

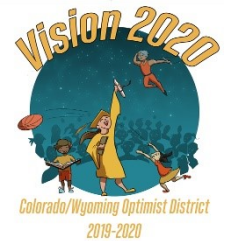


Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 6, 2019 – Vol. 44, Issue 10

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



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw

Good Morning Optimists

On this cold December morning and the start of the “Remember Pearl Harbor Weekend” we gather for our meeting. Our greeters, who were present, evidently forgot to take their place, so **Paul Stratton** stood in as the official greeter this morning. As a reminder, to be a greeter see **Jon Wachter**. It is a good way to meet many of our members.



On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and lead to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2000 American citizens were killed and more than 1000 were injured.

timeanddate.com

this day. He then calls on **John Oss** to give the invocation this morning. “O Merciful and comforting God, as we remember Twyla Buzick, wife of our member George, and those members who have finished their time here on earth give them eternal rest. Help us not to live in fear of death, and of the life that we have before us.”

John then lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United Stated of America.

First Bell

At the ringing of the first bell, President **Bob Meyer** calls on us greet one another and welcome them on



Guests

With the call for guests, **Paul Stratton** introduces **Lynn Wilson**. Lynn’s family bought a Christmas tree recently and his daughter told him “you got to join this club!” Editor, “We hope to see you back Lynn!”

John Young introduces his wife **Claire Young**, who joins us this morning. Claire is the charter President of the Tamarac Optimist Club, when the club was founded on June 3, 1993. The Tamarac Optimist Club was sponsored by MSOC.

December Birthdays

Prez Bob request that we share a birthday song with

those celebrating birthdays this month. He calls out **Curt Boell**, 12-18; **Ron Cisco**, 12-28; **Noel Hasselgren**, 12-28; **Bob Meyer**, 12-13; **Frank Rowe**, 12-3; **Kurt Siebold**, 12-28; **Mark Westlund**, 12-11; and **Cory Young**, 12-21.

On This Date in History

As has become the norm, **Prez Bob** shares some events that have taken place on this date, December 6th, such as in 1849 **Harriet Tubman** escapes from slavery for the second and final time; in 1865 the **13th Amendment** was ratified abolishing slavery in the United States. In 1953 **Lou “the Toe” Groza**, playing for the Cleveland Browns kicked 8 PAT’s against the Giants to help win the game 62-14. In 1956 **Nelson Mandela** and 156 others were arrested for political activities in South Africa. In 1961 half back **Ernie Davis** of Syracuse, becomes the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy. In 1964 **Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer** first aired on television. In 1994 **Orange County California**, the largest municipality in U.S. history ever to file for bankruptcy. And last, on December 6, 1941, the day before infamy, was a pleasant day and many have forgotten that the University of Hawaii and Willamette University of Salem, Oregon were playing a football game sponsored by the Shriners as a charity event.

Bradley Helping Hands JOI Club

Jon Wachter says Bradley’s Helping Hands JOI Club is having a great year! What is JOI Club? Think of our JOI Club kids like a Cub Scout who will be an Eagle Scout someday. In our case, these are 5th graders at the neighborhood grade school that are having fun while learning public speaking skills, the tenets of the Optimist Creed, and what it is like being in a community service club.

A lot of the JOI Club kids are former Super Citizen winners and have seen many



The officers of the Bradley Helping Hands JOI Club.
Photo Jon Wachter

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

Optimist members participating at the school since kindergarten, in many cases, and it is a natural progression for them to want to join the JOI Club in 5th grade. This fall the Bradley Helping Hands JOI Club membership drive signed up 42 members, nearly 90% of all the 5th graders, at the Bradley International School. The elected JOI Club Presidents are instrumental in running meetings (and ringing the bell), spearheading the annual school fundraiser, and being the captain of their classrooms "Know Brainer" team.

Early in the fall semester each of the 5th grade classroom votes for a "President and 'you can't run if you don't give a speech.'" One class had 8 out of 18 students running, some speeches are rehearsed, and right on target, others, not so much. Our friend, Ms. Cypress, videoed speeches and is editing a montage to show the club. On December 17th we are taking a field trip to visit with the seniors citizens at a nearby facility, the University Hills Senior Residences. There they will have snacks and a juice box while practicing Know Brainer team tactics. Other kids will bring reports they are working on to talk about and the senior center provides senior themed games for young and old to play together. "I am so impressed with these kids, so far this year, two of the club presidents have memorized the creed and recited it back in front of the club." (I reward them with \$5.)

The JOI Club is wrapping up the school's annual Spark Change fundraiser and have \$1,030 in the bank so far. The kids have a handful of charities they picked to research to make an informed donation, including Denver Dumb Friends League, Bessie's Hope, Rocky Mountain Cat Rescue, Ronald McDonald House, St Judes, Colorado Red Cross, UC Children's Hospital, Unicef, a homeless shelter, and Brent's Place. Once they narrow it down, they will invite in representatives to pitch their charity and the kids vote on 3 or 4 to get a share of the funds.

Our school JOI Club partner is Jessica Robles, a 5th grade reading instructor. Along with her, the three 5th grade teachers trust us to do the right thing and make all the kids feel that there is something in them. I have seen Bradley teachers and students at the tree lot this year as well, supporting our efforts to help bring out the best in kids and ourselves.

Announcements

Tree Lot Update: Greg Young takes the mic and updates us on the progress of the Tree Lot. We have sold 466 trees to date. Sixty-four members have worked so far, and we are on our way to a goal of 100 members working on the lot. This weekend is going to be HUGE and we need "all hands on deck." We need help on all shifts this weekend. So, get out there and help sell some trees. To sign up go to http://www.msocxmas.org/xmas_schedule.php and select your day and time. BE SURE TO SAVE.



President Bob says we need help all day tomorrow.

Tree Lot Trailer Remodeled: Everyone was pleased to see the remodeled tree lot trailer. Many hours of work was done by **Cesar Camarena, Mark Metevia, Tom Kramis**, and others on this project.



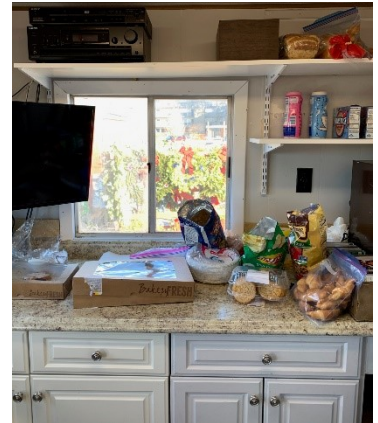
Above, the customer service counter with Dick Nickoloff on duty. Notice the new Square point of sale terminal.



At top right Jon Wachter is hanging a "wall of club activities and achievements, plus setting up a product display shelf. Here you can too you see the new floor that was installed.

Lower right, the back of the trailer with the TV and snack area for tree lot workers. Notice the new storage areas, cabinets, and counter tops that have been installed. Also, the whole interior has received new coat of paint.

Thanks to all that had a hand in this well done project.



Tree Lot Stories: Harry Fegley shares three good stories involving our Tree Lot. First, a young lady showed up to buy a tree 2 days before the lot was open, and **Tom Kramis** accommodated her. A couple days later two young ladies bought a tree on her recommendation. Second, a young man showed up, and bought a tree telling Harry that was the most fun he had ever had making a donation. Third, Harry points out that the new changes to the trailer are awesome, and a big "Thank You to those who completed the improvements."

Harry also passes around a story found in this week's "Denver YourHub" from the *Denver Post* featuring the Tree Lot. [See it here, CLICK.](#)

Food for the Lot: Joe Marci, talks about the food for the lot and what, if any, requests there are for what to eat. Joe is covering for **Ron Cisco** who has a torn tendon in his feet and is not able to man his regular duties for providing sustenance. Also, Ron's 52 year old son has recently suffered a stroke, so please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Continued next page

December Super Citizen Presenters		
Dec 8 @ 1:00	Samuels	Joe Marci
Dec 12 @ 9:00	McMeen	?
Dec 13 @ 8:30	Slavens	Michael Chavez
Dec 17 @ 2:30	MPB	George Buzick
Dec 19 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Paul Stratton
Dec 20 @ 3:00	Bradley	Bob Avery

Announcements Continued

Brain Bowl is Coming: Karl Geil shouts those familiar words, the “*Brain Bowl is coming, the Brain Bowl is coming.*” He then explains that this an academic contest for middle school kids and share that it will take 135 volunteers to properly staff the events. If you would like to volunteer please sign up and get involved. Dates and times are included on the **GUMS** distribution email and at www.optimistbrainbowl.org/. You can also signup for volunteering and training on this webpage.

Christmas Basket Distribution: Michael Chavez has Christmas baskets that will be distributed on Saturday, December 21st and he passes around the signup sheet. Be in the American Legion parking lot at 8 a.m.

Tree Lot Chili Cook Off: Michael Chavez has also stepped up in Ron Cisco’s absence to continue the Chili Cook Off and keep the tradition going. Initial plans are for Sunday, December 22nd. Various entries are tendered and the challenge has begun. Have your chili ready to be taste judged at 11:30 on that date. For details, see Michael.

Greeter Signup & Club Meeting Invitation Cards: Jon Wachter first acknowledges that traveler Randy

Marcove is in the house. He then reports that a “New Signup List for Greeters” is circulating. Jon also shares that he has a new box of Club invitation cards for people we meet who would be great members to join us—invite them for a Friday breakfast and possibly to join the club. Speaking of which, he introduces Joe Hamilton and tells us that Joe and his girlfriend came to the Tree Lot and received a card from Jon and is joining us this morning. Joe shares that he was born in Denver and has been in Colorado all his life. Currently he is developing his plumbing business. He is interested in learning more about what we do and possibly joining.

Rhinestone Cowboy Holiday Party: Kent Gloor announces that the Rhinestone Cowboy Holiday Party is next week—see **GUMS** distribution email for details. Friday, December 13 at Calvary Baptist Church, starting at 5 p.m. Western food and fun will be provided, the cost is \$25 per person. RSVP to Nancy DeNiro, 720-232-6048 ASAP.



Together 4 Colorado Toy Drive: Steve Kady calls for volunteers for the CBS4 & King Soopers, S. Colorado & Yale in University Hills Shopping area Toy Drive. Steve needs a Santa and two helpers to load gifts on Thursday, December 12th, at 5:30 a.m.

Brad Appel Founder & Executive Director, Wish for Wheels

Bob Avery introduces our speaker this morning, Brad Appel the founder and executive director for “Wish for Wheels.” **Wish for Wheels** gives new bikes and helmets to 2nd graders in the Title I schools (low-income) throughout the United States through donations from companies to sole proprietary/service organizations. This new bike is the vehicle to wellness, community, higher attendance, better test scores, and FREEDOM for these students!



Brad Appel
Photo Noel Hasselgren

Brad explains that Wish for Wheels partners with organizations that want to help build bikes as a team building activity. The organization started in 2005, and first give away 65 bikes. They relaunched in 2015 when he was able to come on full-time. The organization goes into schools to give all the kids in the 2nd grade a new bike. The bike becomes a vehicle for independence and broadens the students scope. Every year they give away to DPS students as well as to students schools across the country.

He explains that they see grades go up as they track the students progress. This year they plan to introduce a STEM program for the kids. They also have a cycle club with 230+ members that ride regularly; if you are a cyclist you may join them. The riders are from beginner all the way up who join

in the fun.

The bikes that are built and given away come from Huffly and have a 20” frame. It is partially, 65%, assembled and at times volunteers work with kids to build the bikes, and at the end each kid gets a bike. They have corporate partners like Google, Audi, and all the way down to mom and pop shops.

The organization partners with Walmart to distribute the bikes, they buy direct from Huffly. Helmets are also bought from a company out of China, and are fitted for each child. Wish for

Wheels has a nationwide footprint with one chapter here in Denver. Brad will fly out to locations to help with building events and to work with different locations. Each bike is fitted with a custom name tag that goes on the bike and helmet. The whole goal is to build the interaction with the kid around the bike, and learning to ride. Over the years 50,000+ bikes have ben given away. He has found that the bikes get recycled and are used for years.

Brad would love for our club to get involved and help assemble bikes. A wonderful organization and worthwhile cause.

Do We Have A Drawing

With a \$110 in the pot we had some winners. Jack Kleinheksel was the first to take a cup, then Don Thomson takes a cup, and Jack Kleinheksel number is called again. This time he goes for the draw and comes up short. Others that took a cup are Karl Geil, John Oss, and Jack Kleinheksel wins again and takes a cup, as does Alan Malask. Russ Paul took the last draw but came up short.

Prez Bob picks Dave Telpner’s name from the plastic jar but he too does not draw the winning card.



Weekly Greeters	
12/13/19	Don Thomson & Mike White
12/20/19	Tom Hoch & Eldon Strong

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

Dec 12	Thu	5:00 am	Channel 4 Toy Drive, King Soopers, 2450 S Colorado Blvd
Dec 12	Thu	9:00 am	Super Citizen, McMeen Elementary
Dec 13	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Michelle Freeman, High Line Canal Conservancy
Dec 13	Fri	8:30 am	Super Citizen, Slavens Elementary
Dec 13	Fri	5:00 pm	Christmas Party: Rhinestone Cowboy Holiday, Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E Girard
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

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.