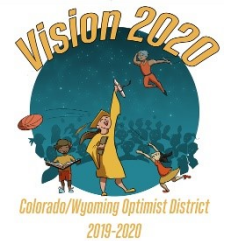




Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

February 28, 2020 – Vol. 44, Issue 22



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

It is Friday, February 28, 2020 with ...

- ◆ 59th day of the year. There are 307 days left in 2020.
- ◆ it is the 9th Friday of 2020 and the 9th week of 2020 (using US standard week number calculation).
- ◆ And it is 69th day of Winter with 21 days left till Spring.



Mark Metevia
Photos Noel Hasselgren

This morning we are greeted with a warm handshake and smile of **Mark Metevia**. Mark was handling the greetings alone, but he seemed to be getting the job done.

First Bell, Invocation & Pledge

President Bob Meyer called on **Frank Middleton** to deliver the morning invocation on giving so much time to improve yourself that you have no time to criticize others. Frank then led us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

From the Prez

As we start this meeting Prez Bob shares his wisdom on what has happened on this date, February 28.

Birthdays on this Date, included: Linus Pauling, 1901, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and an American chemist, biochemist, chemical engineer, peace activist, author, and educator; Bugsy Siegel, 1906, an American mobster and a driving force behind the development of the Las Vegas Strip; Frank Malzone, 1093, Boston Red Sox third baseman; Mario Andretti 1940; Bubba Smith, 1945, professional football player; Bernadette Peters, 1948, actress, singer, and children's book author; and Jason Aldean, 1977, country music singer and songwriter.



Bernadette Peters

Events on this date, included: John Wesley in 1784 chartered the Methodist Church; 1849, first boatload of Gold Rush prospectors arrive in San Francisco from the east coast; 1854, Republican Party founded; 1960, US Men's Hockey Team wins 1st Olympic Gold Medal 9 to 4 over Czechoslovakia; 1994, Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act goes into effect; and in 1995, opening of Denver International Airport, see the opening, [Click Here](#). Click here to see [1995 travelers' guide to DIA](#).



Announcements

Smarter than Brain Bowl Chair: **Craig Eley** announced that the "Are You Smarter Than the Brain Bowl Chair" contest will be held on Friday, March 13th. The only problem is **Karl Geil** is no longer the District Brain Bowl chairman. But Craig reports, "We at Monaco South know better, or at least think we do, so every year we throw our brightest members up against Karl in this competition. Some years they perish on the battlefield of knowledge, in other years they are victorious. Win or lose, Karl survives to stand again this year against a team of five. We have six this year who have signed up to seek glory in the competition, but we can only use five, so newbies will be given a chance and straws will have to be drawn among the veterans. Prez **Bob Meyer** has entered the lists and will surely make the cut because he is, after all, "the President!" It looks good for **Tom Hoch** as well, because Moderator **Craig Eley** does not want Tom in the audience hurling wisecracks. So, put this on your calendar—it is the academic high point (of course, that's not saying much) of the Monaco South year!"



The 2019 "Are You Smarter Than the Brain Bowl Chair" competition. Craig Eley reads the questions, while Karl's competitors attempt to ponder the answers.

Help with McMeen Super Citizen Awards: The next McMeen Super Citizen awards program is set for next Friday, March 6th. **Don Thomson** said that **Mike White** will help with the presentation of awards, but he will need help with the photography now that **John Oss** is unable to cover this part of the program. If you are a camera buff and can help Don on Friday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., let him know.

Lowry Super Citizen Awards: **Paul Stratton** reported that the Lowry Elementary Super Citizen Awards program was held last Wednesday. Thirteen students were recognized. Their next Super Citizen will be on Wednesday, May 13th starting at 1:00 p.m. should you care to participate.

Dime-A-Day: **Perry Allen** reported that the latest accounting shows that Monaco South stands at just under \$1,600 for this Optimist year. He would like to step up the number of members that have participated this year. It is just \$36.50 to



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******

Presidential Rants & Raves



I thought we had another great meeting on Friday! **Tom Mauro** introduced our **Partner in Excellence** award winners, **Claudia Ladd**, **Steve Wera**, and **Kurt Siebold**. The award winners talked a little bit about themselves and their educational philosophies. They all expressed their appreciation for Monaco South's commitment to, and support, of the Super Citizen program.

We continue to add new Club members each week— Welcome, **Mikko Kasko**, our newest member! Going forward, 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 in Frisco to the MSOC member who sponsors the newest members between October 1, 2019 and April 10, 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). The unit has a gas fireplace and a private hot tub.

Another District-wide membership incentive is a \$50 gift card to your favorite restaurant to anyone who sponsors three new members during the year.

It was previously announced that after 13 years' of publishing the weekly **GUMS** newsletter that **Dr. Bob Finkelmeier** is stepping down. Please think about this job opening. Dr. Bob will provide hands-on training. We have got more than six months to find and train a new **GUMS** publisher. Let us make sure we keep this fine tradition going strong!

Please continue to keep **John Oss** and **Peter Dimond** in your thoughts and prayers. If you are available to transport John Oss to his medical appointments, please see Tom Kramas' announcement.

Next up for the Brain Bowl in the Championship Tourna-

ment, Saturday, March 7th at Hamilton Middle School in Denver. If you can make it on March 7th, come on out and help as the top 54 teams (six teams per grade from each of the three regional competitions) compete for the District Brain Bowl championship. Please let **Karl Geil** know if you are going to volunteer.

The **2020-2021 Nominating Committee** will be making phone calls over the next few weeks to identify the slate of officers who will become our 2020-2021 Officers and Board of Directors. Please consider what position is perfect for you and let **Joe Marci** and his committee know that you are ready and willing to serve in 2020-2021.

The annual **Optimist Junior Golf Scramble** is coming up on Tuesday, June 2nd, at Saddle Rock Golf Course. Please line up your foursome for this fun fundraiser for the District Junior Golf Program. We are sending up to 70 junior golfers to THE 2020 OPTIMIST to be held in mid- to late July at Trump National Doral Resort in Miami FL. Please register with Joe Marci. After golf is completed, there will be lunch and a silent auction with many, many donated golf foursomes available for purchase.

Ron Cisco is getting ready to mail out the 2020 Junior Golf Sponsorship flyer, looking for donations to help us send 70 junior golfers to the 2020 **Optimist Junior Golf Championship** in Miami, FL.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out at the three **District Optimist Junior Golf Qualifiers** to be held in early June. For more information, please contact **Joe Marci**, **Ron Cisco**, or me. We will be passing around a sign-up sheet at upcoming Club meetings. If you know of any non-Club members looking for volunteer opportunities for the District Qualifiers, please let me know.

I 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**

Announcements Continued

become a **Dime-A-Day donor**. Perry was quickly corrected that it is \$36.60 this year since it is a Leap Year. So, then Perry added that since we are eager to raise the amount, he has the President's Club Level available for only a \$250 donation. Please help Perry build that \$1,600 figure whether you donate at the Dime-A-Day level or Presidents Club level. Become a member of either level and show your support as a steadfast Optimist and devoted friend to the OI Foundation.

South Region Brain Bowl Tournament: "When you are the best, everyone comes after you." This was the **Karl Geil's** reaction to the over whelming response of volunteers for the Monaco South Team in the "Smarter Than the Brain Bowl Chair contest." Karl then reported that 31 teams competed. The winning teams were Chinook Trail 6C, Challenger 7A, and Challenger 8A. A copy of the top 4 final results for each grade is attached. Of the 76 volunteers, 12 approximately 16%, were Monaco South members or their family members: **Steve Avery**, **Bob Avery**, **Joe Howard**, **Tom Kramis**, **Bill Morgan** and his son, Nick, **Cesar Camarena**, **Allen Pierce**, **Phil Perington**, **Andy Towt**, and **Karl Geil** and his wife, Lesley. Next up is the Optimist Brain Bowl Championship tournament at Hamilton Middle School, next week on Saturday, March 7th. Karl says we are still short on help, so please let him know if you can help out.

Hamilton Middle School History Day: While **Karl Geil** had the microphone, he indicated that he is still one or two judges short to help with judging of the Hamilton Middle School History Day projects on Monday, March 9th. The winning projects will represent Hamilton at the district competition. Get in touch with Karl if you can help review these most excellent projects.

Denver Housing Proposed Changes: **Jack Kleinkessel** shared that Denver Planning and Zoning is considering allowing up to 14 adults and unlimited number of children to be able to live in a single-family house depending on size. Jack says they are currently soliciting public comments and is urging members to make their thoughts known to the city.

DTC Wine Tasting & Auction: **Tom Overton** announced that the DTC Optimist Club's annual wine tasting and silent auction will be held on Saturday, April 4th at the Calvary Baptist Church from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is DTC Optimist Clubs annual fundraiser. Calvary Baptist is located at 6500 E. Girard Street is near the corner of Hampden Avenue and Monaco Parkway. Tickets are \$25 per person and Australian wines will be featured. You can get tickets from any DTC member which we have several in Monaco South.

OCMS Oratorical Contest: The Monaco South Youth Oratorical Contest will be held this Thursday, March 5th at

Announcements Continued

at Washington High School. **George Buzick** is still looking for some judges for the contest as well as some members to act as contest officials. Give George a call at 303-985-0655 if you would like to help out.

Member Updates: **Tom Kramis** reported that **John Oss** is undergoing treatment for his leukemia. He will be taken to Swedish Medical Center later this evening for a blood transfusion. Tom was looking for a volunteer to pick John up at Swedish and transport him home at 8:00 p.m. tonight. Phil Perington quickly volunteered.

Tom later reported via an email, that he has set up a "Sign-Up Genius" SUG webpage for members who want to help **John Oss** get back and forth to his treatments. The web address to this website is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094bafaa2f4-rides>. Tom says, "I will add more dates to SUG for next week after I know more about them from John. Ivan, John's son, will be assisting me."

In Tom's last email he added, "My Dad passed away last night and I will be gone until Thursday. Please help Ivan to make sure he gets the word out to all the great guys in our Club." Editor, Keep Tom and his family and in your thoughts and prayers as they go through their time of grieving.

Monaco South Officer Elections: The nomination committee has been mobilized to start canvassing for candidates to run for the various offices for the next Optimist year, 2020 to 2021. We will need to fill the offices of President, two Vice-Presidents and four Directors. If you are interested in leading this club, do not wait to be called, let one of the nomination committee members know. The nomination committee is made up of **Chairman Joe Marci, Bob Avery, Pat Bush, Ron Cisco, and Paul Stratton.**

Eagle Scout Awards Banquet: Do not forget Denver Area Council Eagle Scout Awards Banquet, recognizing the Eagle Scout Class of 2019, will be held this Friday, March 6th at the Renaissance Hotel located at 8801 Quebec Street. The Monaco South Optimist Club has a table reserved for the banquet.



New Member Drive: The Club is looking for New Members during the month of March. **President Bob Meyer** will be awarding a one week stay at his Frisco condominium to the member that sponsors the highest number of new members from October 1, 2019 to the end of this month. Currently six members are tied for the lead. All that you need to do is **JUST ASK.**

Partners in Excellence in Education Program

Today, we celebrated **Excellence in Education**. **Tom Mauro** served as Master of Ceremonies as we recognized one teacher and two schools for their achievements.

Tom turned the microphone over to **Don Thomson** who introduced **McMeen Elementary** Principal **David Adams** and first grade teacher **Claudia Ladd**. **Click here: [Claudia is one of seven finalists for Colorado Teacher of the Year](#)**. Claudia is a National Board-Certified teacher and has sixteen years of teaching experience. She is heavily vested in the early learning concepts as a child's brain doubles in size in the



Claudia Ladd, left, and McMeen Principal Davis Adams

baby's first year and is 80% grown by age eight. During this time, the child's learning skills must be developed. So, it is critical that they are exposed to such skills as reading and writing. Claudia is committed to changing the educational systems so that all children have the opportunity to develop these learning skills. She related a story about one student that won the Super Citizen award at McMeen and how happy the parents were at the awards presentation. She was invited to their house where she learned just how difficult it is for young children to leave their native country, come to America where they have to learn a new culture and language while continuing their academic education. Claudia was presented with a plaque for winning the Optimist Club of Monaco South's "Excellence in Education" award.

Tom then called upon **Jon Wachter**, one of our school representatives, who introduced **Steve Wera** principal of **Bradley International School**. Bradley recently won the designation of a **National Blue-Ribbon school**. This award is based only on student achievement. Of the 132,000 schools in the nation, only 362



From left, Tom Mauro, Bob Meyer, Steve Wera, & Jon Wachter

schools achieved Blue Ribbon status. Colorado is home to 5 of the Blue-Ribbon schools. Steve attributed Bradley International's success to the quality of the teachers on staff and the stability of the staff. Steve said that they

approach their jobs with the aim to change the student's lives through education. Jon Wachter said that Bradley's JOI (Junior Optimist International) club for fifth grade students is in its sixth year and is just another example of how our Optimist Club impacts students.

Next up was **Tom Hoch** our Super Citizen liaison to **Slavens Elementary School**. He introduced **Curt Siebold** the principal at Slavens. Slavens is also a **National Blue-Ribbon school**. Curt also credits this award to his teachers and staff. He says that having a low



From left, Tom Hoch, Curt Siebold, Tom Mauro, & Bob Meyer

turnover of teachers is a tremendous help in raising student achievement. Slavens sent six Destination Imagination teams to the Global Finals competition and one team was a Global Finals winner.

Both **Steve Wera** and **Curt Siebold** are members of our Club, Optimist Club of Monaco South. Curt, Steve, and Claudia thanked the Monaco South Optimist Club for the Super Citizens program in their schools and the support we give to the schools.

We congratulate Slavens Elementary, Bradley International, and McMeen Elementary schools for their distinguished awards.



This Weeks Drawing

The drawing winners this week were **Ed Collins** (twice), **Allen Malask**, new member **Mikko Kasko**, **Jack Kleinheksel** and Slavens principal **Curt Siebold** took cash. **Mike McMahon, Mark Metevia**, and name badge winner **Mike White** drew cards for the big pot, but all came up without the magic card. Next week the pot grows to \$70.00!

Weekly Greeters

3/6/20	Paul Stratton & Tom Mauro
3/13/20	Harry Fegely & Gary Strowbridge
3/20/20	Frank Middleton & Allen Malask

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

Mar 5	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School
Mar 6	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Anna Miller, Shiloh House
Mar 6	Fri	8:30 am	Super Citizen, Slavens Elementary
Mar 6	Fri	5:00 pm	Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner, Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, 3801 Quebec St.
Mar 7	Sat	7:00 am	Brail Bowl Championship Tournament, Hamilton Middle School, 8600 East Dartmouth Ave.
Mar 13	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Craig Eley, <i>Are You Smarter Than the Brain Bowl Chair?</i>
Mar 17	Thu	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood
Mar 19	Thu	6:00 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale, 2nd Floor Community Room
Mar 20	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
Mar 20	Thu	8:10 am	Super Citizen, Holm Elementary
Mar 22	Sun	12:00 pm	Reg. TriStar Basketball Competition, Central Park Rec. Ctr., 9651 E. M. L. King Blvd.

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	303-751-3602
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.