



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

July 7, 2017 – Vol. 41, Issue 40



## Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado  
Serving Youth and the Community for 40 Years  
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012  
[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw



### Good Morning Optimist

On this amazingly beautiful morning, the day that President Eisenhower signed a bill approving Alaska Statehood in 1958, we were greeted by **Bryce Slaby** and **Ed Collins**.



Alaskan morning sunrise at 4:36 a.m.

Left, Bryce Slaby & Ed Collins on MSOC greeter duty at 6:14 a.m.  
Photos Noel Hasselgren



### First Bell, Invocation & Pledge

Vice President **Mike McMahon**, standing in for



President **Craig Eley**, rings the bell promptly at 7:00 a.m.

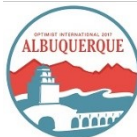
**Ron Cisco** reads the invocation this morning asking for the ability to help our friends feel that there is something in them, and to help them realize that they each have special and valued qualities. *This is one of the ways in which optimism is spread.*

Ron then leads us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

### What Was the Prez & District Gov Up To?



CO-WY District Governor **Paul Simon** and MSOC President **Craig Eley** were enjoying the big chair at the 99<sup>th</sup> Optimist International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 5 to 8<sup>th</sup>. Seated with them is MSOC first lady, **Cindy Eley**.



### Presidents Notes

Senior Moments Program: VP **Mike McMahon** shared a story about his experience with the “Senior Moments” program, which is held at the Eastern Star Retirement facility monthly. As kidney donation, Mike told his story and said some in attendance may have thought he was asking them to do the same, since some of the questions were interesting. But he added, if you have a topic that you would like to discuss or share please contact **Bob Avery**.

Rockies Handout Day: Mike also shared that **Michael Chavez** reminded him to mention the next chance to volunteer for the Rockies game will be on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Those volunteering will hand out goodies before the game and the club receives \$500 from the Rockies. It is an afternoon game so folks will need to arrive at the ballpark early. Thirty-five volunteers are needed for this event and they can be family members, friends, neighbors, so please signup if you can assist.

### Announcements

South by Southeast Event: **Greg Young** reminded us that Councilwoman Kendra Black, was looking for volunteers for her “South by Southeast” event, which will be held at Bible Park on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Billed as “a celebration of local food, music, and community,” this should be one of the highlights of the summer in Southeast Denver. Volunteers will be working three-hour shifts, providing directions to the event participants, and helping with making this a successful event. See Greg to get on the signup sheet.



2017 Bike MS: **Bob Avery** mentioned he is collecting for the Bike MS ride he completed last month. You can still donate on line. *Editor note: I just donated on line and it was extremely easy. [Click here for the link.](#)* Well done Bob and **Dave Telpner** for completing the ride this year.

Continued on the 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\*\*\*\***

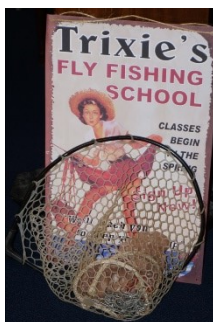
## Announcements Continued

### Brent's Place Pancake Breakfast: Paul Bernard



announced the Brent's Place pancake breakfast coming up on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Brent's Place is like Ronald McDonald House for kids dealing with cancer who have compromised immune systems and health issues related to their cancer, to house them and their families. The event will be held on the campus of the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora and provides breakfast for the 1,000 participants. Both Monaco South and Tamarac will jointly be cooking and serving pancakes, sausage, and fruit to the hungry walkers. You are in there early to start making pancakes for the folks and out before noon. Signup with Paul and support this wonderful cause.

**Fly Fishing Basics:** Bryce Slaby shared that he has a basics Fly Fishing 101 class tomorrow at Park Meadows for Orvis. Learn fly fishing basics in one of the free classes. Perfect for beginners of all ages, the Fly Fishing 101 course includes free lessons on fly casting and outfit rigging. According to the Orvis Park Meadows calendar this class is offered every Saturday through July; however, see Bryce.



If you have already completed Fly Fishing 101, you are ready for the next step. Join up for a short outing on local water and a chance to catch a fish or two! A nominal fee for the outing may apply.

A free Trout Unlimited Membership is included for this \$35 value. Upon completion of the course, you will receive special in-store offers, valid for the purchase of Orvis products.

**Call to Promote Optimism:** Steve Kady saw an article in the *Denver Post* about the "Flat Earth Movement" an thought that would be away to promote Optimism. He said, "They look to be prime sources of Optimism." [The article is available here.](#)

**Save the Date, July 29<sup>th</sup>:** Sergeant Kevin Curtis encouraged us in an email to save the date for District 3's **Safety Expo** set for Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, at South High School, 1700 E. Louisiana Ave., from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. See the attached flyer for more details.



**Welcome Back Curt Boell:** Curt Boell was here this morning and shared that he had just had his kidney removed last Friday. Curt was having some issues with his leg, and thought he had pulled a muscle. After visits with his doctor it was discovered he had a cancerous tumor near the femur. The tumor was removed, and his kidney was also found to be cancerous. The kidney was also removed and recovery treatments are scheduled. *Welcome back Curt, all of the best!*



**Ralph Pedersen Update:** Dick Zolman shared that he had a call from Lois Pedersen who said **Ralph Pedersen** had a fall at home and was taken to the hospital after hitting his head during the night. Ralph is a charter member of MSOC. We wish him a speedy recovery.



### CCOCC News: Phil Perington and Dave Peck

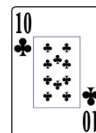


announced that the Classic Car Optimist Club of Colorado will participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual LCW POST 1 Color Guard Car Show, next week on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, to be held in the American Legion Hall parking lot. There will be CCOCC member cars, information tent, and free coffee beginning at 10 a.m. Prizes, music, food and cool cars, with a "Best of Show Awards" will abound. Everyone is invited to attend and get familiar with the Classic Car Club's mission of serving youth while providing fun and excitement along the way. We hope to see you all there in the spirit of Optimism camaraderie and community service to our kids.



### Drawing

Do we have a drawing? Yes, we do and there is \$50 in the pot, with the lucky card being the 10 of Clubs. Members holding tickets this morning and who go for the sure thing are **Bob Avery, John Oss, Jack Kleinheksel, Carl Brown, Allen Malask, and Terry Shroyer**. When Greg Young and **Pat Bush's** numbers were called they went for the 10 of clubs—unfortunately both fell short.

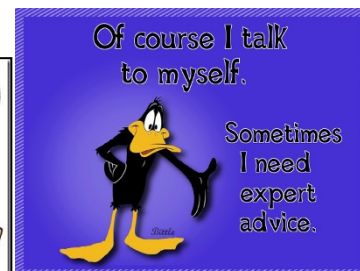
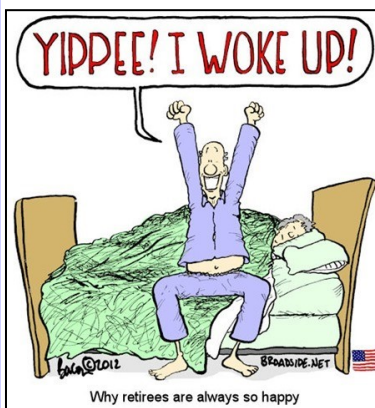


**Peter Dimond's** name was drawn out of the jug for the name tag drawing, but he was not wearing his badge. **Dave Telpner** was the next name called and draws a card, but the lucky 10 of clubs was not drawn.

### Closing Pledge

**Carl Brown** was called on to lead us in the Optimist Creed—*Promise yourself....*

### A Bit of Humor





## Robert (Rob) Unger CEO of Rachel's Challenge

Our Speaker this morning was introduced by **Paul Bernard**. Robert (Rob) Unger, the CEO of Rachel's Challenge, explained that the Rachel's Challenge organization was started by her family after Rachel Joy Scott was killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999.

Rachel was born in Denver, Colorado, in August 1982. She was the middle of five children with two older sisters Bethanee and Dana; and two younger brothers Craig and Mike.

Rachel was energized by people. This love expressed itself in an outgoing personality; but also in a heartfelt compassion for people in pain. Rachel learned the power of simple compliments and acts of kindness at an early age. In high school, she deliberately reached out to three groups of people and wrote about it in her diary. She said, *"I want to reach out to those with special needs because they are often overlooked. I want to reach out to those who are new in school because they do not have any friends yet. And I want to reach out to those who are picked on or put down by others."* Rachel did not just write about it, she lived it.

Weeks before the shooting she wrote an essay for class, and it mentions her theory of how much each person can impact their world. In her essay she wrote, *"Compassion is the greatest form of love humans have to offer."* She also wrote this quote in one of the six diaries she left her family.

Rachel also understood the power of peer pressure and the need to know, love and be true to herself. It was this understanding that helped her respect and appreciate the people around her; especially those who were in pain or different from her. She did this by looking deeper than the surface into the relatedness we all share. Rachel wrote, *"Look hard enough and you will always find a light, and you can even help that light grow."* Being comfortable in her own skin allowed her to fight injustice for others. The understanding that we are all uniquely important.

It was out of these writings that the foundation was created. The Foundation's mission: Awakening individual TRANSFORMATION and promoting SAFER, MORE CONNECTED SCHOOLS.



Rob Unger

Photo Noel Hasselgren

The Rachel's Challenge program starts with an age appropriate assembly and presentations that shows the kids videos about who they are, how they treat themselves, and how they treat others. The program strives to create a foundation for positive culture for students and their environment.

Rob shared that in 30 years of business, he has never had the emotional response that he receives on a regular basis from his work today. Since the tragedy over 24 million people have heard Rachel's story.

The organization has presenters that speak to approximately 850 schools in the US, Mexico, Bermuda, Canada, Africa, Turkey, and Belgium. He pointed out that there is universal truth in her story to reach out to others with kindness and compassion. Schools in different areas face varied challenges from bullying, isolation, and suicide to violence. Issues with youth are everywhere and faced by children all over the world. Rob listed three places where kids used to learn to be caring—the home, faith based areas, and schools—but each have changed over time and the results may not be the best for kids. All kids need to feel like they belong. More can be learned at <http://rachelschallenge.org/>.

### Addendum

In an email Rob shared, *"Thank you for hosting me today. By way of background for this video: A mental health services organization in NC, Trillium Health Systems, sponsored us into 130 middle and high schools and 160 elementary schools in their 27 county jurisdiction over the past two school years. We delivered over 150,000 hours of training to just under 100,000 students in that timeframe. This video is a "thank you" to Trillium, but tells the story and impact of Rachel's Challenge in the educators' and students' own words. It is a great representation of what we do. I tell everyone who sees it that they can put their own name, or the name of anyone who has helped us get into a school, every place they see or hear Trillium. Here's the link: <https://vimeo.com/206656862/0210150041>."*



## Invite a Potential Member



### Weekly Greeters

7/14/17	Tom Kramis & Mark Metevia
7/21/17	Perry Allen & ?

### Optimist Club of Monaco South 2016-2017 40<sup>th</sup> Year — Chartered in 1976

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

July 14	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
July 19	Wed	9:45 am	Rockies Handouts, Coors Field, see Michael Chavez
July 21	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
July 26	Wed	6:30 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way
July 28	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Harry Fegley, Exploring Bhutan
July 29	Sat	7:00 am	Pancake Breakfast for Brent's Place Kids
Aug 4	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Lynn Wells, Co-Director, The Academy for Lifelong Learning

**Past Presidents of the  
Optimist Club of Monaco South**

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Tom Overton	1996-97
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Cy Regan	1999-00
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Don St. John	2001-02
John Young	1982-83	Jack Rife	2002-03
Pat Bush	1983-84	Karl Geil	2003-04
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Greg Young	2007-08
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bob Avery	1989-90	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Ed Collins	2010-11
Bill Walters	1991-92	Randy Marcove	2011-12
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Paul Simon	2012-13
Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Jon Wachter	2013-14
Mark Metevia	1994-95	John Oss	2014-15
Bob Safe	1995-96	Michael Chavez	2015-16

**2015 - 2016 Officers**

President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Secretary	Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

**Board of Directors**

Jim Easton	720-987-7684
Allen Pierce	303-883-8506
Allen Malask	303-726-3700
Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Rob Gardner	720-263-6203
Wyatt McCallie	303-759-2275
Paul Stratton	303-474-4358
John Swick	720-422-2733
Michael Chavez (Past Pres.)	303-960-5304

**Newsletter Committee**

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	<a href="mailto:rfinkelmeier@comcast.net">rfinkelmeier@comcast.net</a>	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	<a href="mailto:r.pedersen2658@comcast.net">r.pedersen2658@comcast.net</a>
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	<a href="mailto:jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net">jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net</a>	Phil Perington	303-832-4578	<a href="mailto:perington@msn.com">perington@msn.com</a>
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	<a href="mailto:rz6267@gmail.com">rz6267@gmail.com</a>	Paul Stratton	303-366-6375	<a href="mailto:pcstratton@comcast.net">pcstratton@comcast.net</a>
George Buzick	303-803-2268	<a href="mailto:gtbuzick@comcast.net">gtbuzick@comcast.net</a>	Pat Bush	720-254-3741	<a href="mailto:pbush@bushreese.com">pbush@bushreese.com</a>
Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	<a href="mailto:rlawardlaw@gmail.com">rlawardlaw@gmail.com</a>	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	<a href="mailto:craigceley@gmail.com">craigceley@gmail.com</a>

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** August **Pat Bush**, September **Paul Stratton**, October **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.