



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

March 10, 2017 – Vol. 41, Issue 23



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

Editor for this Issue—Pat Bush



Good Morning Optimists

The opinions contained in this newsletter are those of the editor and are not endorsed in any way by GUMS or the Optimist Club of Monaco South. On what has to be one of the most beautiful mornings for March in recent memory, **Joe Marci** and **George Buzick** greeted members for this week's membership meeting.

By the way, do not forget ...



Invocation & Pledge

Karl Geil delivered the invocation this morning stressing the importance of passing on to youth our life's lessons for it will be they who will judge our actions and decisions and toss out what they reject and keep what they accept. *Now that is a scary thought.* Karl then lead us in the Pledge Allegiance to our flag.

Guests

Les Larson, well not really a guest, returned after missing many months with some health issues and he lookin' good. *Welcome back Les!* He even brought a guest with him as he introduced his neighbor, **Garth Wilson**.

Les Larson

John Oss introduced **Aaron Clubb** as his guest and **Ed Collins** introduced **Orville Sherrod**. *Welcome to all of the guests this morning. We hope you enjoy our meeting, become interested in some of our projects, and give some thought to joining our club. You are certainly welcome to come back and visit again.*

From the Prez

In starting off this morning, president **Craig Eley** presented **Mike McMahon** with two OI sponsor pins for sponsoring our two new members, **Jesse Carter** and **Rob Brewer**. Both Jesse and Rob were approved at the last Board of Directors meeting and pictured in the last GUMS.

Smarter than the Brain Bowl Chair: Yes, last year

Monaco South's best got trounced by **Karl Geil**, on a team all by himself, during the "Are You Smarter than the Brain Bowl Chair" quiz bowl competition. A lot of the same guys (they can't take a hint) volunteered for this year's edition, which will take place at our regular Friday meeting on March 31st, and they are out for blood!



The sole Red Team member, Karl Geil, in his "I am ready" stance, with hand on the buzzer. Photo from 2016

Sporting the colors of our Club this year will be **Al Gapuzan**, **Scott Walker**, **George Buzick**, **Mark Metevia** and **Wyatt McCallie**. Wyatt says he may be out of town, so if he chickens out **Jim Vander Kamp** will charge into the breach.

Last year, the challengers were hobbled by not having a good strategy for who would hit the buzzer. Wyatt, the Brain Bowl Buzzermeister, thinks he has this problem solved. He is bringing the new style buzzer system, which will have an individual buzzer for each of the five team members. This could give them the edge they need, or it could lead to an epidemic of premature buzzing which may lob Karl some juicy two-pointers to answer.

As an added incentive for the teams to practice between



now and the competition, **Tamarac Optimist members** will be visiting our Club that day, and none of the contestants will want to be shamed in front of the ladies! (*However, it is this editor's experience, having coached high school aged boy's soccer teams, that when guys perform in front of the girls, the guys start "hot dogging" and lose focus of the task at hand.*)

This battle has been simmering below the surface for the past year, so you won't want to miss it!

Hat & Shirt Sale: **Greg Young** reminds members that he is taking orders for Monaco South shirts and ball caps. You can get the shirts without or with (for a small additional charge) your name. There are a variety of colors so buy several of each for different occasions.



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

Englewood Optimist Club: Past Prez and Governor **Phil Perington** reminded us that the newly chartered Englewood Optimist Club is having a celebration dinner this Thursday, March 16th. They invite all Optimist members to join them at this dinner. It will be held at the Broken Tee Golf Course Restaurant at 2101 W. Oxford Avenue. The cash bar will be open at 5:30 p.m. with a barbeque dinner at 6:00 p.m. The cost is a reasonable \$20.00 per member. Contact Phil Perington or Michael Chavez for more information.

Habitat for Humanity: About half dozen members worked on the habitat build last Thursday, March 9th. They did exterior painting on the siding that we installed last time we worked on the houses.



See this team work by clicking the above picture or links below.
Photo & Video Tom Hoch



Dick Nickoloff rolling on the paint.
Photo Jon Wachter

It is reported that they did a pretty good job as most of the paint wound up on the houses. See Tom Hoch's video @ <https://vimeo.com/207840538> and all of his videos @ <https://vimeo.com/album/2654384>.

Tri-Star Basketball: The Regional Tri-Star Basketball competition will be held this Sunday, March 12th. **Michael Chavez** reports we have just enough volunteers to conduct the competition but more would be welcome. The event will be held at the North High School gymnasium starting at 1:00 p.m. He would like volunteers to report in by 11:30 a.m. to help with setup and participant registration prior to the start of competition. Tri-Star Basketball tests boys and girls between ages 8 to 13 on their basketball skills such as passing, shooting and dribbling. This is just in time for March Madness. The winners will advance on to the state finals to be held at the Pepsi Center on March 26th.

Colorado National History Day Competition: Last Saturday, **Tom Hoch** and **Karl Geil** served as judges for the Denver Public Schools Regional competition of National History Day. They viewed some excellent documentaries produced by the students. Tom judged documentaries created by middle school students while Karl worked on the ones submitted by high school students. The top 3 in each category are going on to the Colorado State History Day contest.

Joe Marci added that he will be judging in the Greater Metro Denver Regional will be held tomorrow, Saturday, March 11 at the CU Denver Auraria Campus. He also adds that they could use a few more judges.

This year's theme is "Taking a Stand in History," so students are writing papers, creating exhibits, writing and performing original stage performances, creating websites, and producing documentaries about a person, or group of people, who took a stand for what they felt was right and in some way changed the world. The state History Day Contest will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2017 at the University of Colorado's Auraria Campus, and they still need judges. Sign up online at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXmLfaelpclwctpmLysYXJlQBxdHaMApDI9vfC_xkThXK2f7g/viewform. Most of the judges will be done in the morning.

Membership Directory Updates: **Tom Mauro** is taking any update changes for the membership directory. A new directory will be published next month. You can also update your photo by contacting **Craig Eley**. Of course, he reminds you that if you want a better photo in the directory, remember to bring a better face. Tom also reminds members that they can make this a business opportunity by placing a Business Card Ad in the directory for only \$25.00.



Monaco South Ski Day: **Bob Avery** is hosting the Monaco South Ski Day at Copper Mountain on this Monday, March 13th. Bob will be serving breakfast starting at 8:30 a.m. Participants will then spend the day on the slopes of Copper Mountain Ski Resort and finish with a relaxing soak in the hot tub. It is reported that the lift lines will be short and the ski runs will be long.

More Boy Scout News: Bob Avery also wanted to follow up on the Eagle Scout Awards Banquet last Friday and reported in last week's GUMS by announcing that **Keith Galoway** has volunteered to lead a refugee Boy Scout Troup. See the [Denver Post article on this Troup, by CLICKING](#).

District Activities: Our District Governor for COWY, our very own **Paul Simon**, reminds all members that there is a much bigger world outside of Monaco South. The district has 51 other clubs and he encourages us to participate in some of the projects that other clubs are doing. We can get more information by visiting the District Website at www.optimistcowy.org or subscribing to the newsletter.

Super Citizen: We have two Super Citizen Awards Presentations coming up this week. The first is at Most Precious Blood School located at 3959 E. Iliif Avenue at 2:30, Wednesday, March 15th. The second presentation will be at Hamilton Middle School on Thursday, March 16th starting at 5:30 p.m. Hamilton, at 8600 E. Dartmouth Avenue.

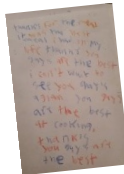
Speaking of Super Citizen here is a photo from Slavens held on Friday, March 10th, with Tom Kramis as presenter.



From right, Tom Hoch, Kurt Siebold, principal and member, with 17 Slavens Super Citizen's. On left, Tom Kramis with a thumbs up, and Michael Chavez.

Photo Noel Hasselgren

Thank You for the Meal: **John Oss** shared a thank you note to **Charlie and Gunar Neumann** after they prepared a meal for the boys at the Littleton Shiloh House: "Thanks for the meal. It was the best meal I had in my life. Thanks you guys are the best. I can't wait to see you guys again." We Optimists are often blessed beyond measure.



Do We Have a Drawing

You know we do. It would not be an Optimist meeting without one. Today's winners were new member **Jesse Carter**, **Allen Malask**, **Jack Kleinheksel**, **Ron Cisco**, **Mike White**, **Dick Zolman**. **George Buzick** tried to claim a cup but his ticket was declared invalid. **Robert Wardlaw**, **Bob Avery** and, wouldn't you know it, **Jesse Carter** (must be beginners luck) drew cards for the big \$110 pot but their luck ran out as the winning card stayed in the deck.

Bill Blunden The Mosul Dam in Iraq, in Danger of Collapse

Our speaker this morning was fellow member **Bill Blunden**. Bill was a dam engineer in an earlier life and he gave us a rundown on the Mosul Dam considered the most dangerous dam in the world. Construction of the Mosul Dam was started in 1981 and was completed in 1984.



The Mosul Dam, the largest in Iraq, holds back billions of cubic meters of water.

It was called Saddam Dam at the time because it was built during the reign of Saddam Hussain. It is the largest dam in Iraq and fourth largest in the Middle East. The dam is located on the Tigris River upstream of Mosul and Baghdad. Mosul Dam is an embankment, earth-fill clay-core type of dam and is built on water soluble gypsum and limestone foundation. Because the rock is water soluble, the foundation is undergoing continuous erosion. Engineers recommended thorough grouting of the foundation prior to construction of the dam. But to speed the construction, the foundation was mini-

mally grouted and a grouting gallery was constructed at the base of the dam to allow continuous grouting operations after completion of dam construction.

Since the completion of the dam, hundreds of men have worked 24 hours a day, 6 days a week grouting voids in the foundation to maintain its stability. The dam is more than 2 miles wide and nearly 400 feet tall. The width of the dam at the crest is about 33 feet. Its capacity is about 9,000,000 acre-ft. of water storage. In August of 2014, the dam was captured by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the construction workers halted the grouting operations and left the site. By the time the dam was retaken by Iraqi and Kurdish troupes the concern for foundation erosion reached a critical level. It was felt that the dam could fail at any time resulting in flooding Mosul under 65 feet of water and could kill up to 1.5 million Iraqis.

The Iraq government has awarded a 2 billion USD contract to Italian company, Trevi to resume grouting the foundation and make repairs to the dam. However, no long-term solution appears to be viable any time soon.



Bill Blunden
Photo Noel Hasselgren

Fundraiser for CO-WY District Optimist Junior Golf Program Bob Meyer, CO-WY District Optimist Junior Golf Tri-chairman

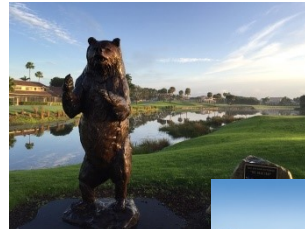
Join us on Monday, June 5, 2017 for
**CO-WY OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF
FUNDRAISER.**

See a sample of items we'll be making available: <http://cowyoptimist.travelpledge.com/event>.

The items are available in an auction starting around 1:00 p.m. at the Broken Tee Golf Course in Englewood on Oxford Ave, just west of Santa Fe.

We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please let me know.
Bob Meyer



March Super Citizen Presenters		
Mar 15 @ 2:30	MPB	George Buzick
Mar 16 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Harry Arkin
Mar 24 @ 3:00	Bradley	?

Weekly Greeters	
3/17/17	Pat Bush & Paul Gibson
3/24/17	Bob Avery & Everett Gardner
3/31/17	?

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2016-2017 40th Year — Chartered in 1976

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

Mar 13	Mon		Ski Day at Copper Mountain, See Bob Avery
Mar 17	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
Mar 22	Wed	6:30 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Randy Marcove's, 4103 S. Rosemary Way
Mar 24	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Celeste Archer, Colorado History Day
Mar 26	Sun	12:00 pm	District Finals TriStar Basketball, Pepsi Center, 1000 Chopper Circle
Mar 31	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Are You Smarter Than Brain Bowl Chair & Tamarac Optimist Club Visitation
Apr 7	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Joe Marci, Optimist International Junior Golf

**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	Chris Dunphy	720-297-3111
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

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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	rlawardlaw@gmail.com	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	craigceley@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Feb **Robert Wardlaw**, Mar **Pat Bush**, Apr **Paul Stratton**, May **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.