton receives a set o ceramic figurines that

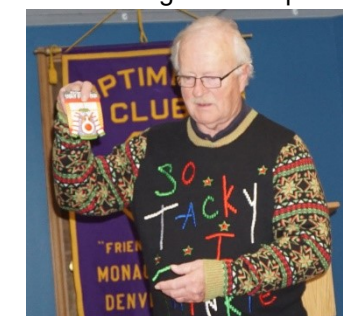
appear to be priceless, and he shares that we will be seeing that again. That probably would be appropriate since the gift bag had "Have a Jolly Christmas" printed on it. And **Ed Collins** opens a battery operated something or other that he reports says "Thank You." While **Tom Hoch** gets the "Arabic to English Dictionary." That should come in handy—it already encouraged Tom to tells us how to say "Optimist" in Arabic.

Eldon Strong gets a nice "Plum Pudding" fragrant candle. While **Bryce Slaby** receives an empty tin box, that can be used for miscellaneous nuts and bolts. **Frank Ross** walked off with a used softball. **John Greene** gets a Clark Gable look alike action figure toy like creature. **Gary Strowbridge** becomes the proud owner of a bottle of shampoo. And, **Dan Rodriguez** gets a Bronco set of sunglasses, lanyard, and an orange towel to waive.

John Oss gets a set of little tiny golf club pen and **Donlie Smith** received a meat thermometer, an apron for his next barbecue.

Greg Hurd receives a pair of socks with the famous Michelangelo sculpture of "David" on them. **Oscar Sorenson** lucks out with Christmas tree ornament, while **Dr. Bob** gets a book titled "Rules of Golf." **Tom Mauro** gets a fresh cut bottom section of a tree from the Tree Lot with a candle. **Tom Overton** was taken back with a beautiful wreath, which he promptly gives to **Heather Mulqueen**, our breakfast caterer and receives a priceless hug.

Kent Gloor wearing a great Christmas sweater gets an ornament saying "the legend of the ugly sweater." Speaking of ugly Christmas sweaters, **Kent** and **Mike McMahon** both should have gotten the prize for their selection.



Last, **Heather Mulqueen** is called to the stage for presentation of the collection of appreciation we have gathered this morning for providing us with many wonderful breakfasts every Friday morning.

A Bit of Humor to Make You Think



Presidential Rants & Raves



The Christmas tree lot is closed! Over 90 MSOC members invested over 1,500 hours of volunteer time refurbishing the trailer and the Santa House; setting up the tree lot; unloading Christmas trees; pricing Christmas trees; selling Christmas trees, garland, and wreaths; and closing the Christmas tree lot.

I am extremely proud of the MSOC members who worked in any aspect of this endeavor! Revenue earned from the sales at the Christmas tree lot will fund all of our 2020 youth activities and projects and the many cash donations we make to other like-minded youth-related activities and projects. It looks like we have grossed over \$ 120,000 in total sales and will net somewhere in the \$40,000 - \$45,000 range. Pat yourselves on the back, gentlemen, for a job well done!

Thanks, also, to the ladies of the Tamarac Optimist Club and the kids from Thomas Jefferson, Overland, George Washington, and South High Schools who assisted at the tree lot.

And, a special "Thank You" to **Tom Kramis, Cesar Camarena**, and the rest of their crew who did such an awesome job renovating the Christmas tree lot trailer! Ditto to the many Santa's who worked the Santa House. We got a ton of positive feedback about the "new" trailer and the awesome Santa's!

This is my first "Rants and Raves" column in the last three weeks. I am sorry to have missed submitting the column to **Dr. Bob** for the last two weeks. I have no excuse except to say that I worked two twelve-hour shifts at the tree lot for the last two Saturdays and then drove Lyft until 3 a.m. Sunday morning, following those twelve-hour shifts. What I will not do to earn money for my golf outings at Bear Dance in 2020.

Friday's "White Elephant" toy exchange was a hoot. Thank you, **Craig Eley**, for once again donning your Santa Grinch Christmas garb and MCing the event. I expect to see a lot of re-gifting for the 2020 event.

Thank you to the MSOC members who volunteered their Saturday morning delivering Christmas baskets.

I cannot say "Thank You" often enough for the thousands of volunteer hours invested by MSOC members as we serve youth in the Denver metro area.

But there is no time to rest on our laurels. We know what the early part of the year 2020 brings.

Christmas Baskets Delivery

Thanks for helping out yesterday morning. We had a wonderful turnout for The Christmas Baskets Delivery. This year we delivered a total of 43 Baskets filled with a Christmas Dinner, toys, and a wreath. I would like to thank everyone who participated it was a wonderful day of giving. Am extra thank you to **Tom Glazer** for all his hard work in gathering up all the toys, helping with the pick up of the baskets, and clean up afterward. Also to **Mike White** and his son **Brian** and **Kent Gloor** who also helped with the pick up at Safeway, and to **Jim Easton** who



Tom's toy collection



The morning basket delivers.
Photo Michael Chavez

"The Brain Bowl is Coming! The Brain Bowl is Coming!" Please make sure that **Karl Geil** knows that you are volunteering for any of the fun-filled jobs that make the Brain Bowl such a resounding success!

Also, February 7 – 9 are the dates for the **2020 Denver Golf Expo**. The District Junior Golf Program mans a booth at the Golf Expo and needs volunteers to spread the word about the most successful junior golf program in all of Optimist International. Please let **Joe Marci, Ron Cisco**, or me know if you are available to help man our District Junior Golf Program booth at the Golf Expo.

In June 2020, we will hold the **Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Qualifiers** to send over 60 junior golfers to the 2020 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship at Trump National Doral Resort in Miami FL. Again, please let **Joe Marci, Ron Cisco**, or me know if you are available to volunteer at the District Qualifiers. The dates are June 5 and 12 at Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder and June 18 at Meadow Hills Golf Course in Aurora. You can expect to receive more information from me about the District Qualifiers throughout the early months of 2020.

Do not forget the 2nd Quarter District Meeting on February 8 at Maggiano's in the DTC. More information about the meeting will be made available in the coming weeks.

Also, do not forget **Dime-A-Day Program** and the other OIF donor opportunities. See **Perry Allen** for further details.

Please continue to check the MSOC calendar at <https://www.monacosouth.org/events/calendar>. You would not want to miss any of our great service projects and activities.

I continue to challenge all Monaco South members to bring a guest to upcoming meetings. Let us continue to grow the Club so that we can maintain, and build upon, our service projects and activities.

I also ask for your continued support as your 2019-2020 Monaco South president.

Yours in Optimism,
Prez Bob

PS— **Michael Chavez** reported that this year's Chile Cook Off at the Tree Lot was a hard-fought battle with only a one vote difference, but **Tom Kramis** was this year's winner. **Congratulations Tom!**



arranged the morning coffee & donuts. Your help made the everything run smooth. **Merry Christmas, Michael Chavez**



Drawing

With the call for the drawing and \$130 in the pot if you found the **3 of Club**. Although the names of those who held the lucky tickets were lost, we can report that the pot continues to grow and will be \$149 next week.

Weekly Greeters

12/27/19	Dave Peck & Allen Malask
1/3/20	Harry Fegley & Don Roth

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 43rd Year — Chartered in 1976

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

Dec 17	Tue	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood Elementary
Dec 19	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School
Dec 19	Thu	6:00 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Dec 20	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: White Elephant Gift Exchange
Dec 20	Fri	3:00 pm	Super Citizen, Bradley International School
Dec 21	Sat	8:00 am	Christmas Basket Delivery, American Legion Parking Lot
Dec 25	Wed		MERRY CHRISTMAS
Dec 27	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Bob Sweeney, Stories from the Newspaper Business
Dec 31	Tue		NEW YEARS EVE
Jan 1	Wed		HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020
Jan 3	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Karl Giel. Brain Bowl



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	720-938-1760
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: November **Phil Perington**, December **George Buzick**, January **Robert Wardlaw**

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.