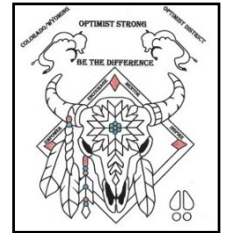




Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



December 8, 2017 – Vol. 42, Issue 10

Optimist Club of Monaco South



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



Good Morning Optimist

On this day after the 76th anniversary of the “Day that will live in Infamy” (The bombing of Pearl Harbor), the air was



pure, and a trace of moisture was in the air as the members of the Optimist Club of Monaco South were greeted with a smile and a salutation by **Frank Middleton** and a clean shaven (almost) **Michael Chavez**.

Left, Frank Middleton & Michael Chavez greet us on this second Friday of December.

Photo Noel Hasselgren

First Bell

The ever-effervescent **Jim Easton**, our illustrious President called the meeting to order by uttering those immortal words, “Let’s get this party started!”

Invocation & Pledge

Jim asked **Cliff Eley**, a recently new member, to read the invocation and lead us in the Pledge to our flag.



Guests

Harry Arkin introduced his guest, **Ed Volpe**, who is also an attorney, and said that Ed had a signed application and check in hand. Editor: *Welcome Ed! We are looking forward to working with you.*

From the Prez

Prez Jim commented on the funeral of **Ralph Pedersen**, which was held yesterday, Thursday, December 7th. Ralph was a charter member of this club and an active participant in many club activities. In addition to remembrances by Ralph’s kids and other friends, **John Young** spoke on behalf of the many Optimists who were present with their name badges, as requested by Ralph’s wife, Lois. (See John’s comments on page 2.) There was also a recitation of the Optimist Creed.

Jim added, although Ralph is no longer with us physically, his contributions to the club will always be remembered. Lois suggested contributions to the Optimist International Fund (OIF) in Ralph’s memory would be appreciated. (Give checks to **Greg Young** to ensure proper credit).

Jim then reminded us to save the dates for the following events:

- Saturday, December 16 – Annual Holiday Party
- Sunday, December 17 – Chili Cook-off at tree lot
- Friday, December 22 – White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Friday, February 16 – Sweetheart Breakfast

Announcements

King Soopers Cards: **Frank Middleton** made a pitch for buying King Soopers Cards as stocking stuffers. The cards are reloadable and can be purchased from Frank at a mere \$10 and you can load them up to \$500 for as long as you like, plus the club gets 5 percent of gross sales.



The Brain Bowl: **Karl Geil** reminded us that, Christmas notwithstanding, the Brain Bowl is coming, and quickly. Remember, all readers must attend a training session before they will be allowed to read. The first training in Denver is Tuesday, January 2, 2018, 6 to 9 p.m. at Hamilton Middle School. Also, Karl is looking for an individual to train as his replacement on the Brain Bowl Leadership Team, in the unlikely event that he should ever retire.



Dime-A-Day: Our OI Foundation representative, **Perry Allen**, said that he had received 10 checks for the Dime-a-Day program after his and **Ron Cisco’s** presentation last week and he was sure that the Club would surpass last year’s record participation. You can give a check made out to the OI Foundation for \$36.50 any time, even in 2018.

TJHS Art Festival: **Tom Glazier** reminded us that the TJ ArtFest will be held tomorrow, Saturday, December 9th, and that he needs some help in setting up his books in the cafeteria. (See the follow up story on page 2.)

Poinsettia Sale: **Evan Easton**, son of **President Jim**, reported deliver of poinsettia plants will be to the tree lot for pick up on Saturday, December 16. Evan has been selling poinsettia plants as a choir fundraiser. For those who cannot pick up, Evan and Jim will make delivery arrangements.

Thank You to Lois: In last weeks GUMS distribution email **Dick Nickoloff** made a plea for an adjustable walker for his wife. Dick said that **Lois Pedersen** read that he needed a walker and had given him Ralph’s old walker, saying, “he won’t need it in heaven.”

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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*****

Announcements Continued

New Fitness Center: Steve Kady said that the new CHUZE fitness center, in Villa Monaco, near our Tree Lot would be doing a Grand Opening this weekend and that some of their customers might be potential customers for our tree lot, which is just across the parking lot. ([See details on CHUZE fitness here.](#))

Channel 4 Toy Drive: Steve Kady also mentioned the toy drive for the Boys and Girls Clubs would be held on Friday, December 15th. CBS4 will hold a day-long Collection Event at King Soopers, at Colorado and Yale, with coverage during all CBS4 newscasts starting at 5:00 a.m. To watch all of CBS4's reports about the *Together 4 Colorado Toy Drive*, [click here](#). (Editor's note: Treasurer **Greg Young**, reports, *In addition to the money already in the club budget, \$350, members passed the hat and contributed an additional \$150 to this worthy cause. So \$500 should buy a lot of gifts.*)

Christmas Tree Lot Update: Joe Marci shared that 300 trees were sold last weekend and that 73 members have worked in some capacity at the tree lot so far. Our goal is 100 members participating. Several day managers for the lot pleaded with members to fill shifts, especially weekends, and evenings. Funds raised at the tree lot allows us to continue to serve the kids and the community with the same outstanding programs as in the past, so sacrifice a little of your free time to help us out.

Christmas Basket Delivery: Michael Chavez said that he believed that there were sufficient volunteers to deliver Christmas baskets on Saturday, December 23. Be at the Legion Hall by 8:00 a.m. to pick up the baskets.

Weekly Drawing

With \$110 in the big pot and the 10 of Diamonds the card to draw, there was no big winner today.

While **Noel Hasselgren** and **Ron Gustas** took a shot at the big money, neither was successful.

Among the "take the money and run" guys were: **Perry Allen**, **Don Thomson**, **Tom Hoch**, **Eldon Strong**, **Karl Geil**, and **Evan Easton** (who seems to win whenever he shows up). Although **Don Thomson** got a second shot by wearing his name badge, he also failed to coax the elusive Ten of Diamonds from the deck of 43 cards.

Yesterdays TJ ArtFest

Craig Eley reported it was a warm, clear morning at Thomas Jefferson High School on Saturday, December 9 as 12 men of Monaco South gathered at 7 a.m. to guide the vehicles of TJ ArtFest crafters to places to unload their wares. They also helped them get their goods into the gym and to their assigned booth spaces. TJ provided coffee, donuts, and breakfast burritos for the MSOCer's comfort. While this was going on, **Tom Glazier** was organizing and running the used book sale part of the Art-Fest. Everyone was gone and



Celebration of Life, Ralph C. Petersen

by John Young

As one part of this Celebration of Life – I am honored to tell about Ralph's life as an Optimist.

In 1976, Ralph and I – along with 41 other men – became Charter Members of the Monaco South Optimist Club. Most clubs today have both men and women as members. Monaco South, however, has remained 100% men. We are a "Band of Brothers."

For 41 years now, we have worked together to serve the youth of our community. From the very beginning, Ralph contributed to the success of the club in many ways.

He served on the Board of Directors eight times. Five times he was Secretary, and five times Treasurer. He was the first chairman of the Youth Activities Committee. Many of the programs he initiated continue to this day.

He declined several nominations to be president. He preferred working quietly and efficiently behind the scenes.

Ralph loved the Junior Golf program. He chaired or co-chaired the District program three times and went to the International Tournament in Florida as a youth chaperone.

As a retired banker, Ralph also volunteered to collect and account for the Christmas tree lot money. He did this for many years. Every day from Thanksgiving to Christmas, he tallied the sales for the day.

And finally, Ralph along with several other "Band of Brothers" met every Monday morning for years to copy, fold, label, and mail the weekly newsletter. When email took over, Ralph Pedersen, Marlin Kent, Jim Leuschner, Jim Piccinelli, and Dick Zolman met for coffee and mailing the few copies that weren't done by email.

Yes, Ralph was a tireless worker. But the Monaco South Optimists also know how to have fun. Ralph and Louie were almost always in attendance at all social events, i.e., square dancing, Valentine and Christmas parties, Honeymoon outings, and Installation banquets. They were there!

On behalf of the 140 current members of the Monaco South Optimist Club, we thank you for 41 years of service and fellowship. Would all the Optimists stand now and recite the Optimist Creed together?

Presented at Ralph Pedersen's Memorial Service, Galilee Baptist Church, December 7, 2017. See complete obituary [CLICK HERE](#).



Ralph Petersen with Jim Easton & Michael Chavez.

A personnel note

Thinking of Ralph Pedersen, one of our Charter Members along with John Young, Greg Hurd, Kent Gloor, and Oscar Sorensen my thoughts are of ONLY APPRECIATION AND THANKS for the wonderful service club they started and that has done so much for our community thru the years. It has been a privilege to be a member and be associated with these gentlemen of personal accomplishment and high character and those that have followed thru the years! — Donlie Smith

back to the Tree Lot by 9 a.m., except Tom, who stayed all day to monger used tomes to those who still read such things. Besides Tom, Monaco South volunteers were **Don Roth**, **Gary Strowbridge**, **George Buzick**, **Joe Marci**, **Bob Avery**, **John Young**, **Tom Mauro**, **Oscar Sorensen**, **Harry Fegley**, **Steve Kady**, and **Craig Eley**.



Photos Craig Eley, more can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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John Scarborough In the Shadows of Geeks

Our very own **John Scarborough** was our speaker today. John, along with his partner **Matt Spampinato** also a member of Monaco South, launched their enterprise, Silicon STEM Academy in 2015. See Silicon STEM Academy's website [HERE](#).

According to their website, "*Silicon STEM Academy is a technology workspace and training center for thinkers, tinkerers, and technologists of all ages, with a mission to inspire and equip the next generation of technologists with the skills required to be creative, effective, innovative leaders, and problem solvers in the 21st Century and beyond. Our goal is to help fill the need left unmet by schools to ensure students acquire valuable vocational and life skills. We aim to prepare students to support themselves through college and to gain early entrance into competitive career fields.*" (STEM is the acronym for Science, Engineering, Math, and Technology).

To view and read some John's fascinating presentation and comments see the PowerPoint attachment to the **GUMS**



John Scarborough
Photo Noel Hasselgren

distribution email.

Some highlights included, How the generations of today will change as we move to the year 2025. How the generation born today will shape the future of work. John quoted Mark Zuckerberg, a cofounder of Facebook, "*In 15 years, we'll be teaching programming just like reading and writing ... and wondering why we didn't do it sooner.*" Where Colorado stands in the field of computer science and in the STEM academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Plus, how we must encourage, enrich, educate all students earlier in computer etiquette to minimize cyberbullying, which can turn out to be a major problem.

Hopefully, John (or Matt) will be able to return and give us some more insight into their exciting approach to helping the "geeks" of today, become the STEM leaders of tomorrow.

December 22, White Elephant Gift Exchange

For those who maybe unaware, the Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange any gift you bring can be purchased, a re-gift, or something your wife wants out of the house. A lot of the same gifts show up each year, having been cherished for an entire year by our members. Wrapping it in newspaper or anything else is OK. No gift?



Last year Ron Cisco received a gift he had always wanted—can't you tell by his expression?

Come anyway, there are always plenty of extras. Note:

ing to bring spouses or children—some of the gifts can be surprising. Last year a member brought his daughter, but reports are that she is out of therapy now and doing fine.

Report from Santa Haus



Photos shared by Bob Avery
and the Elgy Santa Cam.

December Super Citizen Presenters

Dec 15 @ 8:30	Slavens	Mark Metavia
Dec 15 @ 3:00	Bradley	Dave Peck
Dec 19 @ 2:30	MPB	Dave Peck
Dec 20 @1:00	McMeen	Joe Campana

Weekly Greeters

12/15/17	Paul Stratton & Ed Collins
12/22/17	Don Roth & Mark Smith
12/29/17	Steve Kady & Phil Perington
1/5/18	A New Year, Greeters TBD

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

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

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 17	Sun	11:00 am	Chili Cook-off at Tree Lot
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	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.