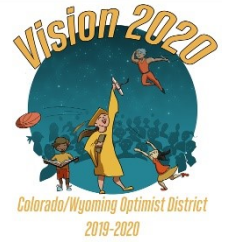




Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

February 7, 2020 – Vol. 44, Issue 19



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

Twenty-four hours of snow made travel to the meeting slow and sloppy. President **Bob Meyer** called Vice-President **Steve Kady** saying he was trapped in Castle Rock and would need Steve to preside over the meeting. Steve told us that Prez Bob claimed he had 10 inches to which Steve added that Bob is always bragging. At any rate, it was **Alan Malask** and **Phil Perington** that gave us a warm welcome and handshakes on this very cold morning.



Left, Alan Malask came prepared for any bug that maybe going around, while Phil Perington gives us an Optimist smile.
Photos Noel Hasselgren

First Bell, Invocation & Pledge

With about 35 or 40 members present on this cold snowy morning, VP **Steve Kady** takes his perch at the podium and calls on Treasurer **Greg Young** to read the invocation. Greg reminded us that we build traditions, institutions, communities, and policies but it is the youth that will judge the things we build. The youth will accept what they see is good and reject what they judge to be bad. That is why we must invest our time and resources into the development of our youth. Greg then leads us in the *Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.*



VP Steve calls the meeting to order and calls on Greg Young to deliver the invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. Ops, someone forgot to close the back stage door!

development of our youth. Greg then leads us in the *Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.*

Guest

VP **Steve** then introduced his guest, James Durkee, who he met on Facebook. James is in the broadcast

business having followed in his father's footsteps. James single handedly saved our program this morning, but more on that later.

Tidbits of the Past

Although the Prez was not present, your editor did not want to forget some trivia.

Celebrations on this date, Friday, February 7th,

- Give Kids A Smile
- National Bubble Gum Day
- National Fettuccine Alfredo Day
- National Send a Card to a Friend Day
- National Wear Red Day
- Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day

This Date in History: 1945, Leaders Meet To Plan End of War, Allied Leaders Prime Minister Winston Churchill, US President Franklin D Roosevelt and Marshal Joseph Stalin, meet at a secret location in the Black Sea area planning the final phase of the war against Germany and the future of Europe now that the end of the war is assured; 1948, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as U.S. Army Chief of Staff, 1964, The Beatles arrive on their first visit to the United States; 1984, Astronaut Bruce McCandless unhooked a lifeline and became the first human to fly free in space; 2001, death claimed singer-actress Dale Evans at age 88; 2014, After twenty-two years of hosting The Tonight Show, 63 year old comedian Jay Leno retired from his position as talk show host; 2019, Frank Robinson, the first black manager in Major League Baseball, died in Los Angeles at the age of 83.



Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th President

Announcements

Partners in Excellence in Education Awards: Today was to be our Excellence in Education program and

Tom Mauro was all dressed up but had nowhere to go. Due to the snowstorm, the participants—Claudia Ladd from McMeen Elementary, **Steve Wera** from Bradley International, and **Kurt Siebold** from Slavens Elementary—were unable to make it to the meeting this morning, so we were left without a program. Tom promises that we will reschedule the Excellence in Education program for a later date. We have since learned that it is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 28th. Please make a note of his date.



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

Monaco South Tri-Star Basketball: Michael

Chavez reminded us that our local Tri-Star Basketball competition will be held on Wednesday, February 19th at the Boys and Girls Club at 8th Avenue and Inca. The skills testing will start at 3:30 p.m. You should plan on arriving at 3:00 p.m. to help with set up. We need 8 to 10 members to help out during the competition. If you can help, please give Michael a call at 303-960-5304.



Denver Golf Expo: Joe Marci

reminded us that the annual Golf Expo starts today and runs through Sunday, February 9th at the Denver Merchandise Mart. The CO-WY Junior Golf program will have a booth at the Expo for the entire weekend. Joe Marci ask for a volunteer to help at the booth today because Prez **Bob Meyer** was signed up to work all day and, as learned, he is trapped in Castle Rock by the storm.



Super Bowl Pool: Joe Marci also announced that the Junior Golf Program made \$140 dollars from two Super Bowl Pool games. Kansas City was not the only winner last Sunday. Six Monaco South members were winners in the two pools. **Curt Boell** and **Paul Stratton** were double winners when their numbers 0-0 ended the second and third quarters. Other winners were **Frank Middleton, Pat Bush, Ron Cisco,** and Robert Finkelmeier.

Samuels Super Citizen Program: Kent Gloor

shared that Samuels, one of our longest running Super Citizen schools, had their ceremony on Thursday, February 6th. Thirty students were recognized for their exemplary citizenship qualities.

Tree Lot Storage: Tom Kramis thanked **Bob Avery** and **Kent Gloor** for helping him move the Christmas Tree trailer and tree racks at the storage yard to get them into our designated space. This should finally end the very successful Christmas Tree selling season that raised the money needed to do the club youth projects for the next year.

Optimist Ski Day: The annual Optimist Ski Day will be held at Copper Mountain on February 18th. **Bob Avery** announced that he will provide breakfast before enjoying the day on the slopes. He will even allow skiers to crash at his condo the night before. **Kent Gloor** has offered his Breckenridge house for skier stay overs. You can get more information from either Bob or Kent.

Eagle Scout Awards Banquet: Bob Avery also shared that nearly 670 scouts achieved their Eagle Scout status this past year. The annual 2019 awards banquet is approaching, and Monaco South has a table for ten reserved. If you would like a seat at the table, just let Bob know. The 2020 Eagle Scout Banquet, to recognize the Class of 2019 *Best of the*



Best Eagle Scout Projects, will be held on Friday evening, March 6th at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec St. We will be hearing more on this event as it approaches.

Presidential Rants & Raves



Hello all:

I could not get out of my neighborhood Friday morning because of the 12 inches of snow that Castle Rock received and the fact that the Town's first snowplow did not show up on my street until 8:30 a.m. I tried, starting before 5 a.m., to make it up the hill on my block but did not succeed. Thanks to **Steve Kady** for running Friday's meeting in my absence.

The guests for the Partners in Excellence presentation could not make it Friday either, so that program has been postponed to Feb. 28th.

Thanks to **James Durkee** for taking over the speaker's spot with no advance warning. Many of us Old-timers will remember James' dad **Ray Durkee's** radio show.

I also did not make it to the Denver Golf Expo on Friday. Thanks to **Joe Marci** for pulling a double shift filling in for me Friday morning. Also, thanks to MSOC members **Noel Hasselgren, Gary Miller, Kent Gloor, Tom Kramis, Russ Paul, Bob Avery, Nick Piccucci, Gary Stowbridge, Don Thomson,** and **Cesar Camarena** for volunteering at the Denver Golf Expo and talking about the CO-WY District Optimist Junior Golf Program to the many visitors to our Junior Golf booth.

Speaking of **Cesar Camarena**, he was recognized at yesterday's 2nd Quarter District Meeting as the *District Optimist Rookie of the Year*. I nominated Cesar based on his helping out with the renovation of the Christmas Tree Lot trailer. Lt Gov **Charlie Neumann** will present a \$50 Panera gift card to Cesar at an upcoming MSOC breakfast meeting.

MSOC members present at the District Meeting included **Greg Young, Michael Chavez, Dan Rodriguez, Tom Overton, John Oss, Phil Perington, Kent Gloor, Frank Middleton,** and yours truly.

There was a great exchange of ideas at the meeting. One of the lively topics was developing an "elevator speech" that can be used when given a short time to talk with someone about Optimism.

Another topic that generated a lot of ideas was on "succession planning." I know that **Joe Marci** and his committee are preparing for 2020-2021 officer elections to be held in April. **Please be open to accepting a nomination for a Board Member or Officer position!** I will also be pursuing the idea of having a chairman and a co-chairman for all of our Club Committees.

Also, at the District Meeting, Monaco South was awarded an \$80 average per member banner patch for our 2018-2019 Dime-A-Day participation. Great job, guys! We were the only Club in the District with an \$80 patch. Let us keep it up for 2019-2020. Please see **Perry Allen** with your Dime-A-Day (or more) donations.

We have been adding several new Club members each month, 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 will mention this offer again 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 in a calendar quarter.

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**

James Durkee Honors his Dad Ray Durkee, a Radio Personality

Left without a program because of all the snow, Vice President **Steve Kady** asked his guest, James Durkee, if we wanted to share any of his experiences with us. And boy, we were treated to a very interesting talk!



James Durkee
Photo Noel Hasselgren

James is the son of longtime Denver DJ Ray Durkee and he gave us an overview of his father's career in radio. Ray started his career in the little town of Aberdeen, South Dakota in the mid 1950's. After a few years he accepted a job at KQDI in Bismarck, North Dakota. He thought he had hit the big time in the big city. Little did he know what was yet to come. Just a year later, Ray accepted a position with KOSI in Denver. He bounced around a few of the Denver radio stations doing a number of differently themed radio shows. He even spent some time flying the station's airplanes doing the traffic reporting.

In the early 70's, Ray landed at KHOW. Believing that there was an audience that wanted to hear stories about the past, he talked the program manager, Hal Moore, into letting him have a Sunday morning show, which he appropriately named, ***Sunday at the Memories***. He played old time radio shows, songs, old commercials, and anything else that would take listeners back in time. The show grew in popularity and even rivaled the Denver Broncos in the ratings.

Ray had been recording his programs and thought he could syndicate the show. He started on just a few Midwest stations but over the next 15 years, his program grew in popularity and at its height was on 100

radio stations across the nation.

Ray Durkee retired from radio in 1990 after 35 years on the air. He went back to his hometown of Bismarck, ND, where he passed away in 2009 at the age of 70. Fortunately, Ray left a treasure-trove of recorded programs. Recognizing the value of these old recordings, James started to digitize the programs and is nearly half done with converting 1,500 tape-recorded shows.

James has set up a website at www.sundayatthememories.com where he makes these old programs available to the public in a Podcast format. He also has his own programing called ***Do-biShots with Durkman***. He plays tunes that, as he says, "*Were so good that they were re-recorded by other artists.*"

Thanks, James for an entertaining talk about your father and we certainly hope that you come back to visit and consider joining our club. As you can see, many of our members are old timers too.

Related Note: James Durkee also has a YouTube Channel @ [Click Here](#) where he has some short clips.

The [Broadcast Pioneers of Colorado](#), or 2015 Ray Durkee BPCColorado Hall of Fame induction.

And [BPS' Hall of Fame](#): Ray Durkee, [Click Here](#). [Starr Yelland's Potpourri](#), KMGH-TV Channel 7 Denver featuring Ray Durkee from March 20, 1987. This video clip was recorded by our own **Steve Kady** when he was a video photographer with Channel 7.

Optimist International Foundation Election — Don't Forget to Vote — Support Ron Benson

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

Board of Directors Election | Optimist International Foundation

- ★ Ron Benson, COWY
- ★ Teri Davis, NYNE
- ★ Ted Gaffin, AZ
- ★ Debra Merritt, ALMS

VOTE

Optimist Member Donors who gave at least \$36.50 to the Foundation during the 2018-19 fiscal year are eligible to vote. Online balloting begins February 1 and continues to February 29. For those without internet access, please call (800) 500-8130 and ask for Shenita Taylor to arrange alternate balloting procedures.

OIFFOUNDATION.ORG

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

Drawing



Today's drawing winners were **Dick Nickoloff, Phil Perington, Ron Cisco, Allen Malask, John Oss** and **Henry Schonewise**. Going for the Big Pot was new member **Joey Hamilton**

and someone else. Neither was a winner.

Jack Kleinhessel was sitting at my table and turned down a change to purchase tickets to the drawing saying he was not going to get into it when **Dr. Bob** came by our table. I was shocked when he won a cup of the cash. Even when

he is in not in the pot, he wins.

We need to review the rules. **Phil Perington's** name was pulled from the jar but, like those before him, did not draw the correct card.

Weekly Greeters	
2/14/20	Dan Rodriquez & Frank Ross
2/21/20	Crag Eley & Jim VanderKamp

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

Feb 10	Mon	6:30 pm	New Member Orientation, Silicon Stem Academy, 4201 E Yale Ave., Suite 130
Feb 14	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
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: TBA
Feb 28	Fri	3:00 pm	Super Citizen, Bradley International School

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.