



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

March 27, 2020 – Vol. 44, Issue 26



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



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Editor for this Issue—Paul Stratton

Good Morning Optimists Meeting in Absentia

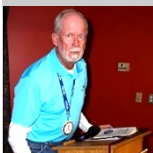
On this Friday, we are in the throes of a Coronavirus pandemic and moving into week three of stay-at-home orders and the practice of social distancing. Both the Denver Mayor and Colorado Governor have issued these orders that go through mid-April, or maybe longer. Mean while MSOC president **Bob Meyer** held a virtual board meeting and made some plans for maintaining the Club's collective and continuing camaraderie.



Looking like "Wanted Posters" Prez Bob Meyer called a virtual board meeting. Board members in attendance, captured in these headshots included Mark Smith, Greg Young, Steve Kady, Noel Hasselgren, Perry Allen, Bill Morgan, Tracy Sorensen, and Dan Rodriguez.

Photos Steve Kady

Presidential Rants & Raves



I regret to inform you that **Don St. John** passed away Thursday. Sue Slaby says his wife Char, is doing okay, but I am sure Char would appreciate hearing from some of us. Her address is at the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus. 2596 S. Quebec # 57, Denver 80231. A memorial service or celebration of life will be scheduled at a future date.

To keep members informed about Club happenings, I have scheduled Friday morning meetings via Zoom (an online video-conferencing service). You should have received an email invitation from me Saturday afternoon. There are user instructions elsewhere in this issue of GUMS. If you have a camera and microphone on your computer, you are all set. Just click on the link in the email invitation Fridays at 10:00 a.m. and you will be connected to the meeting. If you do not have a camera and microphone on your computer, you can connect to the meeting on your smartphone.

I have allowed two hours for the meeting. I do not expect

the "business" meeting to take that long, but I wanted to add sufficient time for everyone to socialize in the absence of a physical meeting.

Zoom offers a free membership package that permits 40-minute "meetings." That is a great deal if you want to get your families together for some "face time." Check out that "free offer" at <https://zoom.us/pricing>.

The Board of Directors met via Zoom last Wednesday night. It was good to see so many smiling faces. The Board approved \$ 1,000 donations to the Denver Public Schools Foundation Food Security Fund and the Denver YMCA's programs to provide food distribution and to provide emergency childcare for the families of first responders and medical personnel.

More information about the DPS Foundation Food Security Fund is available at <https://dpsfoundation.org/foodsecurityfund/>. More information about the Denver YMCA's programs is available at <https://www.denverymca.org/coronavirus-updates>.

We were able to fund these donations because several of the youth activities and projects in our 2019-2020 budget were cancelled because of "stay-at-home" orders.

The Board of Directors will continue as good stewards of the Club's finances. No one can accurately predict when we will return to the "old normal." Many, many, families will endure significant financial hardships in the coming months. The 2020 Christmas tree sales will more than likely not approach the levels of recent years, so we must keep a watchful eye on our income and expenditures to ensure that the Club can fund youth activities and projects once the COVID-19 crisis has moderated.

I have reached out to **Vitalant**, the company that Denver's Belle Bonfils Blood Center merged into, to see how we can conduct a blood drive in honor of **John Oss**, who continues to undergo blood infusions and transfusions in his battle against acute myeloid leukemia. John was re-admitted to Swedish Hospital earlier this week after he developed a fever.

I have started making a few phone calls each day to keep in touch with Club members. I suggest that you do the same as you are able. All it takes is a few minutes to possibly brighten someone's day as we all endure the "new normal" of "stay-at-home." If you find Club members who need assistance, please let me or **Michael Chavez** know so that we can set up "phone trees" to help those who may be unable to get out for grocery store trips or medical appointments.

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******

My timeshare in Frisco will be unavailable for the foreseeable future, as Summit County has ordered the closure of all hotels and timeshare, Airbnb, and VRBO rentals, so, although the MSOC membership drive will continue, I am unable to offer my April week to the "winner" of the membership drive. I do not know when or if my timeshare week will become available later in the year, but if it is, I will give it to the "winner."

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones; practice safe health procedures; and we will see you at some point in the future.

If you need to contact me, please call 303-919-4532 or email me at meyerrob@comcast.net.

Yours in Optimism,
Prez Bob Meyer

St Patrick's Pooper-Scooper Team from the Past



In an email in reference to last week's **GUMS Bob Avery** writes, "Great job! True journalists... None of this fake news for you guys. In the picture I believe the short guy behind **Curt Lorenzen** is **Bill Swigert**. I am next to **Freddie**

(with his hand up), I would almost bet that is **Jim Leuschner** standing on the end next to me. Is that **Don Thomson** behind Lorenzen? And the guy next to Lorenzen might be **Bill Litchfield**." Editor, let us know if you agree.

On-Line Trivia Contest

By Andy Towt



During this time of "Shelter in Place," I am thinking of ways to keep in communication with others. My daughter mentioned that she plays a nightly game of electronic trivia with her friends. This consists of her emailing a question to them, and seeing who can get it right. Of course, they are all on the honor system -- they cannot ask someone else or use Google for the answer.

Since **GUMS** is going to be published, regardless if we meet or not, I thought this might work for us. In this regard, I am going to send a question to be posted every week in **GUMS**. Those who want to venture a guess at the answer can email me the answer, by Tuesday, and I will keep a tally of who got the correct answer.

Once we can meet again, we can award a prize to the person(s) who got the most correct answers.

This week's question is: What is the actor's name that played the wizard in the original movie, *The Wizard of Oz*?

All answers should be sent via email to Warren.Allentown@gmail.com. Note, this is not my daily email, so do not try to send it to the email as listed in the MSOC directory. And remember, everyone is on the honor system. Even if your partner is the "trivia queen or king of Colorado," you cannot ask them, or go to Google.

Thank You

Hello, President Bob:

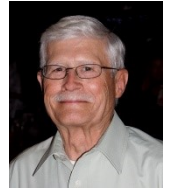
I just want to take a moment and thank the Monaco South Optimist Club members for the very nice get well card. All of the get well comments, prayers, and good wishes from the members put a big smile on my face. You guys are simply the best!

Abigail Nicholas Gloor



The Passing of Don St. John

Char St. John let some Tamarac and Monaco South Optimist members know that **Don St. John** was moved to hospice care at the Eastern Star Retirement Home and then passed away on Thursday, March 26th. Services for Don will be held at a later date.



Don joined MSOC in October of 1994 and was Club President in 2001-2002. During **Craig Eley's** presidency, 2016-2017, we held **Don St John Day** to recognize Don's membership, leadership, commitment, and dedication to Monaco South and Optimism. The proclamation for that day was signed by **Denver Mayor Michael Hancock**. Craig provided a biographical interview with Don that he conducted on July 26, 2013, which will be published in **GUMS**, in its entirety next week. Please keep Char and Don's family in your thoughts and prayers. Char's mailing address is "in care of" Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus, 2596 S. Quebec # 57, Denver 80231. Please let Char know you are thinking about her.

MSOC Friday's ZOOM Meetings

Via ZOOM on Friday, April 3 @ 10:00 a.m.

To Join the Meeting CLICK BELOW

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/659090479?pwd=SXU5TURhMHg2SE9VV21URThXQnZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 659 090 479

Password: 048652

See Now to Joining a Meeting at

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

Pictures You May Have Missed the Past Few Weeks



Thanks to Noel Hasselgren



A Blast from the Past

By Greg Hurd

Hi Pat Bush and Monaco South members, I enjoyed your stories in the last *GUMS*. They made me reflect on some MSOC events of the past. A brief recollection is below.



Greg Hurd

When the club was being formed, I recall the several times **Al Brunner** and **Marlin Kent** would see me working outside in the yard and come over to twist my arm to come to a meeting as the club was just beginning to be formed. We needed 35 potential members to officially form the club and being official was important. I finally caved in as Marlin had my left arm and Al my right. We would meet at the Bonanza Steak House next to the old K Mart. Eggs were a tad overdone but the comradery was great. Next thing I knew we, the MSOC Board, were in the basement of the Moore Realty building on E. Hampden to charter the club. **Craig Eley** once owned this building— small world.

Bob Rhue, our first President, asked me to help **Marlin Kent** and **Jerry Whitlow** make the first-year club scrapbook. This brought back memories of the scrapbooks my Grandmother made for me back in ancient times before I was five. So, I agreed. As everyone knows engineers are not known for our spelling skills. After several attempts at doing what they asked, I was delegated to do the artwork and drawings. This was much better and needless to say there were several drawings of trains and train-related items. Not sure this is what Bob had in mind but that was the way it was. I have not been asked again to help with a scrapbook.

One event that sticks in my mind was the Alzheimer's Walk where we assisted them in setting up tents, tables and helped others to get the vendors' goods from the parking lot to their tent location. **Freddie Pasternak** looked a little distracted, so I told Freddie to come with me to help people unload their cars and get their goodies to their tents. Freddie said OK but I could tell he really wanted to drive the golf cart that we used. I told Freddie to take the wheel. I did not know golf carts could go so fast. Freddie would point to something to the right, then the left never paying much attention to stay on the asphalt walkway. I remember a 3-foot tall bush that Freddie took out with the golf cart. He must have really enjoyed watching the squirrels as I never could tell what he was always pointing toward.

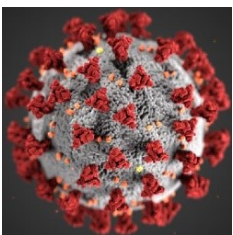
Then there were the times when the club helped the Channel 6 auction for several years. We would set up the items to be auctioned on tables. **Oscar Sorensen** and I grabbed a grocery cart full of stuff to set up. The lady with the clip board and microphone headset pointed us to the correct table. We were supposed to set the items in a particular order left to right according to the list we were given. This way the auctioneer and camera operator were in sync so that when a ceramic rabbit was being described the camera would not be focused on a wooden rocking horse. We were significantly challenged when we had to place a picture of modern art on the table. Oscar looked at me and I him, which is the top of the picture? After turning the darn thing every way, we could, Oscar finally said this is the top and so we set it that way. A couple of minutes later the lady with the clip board came over and turned the picture so that the top was now at the bottom and gave us a not so friendly grin. I told Oscar I needed some scotch to put in my glass of water and he agreed that was a good idea. About 5 minutes later another lady came to the table just as we were setting up the last item. She looked at the modern art picture and turned it the way we originally had it. She looked at us with a quizzical grin. I gave her a thumbs up. The scotch could wait a few minutes now.

I will leave you with this one. We were delivering Christmas food baskets one year. We had 5 total to distribute. The first 4 families were certainly thankful. I survived a big hug from a lady recipient who must have been at least 300 pounds. I remember not breathing for a few seconds. Finally, we were on number 5 and found the apartment. Anyway, we kept banging on number five's door and finally a young boy about 5 years old opened the door. We told him who we were which meant nothing to him and that we brought food. His eyes got big and he let us in. We asked where his Mom or Dad were and he pointed down a hallway. So, I naturally looked that direction. There was Mom with someone in bed celebrating a birthday, I guess. They were too busy to see me. Never did meet them either. We just got the heck out of there.

Is not this club the best ever and does it not provide the most entertaining opportunities!

*This is a good time to share your stories so that we can fill the pages of our weekly *GUMS* newsletter. Send your stories to the monthly editor or to Robert Finkelmeier.*

What is this Coronavirus?



Facts on the Coronavirus, [Dr. Peter Lin](#) breaks down the facts about what it is, where it came from, how it spreads and what you can do to protect yourself. [CLICK HERE.](#)

John Hopkins COVID-19 map
@ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

The Power of Optimism

[SoulPancake](#) and [Life is Good](#) wanted to find out how ordinary people use **optimism every day!** Help by sharing something good that happened today, and Life is Good will help kids in need.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbjH9d4h6GQ>

How Would You Define OPTIMISM?

Let us all know!



Weekly Greeters

4/3/20	In Person Meeting Suspended Due to Virus Attend a Zoom Meeting starting at 10:00 a.m.
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Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 43rd Year — Chartered in 1976
See the Online Calendar @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/Events/Calendar>

Due to the need to be cautious during the covid-19 outbreak, meetings have been suspended until at least April 3rd. Please check back for updates.

Apr 3	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TO BE DETERMINED
Apr 4	Sat	1:00 pm	DTC Optimist Club Wine Tasting, Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Ave.
Apr 10	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TO BE DETERMINED
Apr 17	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TO BE DETERMINED
Apr 24	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TO BE DETERMINED
May 1	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TO BE DETERMINED
May 2	Sat	7:30 am	History Day State Contest: To be held virtually in June 2020
May 8	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TO BE DETERMINED
May 8	Fri	8:10 am	Super Citizen, Holm Elementary TO BE DETERMINED

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: April **Phil Perington**, May **George Buzick**, June **Robert Wardlaw**

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.