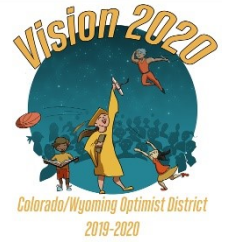




Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

February 14, 2020 – Vol. 44, Issue 20



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—Pat Bush

Good Morning Optimists

Well the commute to the meeting was much easier today as we are on pace to set the record for the snowiest February ever. And, **Happy Valentine's Day!**

This Day is an annual holiday recognized around the world. It celebrates romantic love, making it a popular day for couples to spend together. Valentine's Day is traditionally associated with red hearts, romance, flowers, candy or other sweet things, and the exchange of cards, called valentines, that express love.

Valentine's Day is most commonly associated with romantic love, with millions of Valentine's Day cards being exchanged, and plenty of kisses.

Frank Ross and Dan Rodriguez warmed up our morning with smiles and handshakes as our greeters. **President Bob Meyer** even made it up from Castle Rock to preside over the meeting.

Right, Frank Ross greets Greg Hurd. Evidentially, Dan Rodriguez missed the photo opp.

Photos Noel Hasselgren



First Bell, Invocation & Pledge

President Bob calls on **Larry Pukaski** for our invocation about remembering to let our loved ones know our appreciation for the support comfort they give to us on this special Valentine's Day. Larry also leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

From the Prez

Prez Bob read a thank you note from the East High School Constitutional Scholars for our past and present financial support of their activities.

Prez Bob also shared his list of Birthdays on this Date, which included: Fredrick Douglas, African-American abolitionist and an escaped slave, 1818; Jack Benny, 1894; Woody Hayes and Jimmy Hoffa, 1913; and Michael Bloomberg, 1942.

Prez Bob turned his attention to the MSOC member birthdays who include: **Bob Avery**, 2-26; **Craig Eley**, 2-6; **Tom**

Kramas, 2-2; **Gary Miller**, 2-21; **Russ Paul**, 2-10; **Larry Pukaski**, 2-1; **Cy Regan**, 2-6; **Frank Ross**, 2-17; **Oscar Sorensen**, 2-23; **Eldon Strong**, 2-7; **Jim Tapp**, 2-16; and **Don Thomson**, 2-28.

Events on this date include: in 1803, Chief Justice John Marshall declares that any act of Congress that conflicts with the Constitution is void; 1984, President James Polk becomes first serving president to have his photograph taken; 1924, Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago, allegedly on Al Capone's orders; 1931, the original "Dracula" movie, starring Bela Lugosi is released; 1945, second day of bombing of Dresden by allied forces; 1961, Aretha Franklin records "Respect" and 1971, Richard Nixon installs secret taping system in the White House.



Aretha Franklin

Guests

Guests this morning included Greg Holt, introduced by **Jack Kleinhessel**, and Mikko Kaski introduced by **Steve Kady**. Both are rumored to have submitted a membership application. Welcome to both guests and we look forward to getting to know you better. Also joining us for breakfast was **Charlie Neumann** the CO-WY District Awards Chairman.

Announcements

Hamilton History Day Awards: **Karl Geil** wanted to thank those members that signed up to help judge the History Day Award projects at Hamilton Middle School. However, he wants to know who Phil #2 is, assuming it is not **Phil Perington**, who signed up as himself. Karl offers a reward to any member with information leading to the unmasking of Phil #2.

Brain Bowl South Regional Tournament: **Karl Geil** also announced that they have enough readers for the South Regional Brain Bowl assuming that all who have signed up show up. He indicated, however, that they can still use some help with the other volunteer positions. The South Regional competition will be held at Challenger Middle School, 10215 Lexington Dr., in Colorado Spring next Saturday, February 22nd, starting at 7:00 a.m. Let Karl know if you can help.

John Oss Hospitalized: **Kent Gloor** had some sad news this morning. He asked us to keep **John Oss** in

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

our prayers. John has been diagnosed with leukemia. He is at the Swedish Medical Center. He has some of the nation's expert medical doctors on the team treating John. It is unknown when John will be able to receive visitors.



Peter Dimond Hospitalized: It is was also reported that **Peter Dimond** is in the Aurora Medical Center for an infection. Peter is expected to be discharged soon. We will be thinking of both men in their health struggles and will bring members updated information as it becomes available.

Denver Golf Expo: **Joe Marci** reported that Junior Golf Booth at the Golf Expo went very well. They distributed information about the Colorado-Wyoming District Junior Golf Qualifier Tournaments and OI International Junior Golf Tournament at the Trump National Doral Miami Resort, with over 100 youth golfers. Joe said one mother wanted to fill out the registration form and pay cash for the entry fees for one young golfer right there at the booth. Editor, "Sounds pretty successful to me."

Super Bowl Pool: **Joe Marci** also shared that **Paul Stratton**, who won twice in the \$5.00 per square pool was in attendance today and collected his winnings of two crisp \$100.00 bills, but Paul quickly donated one of those bills back to the Junior Golf program. Thanks, Paul for your generosity.

Rocky Mountain Train Show: **Greg Hurd** announced the [Rocky Mountain Train Show](#) is coming March 7th and 8th to the Merchandise Mart in Denver. This is the largest local train show in the region. He shared that over 400 tables have been sold for buying/selling trains. **Ed Dickens**, UP Heritage Fleet Mgr., from the Union Pacific Steam Shops in Cheyenne will be giving a talk on Saturday morning on what is going on up there with the Big Boy and Northern steam locomotive, 3985. The Show had over 10,000 attendees last year. There will be about 14 operating layouts and a train kids can ride around the inside of the mart. Boy Scouts can get their Railroading Merit Badge by stopping at different identified tables at the show. Also, Boys Scouts get in free if wearing their uniforms, as does active US military get in free with proper current IDs. It costs \$10 per adult for both days. Children under 12 years old get in free. This show is perfect for kids, train nuts like me, and will be a fun day of nostalgia and entertainment for others. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking is free this year at the Mart lot.

Optimist Ski Day: **Bob Avery** reminded us that the Optimist Ski Day is this Tuesday, February 18th at Copper Mountain. Bob will be providing breakfast on Tuesday morning at his condominium. **Kent Gloor** said he will host a dinner at his Breckenridge house on Monday evening. They will provide everything but the meat for dinner. Bring your own choice of meat with you. You can get more information from either **Bob Avery** or **Kent Gloor**.

Eagle Scout Awards Banquet: **Jack Kleinhessel** and **Bob Avery** reported that the Class of 2019, 678 scouts, will be awarded Eagle Scout status at the Eagle Scout Awards Banquet this year. The awards banquet will be held on March 6th at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec St., starting with registration and fellowship and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Monaco South Optimist Club has a table for ten reserved and three spots remain. If you would like a seat at the table, just let Bob or Jack know.

Presidential Rants & Raves



An Optimistic Hello:

I thought we had a great meeting on Valentine's Day Friday! And, I thoroughly enjoyed Cesar's acceptance speech, after being honored as both the District and Monaco South Rookie of the Quarter. Thanks to **Charlie Neumann** for making the presentations to Cesar.

I was honored to give **Charlie** and **Heather** a Valentine's Day rose and a box of chocolate.

Dan Rodriguez' presentation was "magical." We will have **Dan** back at a future date to allow him more time to do another magic presentation.

Yesterday, I attended the District Strategic Growth and Vitality Committee meeting. There was a great exchange of ideas at the almost three-hour meeting.

We followed up on the previous week's discussion at the 2nd Quarter District Meeting on developing an "elevator speech" that can be used when given a short time to talk with someone about Optimism. The committee will synthesize the best ideas and present them in upcoming issues of the Quarterly District Newsletter.

It was reported that online registration for the 2020 OI Convention in Chicagoland is "live" on the OI Convention website, www.optimist.org/convention. Scroll down and find the Convention promo and registration form. If you are going to the OI Convention, go ahead and register online and make your hotel reservations directly with the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center and Hotel through the link on the OI Convention website.

Yesterday afternoon after the District Strategic Growth and Vitality Committee meeting, I visited **John Oss** at Swedish Hospital, along with **Abigail Nicholas** and **Charlie and Gunar Neumann**. John, who is in Room 4824, was in good spirits and described his condition and the excellent care he is receiving from a team of oncologists.

We continue to add new Club members each week (Welcome, Miko!), and 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 for youth in our community. Please remember to Welcome New Club members and encourage their participation in our projects and activities.

As an added incentive for membership growth, I am offering a week at my condo timeshare in Frisco to the MSOC member who sponsors the most new members between October 1, 2019, and April 15, 2020. The week I am offering begins on the last Friday in April 2020. My unit is a two-bedroom and loft condo that easily sleeps six (eight with a pull-out sofa sleeper). I forgot to mention this offer at Friday's meeting, but I will mention it at the next few Club meetings, so be sure to bring in those visitors! Another District-wide membership incentive is a \$50 gift card to your favorite restaurant to anyone who sponsors three new members during the year.

I also ask for your continued support as Monaco South's president. Please provide constructive criticism so that I can lead weekly Club meetings that are fun and informative.

Yours in Optimism,
Prez Bob

Tri-Star Basketball: Monaco South's local Tri-Star Basketball skills contest will be held this Wednesday, February 19th at the Eighth and Inca Boys and Girls Club. **Michael Chavez** asks that all volunteers should report for duty at the Boys & Girls Club by 3:00 p.m. Members will monitor the kids and keep score while they do three drills: Passing, Dribbling, and Shooting. There will be about 60 kids participating and trophies will be awarded at the end. Winners will advance to District Regionals and then the Championship to be held at the Pepsi Center.

Announcements Continued

DTC Optimist Club Wine Tasting: The DTC Optimist Club will be hosting their annual Wine and Silent Auction event on Saturday, April 4th. The featured wines are from Australia, along with numerous tasty appetizers. Several members in Monaco South are selling the \$25 per person tickets to this event through the month of March. The gathering held at the Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard, corner of Monaco and Hampden, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bradley Super Citizen Program: **Jon Wachter** thanked **Jim Easton, Andy Towt, and Pat Bush** for their help at the Bradley Super Citizen Awards Presentation held a couple of weeks ago. Bradley will be conducting a *Know Brainer* mock session on Tuesday the 18th of February and Jon asked for some volunteer to help with that session. Jon is very involved with Bradley school in sponsoring a JOI club (Junior Optimist), conducting Super Citizen Awards, and organizing three Bradley *Know Brainer* teams. He might even serve as a crossing guard and drive the school bus. Thanks Jon!

District Rookie of the Quarter

If you were wondering why **Charlie Neumann**, District Award Chairman, dropped by this morning, it was to present the "Rookie of the Quarter" district award to Monaco South member, **Cesar Camarena**. Charlie presented Cesar with a \$50 gift card and plaque. Cesar headed up the remodel of our Christmas Tree Lot trailer. He installed new cabinets



Karl Geil, Cesar Camarena, & Tom Kramis, listen to Charlie Neumann, District Award Chairman recognizing Cesar as "Rookie of the Quarter," for his work on remodeling the Tree Lot trailer.

including a new cashier's stand, new flooring, and a new TV. Cesar gave a very nice acceptance speech thanking the many members to donated time and material to help him with the remodel. Congratulations, Cesar!

Valentines Day Flowers & Candy

Being Valentine's Day and while we were making presentations, **Prez Bob Meyer** presented Charlie Neumann and Heather Mulqueen, our breakfast caterer, with Valentine flowers and chocolates on behalf of the club. Not to be outdone, Charlie distributed Valentine cookies to the membership. Can you just feel the love in the air. 😊



At left. Charlie Neumann & Heather Mulqueen are presented with flowers & candy in recognition of Valentines Day, by Prez Bob Meyer.

Photos Noel Hasselgren

Optimist International Foundation Election Election — Support Ron Benson

- ♦ OIF Election Rules: Election will be held February 1 through February 29, 2020.
- ♦ Votes will be cast online through the OIF website @ <https://www.oifoundation.org/OIF-Board-Election.cfm#>
- ♦ Eligible Voters: Individuals who were Dime-A-Day members during the 2018/19 year
- ♦ You will need to: Add Your Name
- ♦ Club Number: 25164 (Denver-Monaco South, Co)
- ♦ Select CO-WY Foundation Nominee Ron Benson

A Magical Experience Dan Rodriguez

Today we got a glimpse into the life of fellow member **Dan Rodriguez**, one of our two VPs. Dan is a Denver native born into a family of magicians. So, naturally, Dan developed an interest in magic at a very young age. He became involved in the Denver magical "scene" and started hanging around places like *the "The Magic Shop."*

Many of the local magicians had subtle and not so subtle influences on Dan's development as a magician. He knew our old Optimist member and magician, **Arch Jefferies**. Arch introduced Dan to the owners of the Casa Bonita Restaurant and Dan performed there when Arch could not perform. Dan eventually became a member of the Society of American Magicians and, with his friend Wendel Gibson, founded the Society of Young Magicians. For several years, Dan produced the "Magic Days" convention in Denver. He held many local, regional, and national offices in the Society of American Magicians and served as the National President of the organization in 1993.

Dan is also a hypnotist, on the corporate motivational speaker's circuit, and has written three books. If that was not enough to keep Dan busy, he bought a McDonalds franchise in the '90's and, with his magical skills, turned it into six stores throughout the Denver Metropolitan area. He sold those stores and bought a dry-cleaning business which, as Dan tells it, took him to the cleaners in 2008. He currently owns and operates Signarama, on S. Monaco Parkway. Dan has made many of the signs used at our Christmas Tree Lot and for numerous other projects. You can learn more about Dan's activities on his webpage at www.danrodriguez.com & [YouTube Channel, CLICK HERE.](#)



Dan showing us the umbrella and purse magic trick with Charlie Neumann assisting.

This Weeks Drawing



Today's drawing winners were **Allen Pierce, Ron Cisco, Karl Geil, Dick Nickoloff, Jack Kleinheksel, and Russ Paul**. All those winners elected to take the cash. **Joe Marci, Dan Rodriguez, and Andy Towt** took shots at the deck of cards. Not even Dan's magical hands could find the winning card as the pot grows to \$50 next week.

Weekly Greeters

2/21/20	Crag Eley & Jim VanderKamp
2/28/20	Mark Metevia & Joe Hamilton
3/6/20	Paul Stratton & Tom Mauro

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

Feb 18	Tue	7:00 am	Ski Day at Copper Mountain. See Bob Avery or Kent Gloor
Feb 18	Tue	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood
Feb 19	Wed	3:00 pm	TriStar Basketball Competition, Cope Boys & Girls Club, 808 Inca St.
Feb 20	Thu	6:00 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale, 2nd Floor Community Room
Feb 21	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
Feb 22	Sat	7:00 am	Brail Bowl South, Challenger Middle School, 10215 Lexington Dr., Colorado Springs
Feb 26	Wed	1:00 pm	Super Citizen, Lowry Elementary
Feb 28	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Tom Mauro, Excellence in Education Program
Feb 28	Fri	3:00 pm	Super Citizen, Bradley International School
Mar 5	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School
Mar 6	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA

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: February **Pat Bush**, March **Paul Stratton**, April **Phil Perington**

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.