



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

December 22, 2017 – Vol. 42, Issue 12

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—George Buzick



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Good Morning Optimist

On this clear, crisp, ten-degree morning it did not dampen the spirits of our greeters **Don Roth** and **Mark Smith**, one of our newer members. However, the real early morning members



Left, Mark Smith and Don Roth greeting us on this White Elephant Christmas Day.
Photos Noel Hasselgren



Barry Barker & Don Roth

managed to get a greeting from **Barry Barker** and Don. They all were greeting us with a Merry Christmas, Dec. 25th; a Happy Hanukkah, which has now passed, Dec. 12 - 20th; a good Kwanzaa, which is a week-long, Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2018. And, of course there's always the celebration of Festivus for the rest of us! Editor, if that is something new to you, see the Story of Festivus, [Click Here](#).

**Happy
Festivus**

First Bell, Invocation, & Pledge

After calling the meeting to order, **President Jim Easton** gave a brief impromptu invocation, with special attention to those who may not be as fortunate as most of our members, thanking members for their extra efforts in making this holiday season better for those in need and the youth we serve.

**'TIS THE
SEASON TO
GIVE BACK**

From the Prez

Prez Jim mentioned that, at Wednesday's Board Meeting a decision was made to help support the Food Bank of the Rockies and the Law Enforcement Memorial, as well as to honor the Safeway store at Monaco and Yale, for all of their support for supplying and

cooking our Thanksgiving dinner, and the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets over many years.

There was also a vote to reimburse members' expenses incurred in the building of the Santa Haus, which turned out to be major addition to our Tree Lot.

Prez Jim also announced the winner of the Annual Chili Cook Off at the tree lot. Only three entries this year, but all were excellent. This year roles were reversed, as Immediate Past President, **Craig Eley** took over the role of Chili Champion, and **Jim Easton**, last years winner, was relegated to the role of Club President. **Barry Barker** was the other strong contender.



Announcements

Slavens Super Citizen Program: Tom Hoch

shared that the Super Citizen Awards at Slavens Elementary, held yesterday, was interrupted when someone pulled the fire alarm and the kids had to go outside without coats. It was a false alarm. The only injuries suffered were cold feet and ears.

Joint Holiday Party: **Kent Gloor** reported that the multicolor holiday party was well attended and that everyone had a great time, with excellent food and outstanding Karaoke participation by all in attendance.

Tree Lot Update: **Joe Marci** shared that the Rotary Club of Centennial had donated 30 trees, which they did not distribute to needy families to our Tree Lot. We will sell some and provide others to the Boys and Girls Clubs to distribute to families who might not have tree. Speaking of trees, Joe also mentioned that over 1,200 trees have sold with about 50 still on the lot as of this morning. Keep an eye on your email, as we will need some help in breaking down the equipment and returning it to the storage space. Final counts for the lot will be in next week's *GUMS*.



The Tree Lot as of Saturday, evening Dec. 23rd, all closed up!

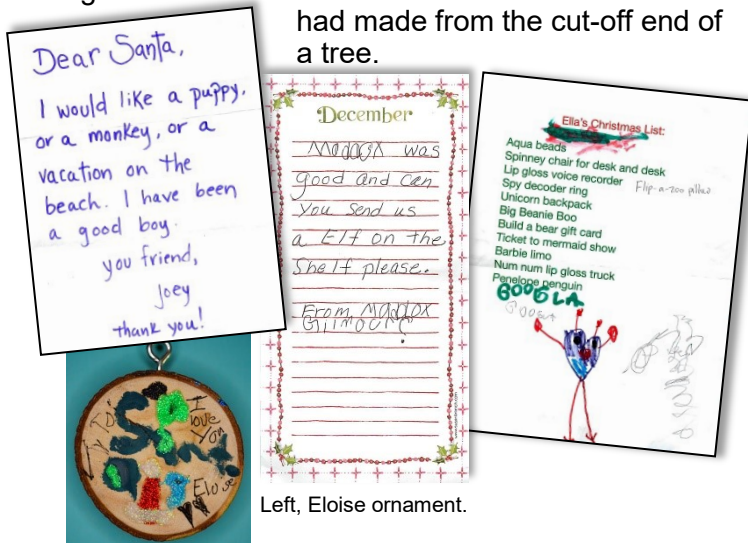
Photo Steve Kady

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

Santa Haus Update: Santa wrangler **Craig Eley** shared that a number of youngsters came to the Santa Haus with notes for Santa, see below. And, Eloise, brought an ornament for the Santa House tree that she had made from the cut-off end of a tree.



Left, Eloise ornament.

CO-WY Brain Bowl: Karl Geil noted Christmas notwithstanding, the Brain Bowl is coming. Here are these important dates:

Reader Training Sessions:

- Dec. 30, 2017, 9:00 a.m., Valmont Presbyterian Church in Boulder;
- Jan. 2, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Hamilton Middle School in Denver
- Jan. 16, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Heritage High School in Littleton

2018 Tournaments: North Region:

- Jan. 6, 2018, Standley Lake High School in Westminster Central Region
- Jan. 20, 2018, Heritage High School in Littleton South Region
- Feb. 3, 2018, Horizon Middle School in Colorado Springs

Championship Tournament:

- Feb. 24, 2018, Hamilton Middle School in Denver

Granddad Don Thomson: In an email from daughter, Julie Vaught, "Don Thomson's magic only lasts for so long. This is Don and Joyce Thomson's 11 month old grandson Liam Vaught from Seattle, WA."



Santa, aka Don, with beard.



Santa, aka Don, without beard.

Email from Past CO-WY Governor Hartwig: "It does my heart good to read your stories of the good news coming from those who give tips and have grati-

tude for the work MSOC does with the Christmas tree lots. Awesome! Thanks, and best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all. Bob & Carolyn Hartwig, Kihelakayo! Keep Going."

Do not forget next Friday, December 29

"Kids to Breakfast" starting around 8:10, right after the normal breakfast meeting.

You are invited to bring kids and grandkids to enjoy some excellent entertainment.

This year we are featuring one of our own,

Dan Rodriguez, a world-class magician, having performed as a headlined act in Las Vegas.



Christmas White Elephant Gift Exchange

Today was the day for the notorious Christmas White Elephant Gift Exchange. One twist this year, "The Real Santa" **Oscar Sorensen** brought along "The Future Santa" **Craig Eley**, since Oscar has decided to hang up his socks and let someone else do the work.



MSOC Santa, aka Craig Eley.
Photos Noel Hasselgren

Welcome Santa Eley and thanks a bunch from all who have enjoyed Santa Oscar's antics over these past many years.

As usual, chaos ensued with wrapping paper everywhere and many interesting gifts, several of which have been seen before, several times.

Lucky **Donlie Smith** walked away with the giant bird feeder.

There were several gifts that appeared only briefly and several left on tables when the meeting was over. Santa Craig acquitted himself well and most probably will be back next year for a repeat performance.



Donlie Smith receives a giant cut-glass bird feeder.



Kent Gloor with over the shoe ice treads.



Jack Kitchell with a "what is this?"

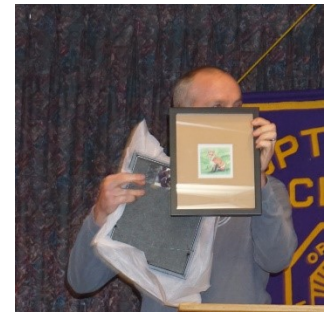
Gift Exchange Continued



At left, Pat Bush shows off his wine glass that fits the whole bottle of wine.



Gary Strowbridge displays somebody's first clay sculpture attempt.

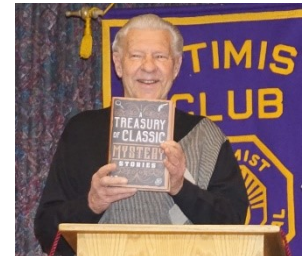


Mike McMahon shows off his set of children's book artwork.

At right, John Oss gets what he has always wanted, a bad Christmas sweater like Greg Young & Jon Wachter were wearing, shown below.



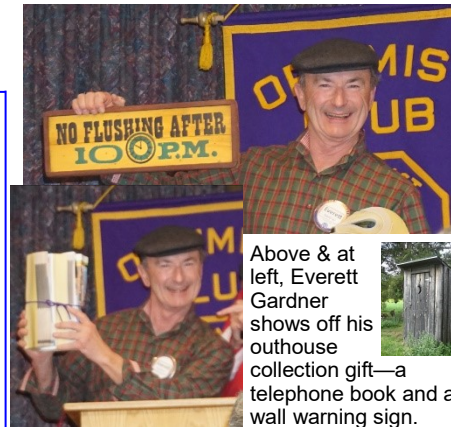
Leo Hagele try's to figure out what he received in this plastic bag.



Oscar Sorensen has some reading to do with "A Treasure of Classic Mystery Stories."

Do We Have a Drawing

Whit a \$130 in the pot this week we had no winner if they could draw the Four of Diamonds. Both **Everett Gardner** and **Robert Wardlaw** went for the big money, but to no avail. After several, including the ever-present **Jack Kleinheksel**, **Ron Gustas**, **Jim Easton**, **Kent Gloor**, **Donlie Smith** and your editor, **George Buzick**, took the "small money." **Everett Gardner** had a second shot at the big money, when his name was called for having his badge on, but he was again not successful.



Above & at left, Everett Gardner shows off his outhouse collection gift—a telephone book and a wall warning sign.



Even our photographer, Noel Hasselgren got something that he knew he didn't want.

January Super Citizen Presenters

Jan 16 @ 2:30	MPB	Tom Kramis
Jan 25 @ 1:00	McMeen	Mike White
Jan 26 @ 3:00	Bradley	Jon Wachter

Weekly Greeters

12/29/17	Steve Kady & Phil Perington
1/5/18	Bob Avery & Jon Wachter
1/12/18	Joe Marci & Jim VanderKamp

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

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

Dec 25

Dec 29 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Kids to Breakfast, with Magician Dan Rodriguez

Jan 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018**

Jan 5 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Julia Jung, Florence Crittenton Services

Jan 6 Sat 6:45 am North Regional Brain Bowl, Stanley Lake HS, Westminster, CO

Jan 12 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA

Jan 19 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day

Jan 24 Wed 6:15 pm OCMS Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way

Jan 26 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Bill Morgan, Building Violins

MARK YOUR CALENDAR, Friday, Feb. 16 — Sweetheart to Breakfast

**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	jp Piccinelli@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.