



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 27, 2019 – Vol. 44, Issue 13



## Optimist Club of Monaco South



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

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](http://www.monacosouth.org)



**OPTIMIST**  
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Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw



### Good Morning Optimists

On this morning with snow in the forecast but yet a clear and crisp day we are greeted by **Dave Peck** and **Allen Malask**. As we assemble we are a small but spirited group. Over the spirit of Christmas we now await the eve of the new year.



Dave Peck & Allen Malask, with guests name tags in hand, they show they are ready to meet everyone.

Photos Noel Hasselgren

### First Bell, Invocation & Pledge

**President Bob Meyer** asks us to greet the living creatures around us and we oblige. He calls on **Bob Avery** to read us the invocation this morning. *“Oh, Timeless God, thank you for bringing us through another year. Help us become the best parents we can be. Become less critical, and to become our own best friends and have a fuller appreciation of the wonders of life. And, with those we love and those we serve.”*

**Bob Avery** then leads us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.



### Guests

**Mark Metevia** introduces Larry Rich who is our guest this morning. Larry is a DU law school graduate who has practiced for 42 years, starting a boutique firm of three attorneys. In 1992 he began managing his families wealth with a strong commitment to philanthropy. Today he is entrusted with managing their giving, which benefits both national and international charitable causes and benefits education, medical, and safety issues in regard to children and the betterment of mankind.

### From the Prez: On This Date in History

As had become the norm, **Prez Bob** shares with us the birthdays and significant events that have happened on this day going back in time. Here is what he reported: on this date in 1822, Louis Pasteur was born, as was Marlene Dietrich, in 1901; and was Paul Stastny, who at one time played ice hockey for the Colorado Avalanche. For events Prez Bob reports that in 1831, Charles Darwin departs England on board the HMS Beagle for a survey of South America; in 1904, “*Peter Pan*” or, the Boy Who Wouldn’t Grow Up debuts in London; and in 1947, the Howdy Doody first episode starts.

To see Howdy, Buffalo Bob, and Clarabell, [click the link](#).

### Announcements

**Brain Bowl is Coming:** **Karl Geil** announces that **2020 Optimist Brain Bowl** the Brain Bowl is coming. He shares that the first Brain Bowl Reader training will be on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> in Karl’s office, 1325 S. Colorado Boulevard from 9 a.m. until noon. There are additional training activities on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at Heritage High School; Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the offices of Osgood & Osgood; and Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at Library 21C in Colorado Springs.

The first tournament is the Central Region Tournament on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> to be held at Heritage High School, 1401 W Geddes Ave., Littleton. More details and how to contact Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy DeNiro, can be found on the official Brain Bowl webpage at <https://www.optimistbrainbowl.org/>.

**Hamilton Middle School Super Citizen:** **Tom Mauro** announces that he is excited about a new garbage disposal he received for Christmas and looks forward to getting it installed. He then reports that Hamilton Middle School had a Super Citizen assembly on December 19<sup>th</sup> with **Paul Stratton** making the presentation.

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

**Final Tree Lot Report:** Tom Kramis gives a recap for the Tree Lot and thanks those who put in a lot of time this year. Tom appreciates all the hard work. We had 1,545 hours of volunteer service this year. Tom is putting a cap on activities for the Tree Lot and will need help putting away the racks, which are the last thing left to do. We sold 1,375 trees this year. Great job to all!

**New Super Citizen Schools:** Starting in the New Year we will have two new Super Citizen Schools—Ellis Elementary School, 1651 S. Dahlia St. and Sabin World Elementary School, 3050 S. Vrain St. Ellis contacted us in regard to our program, since the principal, Ms. Jamie Roybal was familiar with it when she was at McMeen, while Sabin came to us through contacts of **Steve Kady**. **Don Thomson** has volunteered to be the SC representative while getting the Ellis Elementary School up and running and Bill Morgan and John Ossill will be serving as SC representatives as the Sabin World Elementary School program starts. We welcome these two schools to our Super Citizen recognition program along with Bradley International, Hamilton Middle, Holm, Lowry, McMeen, Most Precious Blood, Samuels, and Slavens elementary schools.



In January we have programs for Holm on January 17; Most Precious Blood, January 21<sup>st</sup>; and Bradley on January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in witnessing first hand the excitement of a Super Citizen program contact one of the SC coordinators. They are:

- Bradley, **Jon Wachter**
- McMeen, **Don Thomson**
- Hamilton, **Tom Mauro**
- MPB, **Gary Miller**
- Holm, **Donlie Smith**
- Samuels, **Kent Gloor**
- Lowry, **Paul Stratton**
- Slavens, **Tom Hoch**

Check the Monaco South calendar at <https://www.monacosouth.org/events/calendar> for future Super Citizen programs before the end of this year's academic schedule.

### Does the New Decade Begin in 2020? Or 2021?

During the morning camaraderie, these questions were overheard. Some said on New Year's eve the decade ends on the stroke of midnight December 31, 2019, and the start of the new decade begins, January 1, 2020. Others argued that the new decade would not start until January 1, 2121. Therefore, your editor did some research to find the answer. Well it was quite easy to find the answer since *The Farmer's Almanac* states, "For a decade to begin, we must start with the year ending with 1 (2021) and finish with 10, or so far as chronology is concerned, a year ending in 0 (2030)." Additionally, here is an article by Steve Warren on the CBNNews.com webpage supporting that finding and providing some interesting history—Click Here, "[Does the New Decade Begin in 2020? Or 2021? You Can Blame Two Old Men for the Confusion.](#)"



## Nearly 3 Billion Birds Gone Since 1970

Another topic recently heard in the morning discussion was regarding the loss of many common birds. According to a study complete by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Common birds—the species that many people see every day—have suffered the greatest losses. More than 90% of the losses (more than 2.5 billion birds) come from just 12 families including the sparrows, blackbirds, warblers, and finches.

We have lost 1 in 4 breeding birds since 1970.

The first-ever comprehensive assessment of net population changes in the U.S. and Canada reveals across-the-board declines that scientists call "staggering." All told, the North American bird population is down by 2.9 billion breeding adults, with devastating losses among birds in every biome.

Forests alone have lost 1 billion birds. Grassland bird populations collectively have declined by 53%, or another 720 million birds. Learn more @ <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back>

Here are 7 Simple Ways to Help Birds

1. Make Windows Safer, Day and Night—Simple adjustments to your windows can save birds' lives. Use bird reflectors for windows.
2. Keep Cats Indoors—Indoor cats live longer, healthier lives. Outdoor cats kill more birds than any other non-native threat.
3. Reduce Lawn by Planting Native Species—The U.S. has 63 million acres of lawn. That's a huge potential for supporting wildlife.
4. Avoid Pesticides—Look for organic food choices and cut out some of the 1 billion pounds of pesticides used in the U.S. each year.
5. Drink Coffee That's Good for Birds—Shade-grown coffees are delicious, economically beneficial to farmers, and help more than 42 species of North American songbirds.
6. Protect Our Planet From Plastics—91% of plastics are not recycled, and they take 400 years to degrade.
7. Watch Birds, Share What You See—Bird watchers are one of science's most vital sources of data on how the ecological world is faring.

New York Times op-ed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology director John Fitzpatrick and study coauthor Peter Marra.



### A Bit of New Year Humor



## Bob Sweeney Stories from the newspaper business

Bob Sweeney is our speaker this morning. Bob has published *The Villager* Newspaper for 38 years. Bob is a member of the Lions Club for over 50 years, starting in Craig, CO. He is a proud graduate of Colorado State University.

Bob is also a proud member of this American Legion Hall. He was a tank battalion leader in the Army, during the Vietnam War era. After serving in the Army he returned to ranching, back home in Craig. A new newspaper had been started. So, to make a change, Bob sold ads for the newspaper, while also working part time for his father on the ranch. His biggest customer invited him to a Lions Club meeting, and after his first meeting, he walked out as Secretary of the club. As secretary he learned the ins and outs of the Club, both locally and as a national group.

Bob eventually became the owner of the local paper in Craig, called Northwest Colorado Press, in the early 1960's. Where he discovered just how hard it is to put out a paper. Eventually he learned how to put out a paper using newer form of printing, resulting in better pictures and quality. His weekly became the preferred read competing against the other local paper.

Thirteen years later bought out the other newspaper in town. Bob was able to make the paper into a daily and eventually had 15 newspapers in Colorado. He and his family did that for 15 years. The organization had 80 employees with newspapers covering much of the north and west of Colorado.

Bob tells us about a meeting with a potential buyer of that Colorado paper, when Bob asking him "did you bring your checkbook?" The paper group was sold during that meeting.

After his sale he moved to Cherry Hills and discovered that the Cherry Hills area did not have a newspaper. That is when he decided to start *The Villager*. Since its conception, *The Villager* has become the largest paid Colorado owned newspaper and is truly a "legal paper." There are requirements to be classified as a legal paper. He shares there have been 64 legal newspapers in Colorado, since the 1860's, when our state became legal.

The newspaper business as a whole would be hurt by the internet, but Bob never imagined the changes that have resulted from this new technology. Dean Singleton, the former publisher of the Denver Post, owned over 160 newspapers at one time. In a way, the internet has really helped with



Bob Sweeney  
Photo Noel Hasselgren

publishing papers. The layout, design, and printing of the paper, is now done mostly on computers. Overall, the newspaper business has changed over the years.

In talking about a couple of topics that are close to his hearts, Bob mentions how service clubs have all suffered recently by declining memberships. And now younger people now do not seem to be joining these types of clubs. Service Clubs have made their community a better place. For example, the Lions Club is involved in giving sight tests to elementary school kids. The time of finding the type of person

who will work on these projects, is a constant search. We as a volunteer organization know full well the struggles of finding people to staff shifts needed to work in our projects such as the Tree Lot.

Bob then talks about retail businesses and the dearth of locally owned businesses, and if we destroy that retail industry, the sales tax that comes from them which funds our city services will be lost, and underfunded. The world is changing, or has it changed already?

He then shares that the rise of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, 25 to 30% of people are seeking a more socialist government, which definitely will create some additional problems.

So how do we find new membership? If each of us brought in just one guest, we would double the size of this club. "Just ask!" Enjoy the fellowship that comes with each meeting, and it is amazing what it does for the person involved. The younger generation seems not to be too interested in these types of organizations. Is it possible for our club to tap into the resources we have in our own community to continue this valuable part of our society?

The power of computers, newspapers do not need as many people as they once did. *The Denver Post*, for example is owned by a hedge fund out of New York. As we have seen, the reporters and columnists that work at the Post have demonstrated against this ownership group demanding changes. These have come with limited results that could be viewed as improvements. Reduced costs have allowed newspapers to do more with less and still make enough money to stay open.

During some questions, **Paul Stratton** asked about how Bob's paper has done; does he see any trends? Bob notes that he believes his paper is coming back and seems to be doing well. See more about Bob-[CLICK HERE](#)

**Thanks Bob for sharing your story with us!**

### Drawing

**Do we have a drawing? YES**, with a \$140 in the pot this morning and the 3 of Hearts being the lucky card for that sum.



**Allen Perce** is first to draw a card, but come up short. As he calls the next number, Allen draws his own and walks off with a cup. The next number brings up **Allen Malask** who draws a card but is not a winner. With the next number, **George Buzick** takes a cup, as does **Tom Hoch**, **Curt Boell**, and **Bill Morgan**.

**Prez Bob** draws **Pat Bush's** name from the plastic jar for having your name tag on, but Pat does not draw the winning card. So, the pot keeps growing!

### Closing Pledge

We recite the **Optimist Creed** and go forth to spread the word of Optimism.



Weekly Greeters	
1/3/20	Harry Fegley & Don Roth
1/10/20	?

**Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 43<sup>rd</sup> Year — Chartered in 1976**  
**See the Online Calendar @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/Events/Calendar>**

<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>Tue</b>		<b>NEW YEARS EVE</b>
<b>Jan 1</b>	<b>Wed</b>		<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020</b>
Jan 3	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Karl Giel, Brain Bowl
Jan 10	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Ron Benson, OI Foundation
Jan 11	Sat	7:00 am	Brail Bowl Central, Heritage High School, 1401 W. Geddes Ave., Littleton
Jan 16	Thur	6:00 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Jan 17	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
Jan 17	Fri	8:10 am	Super Citizen, Holm Elementary
Jan 21	Tue	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood Elementary
Jan 24	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
Jan 25	Sat	7:00 am	Brail Bowl North, Standley Lake High School, 9300 W. 104th Ave., Westminster

**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.