



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



March 3, 2017 – Vol. 41, Issue 22

## Optimist Club of Monaco South



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

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)



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

Editor for this Issue—Pat Bush

### Good Morning Optimists

This early morning, it feels like spring is on the way. A warm greeting is provided by **Cap Hermann** and **Phil Perington**, who we assume is standing in for **Allen Malask**, greeted us this morning.



Cap Hermann & Phil Perington  
Photo Noel Hasselgren

### First Bell

President **Craig Eley** rings the bell promptly at 7 a.m. and calls on **Keith Galloway** to give the invocation. Keith reads a prayer which seeks to “... have respect for the law, to inspire the respect for law, one of the basic requirements for a civilized society, without which there is anarchy.” Keith then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

### Guests

On this morning we were honored to have: **Jay Welton** who read a post **Prez Eley** made on Nextdoor, a neighborhood social media website. Jay's been retired for 6 months and decided to come and check us out.

**Steve Kady** introduces a former Denver Police Officer, **Don Dunn** whom he has known for many years. Don spent 28 years with the Denver Police Department and loves to ride motorcycles.

### From the Prez

**Prez Craig** announced that the Board approved the applications from **Rob Brewer** and **Jesse Carter**, who both worked at the championship Brain Bowl Tournament on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Rob works in



his family owned carpet care business and Jesse is a mortgage business lender. Welcome to you both!



Rob Brewer



Jesse Carter

**Habitat for Humanity:** Prez **Craig Eley** said he could use a couple more volunteers for this Thursday's project. The activity will take place at 2680 S. Decatur St., starting at 8:45 a.m. and wrapping up at 4:30 p.m. By the end of the meeting, Craig announced that he had the volunteers needed.

**Recognition:** Seeing **Keith Galloway** in attendance **Prez Craig** asked him to come up to receive a big “thank you” for organizing the Sweethearts to Breakfast event on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Craig then presented him with the coveted MSOC pin. Nicely done Keith!

**Monaco South Hats:** A new version of the MSOC ballcap is now available for \$10. They are very stylish! See **Greg Young** to get yours.

**Photos for the Directory:** The time has come to gather photos for the April directory, so please see Craig. If you are a new member, or if your picture is not currently included, or you do not like it see **Prez Craig** to get a new one. Further, if you have corrections, change of address, phone numbers, etc., please email them to Tom Mario at [tmmauro@aol.com](mailto:tmmauro@aol.com).

**Thank You Letter:** The club received a Thank You from East High School, Constitutional Scholars program. MSOC donated \$800 to help with expenses for this year's upcoming competition.

### Announcements

**Englewood Optimist Club:** **Phil Perington** shared that the new Englewood Optimist Club, which was sponsored by Monaco South and Heather Garden Optimist Clubs is presenting a Celebration Dinner on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Broken Tee Golf Course Restaurant located at 2101 W. Oxford Avenue, just off of Santa Fe. The cost is \$20 for a Western Bar-B-Q Buffet. Camaraderie and Cocktails, with a cash bar, begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. Please attend and enjoy the excitement of this new addition to the COWY Optimist Family. RSVP to Phil Perington, [perington@msn.com](mailto:perington@msn.com), or **Michael Chavez**, [mikeart9@me.com](mailto:mikeart9@me.com), by March 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Tri-Star Basketball:** **Michael Chavez** reported that lots of volunteers are needed for the North High event, on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Tri-Star is a skills competition for 8-14 year old boys and girls. Please let Michael know if you can assist at the Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> event starting at noon. The other events leading up to the 2017 Finals Competition, Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Pepsi Center can be found at [tristarbasketball.org](http://tristarbasketball.org).

**Eagle Scout Banquet:** **John Oss** let us know via email, that he attended this Eagle Scout recognition event held Friday evening. **Craig Eley** and **Donlie Smith** presented six Eagle Scouts an award for their outstanding Eagle Service Projects. Those projects were selected from the 573 conducted this past year in the Denver Area Council. One of those Eagles was presented a \$1000 scholarship given by Marilyn Brown from the **Doug Morton Foundation**. Doug was an Eagle Scout and a long time member of OCMS. Monaco South members in attendance included: **Donlie Smith, Craig Eley, Jack Kleinheksel** and his wife Georgia, **Tom Overton, Frank Middleton, Greg Hurd, Bryce Slaby, Michael Chavez, Paul Gibson, Phil Perington, and John Oss**. Donlie organized the first event eighteen years ago and MSOC has selected the top service projects each year. The hundreds attending filled the Renaissance Hotel convention hall. [See some pictures from the evening.](#)



Photo John Oss

**The Brain Bowl is Over:** **Karl Geil** let us know that the 2017 Optimist Brain Bowl tournament was held last Saturday, February 25. The Champions were: Southern Hills 6B in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Slavens 7A in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and Centennial 8C in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Additional results are attached to the GUMS distribution email.

We had a perfect number of volunteers this year. Of the 111 volunteers (not counting FRANCESCO members who were selling concessions as their Club fundraiser), 32 (almost 29%) were from Monaco South: **Wyatt McCallie, Noel Hasselgren, Pat Bush, Everett Gardner, Barry Barker, Kent Gloor, Al Gapuzan, Allen Pierce, David Telpner, Scott Walker, Dave Peck, Donlie Smith, John Oss, Michael White, Tom Kramis, Bill Morgan, Joe Marci, Michael Chavez**, our two newest members **Rob Brewer** and **Jesse Carter**, **Paul Simon, Mike McMahon, Randy Marcove, Craig Eley, Cap Hermann, George Buzick, Harry Arkin, Bob Meyer, Jon Wachter, Frank Middleton, and Karl Geil**. Thanks to all of you who volunteered at any of this year's Optimist Brain Bowl tournaments. The kids love this event, and we could not deliver it without the support of the MSOC.

**Annual Chili Cook Off:** **Paul Simon**, CO-WY District Governor, is looking for volunteers. The Annual Chili Cook Off, sponsored by the Front Range American Cancer Society Optimist Club, is Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, a Casino Night, is coming up on Friday evening, May 12<sup>th</sup>. See both fliers attached to the GUMS distribution email or go to the [District website](#). **Greg Young** shared he too has tickets available for Casino Night.

**Monaco South Ski Day:** **Bob Avery**, reminded us that Ski Day at Copper Mountain is Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that he and **Jack Kleinheksel** attended a speech by **Bob Gates**, former Secretary of Defense under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama in Boulder. Mr. Gates also served as CIA Director and was awarded the Presidential Medal for Freedom by President Obama. As it turns out, Jack is a childhood friend of the former Secretary and was greeted as an honored guest when presented backstage after the speech. We always knew Jack kept good company.

**Looking for a Used Car:** **Jim VanderKamp** is looking for an older dependable car for his granddaughter. Anyone with an automobile like this, please see contact Jim @ 720-624-6178.

**Second Honeymoon:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Honeymoon Weekend is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> in Glenwood Springs, Colorado at the Hotel Colorado. Fourteen couples have already signed up and if you are interested, see **Craig Eley** for details.

**Heather Gardens Optimist Club:** **Michael McMahon** attended the Heather Gardens Optimist Club meeting recently and they are having a fundraiser Friday, April 1, at 6 p.m., called, **Horse Races for Tablets**. The proceeds will support Yale Elementary, they hope to purchase at least 10 Chromebook tablet computers for students. Come with friends and wager on your favorite pony in each of 8 races, called by a professional track announcer and broadcast on the big screen. Admission is \$15 for singles, \$25 for couples. For tickets contact **Check Montgomerie** at 309-275-8706.

**Dime-A-Day:** **Greg Young** is looking for Dime-A-Day contributions. The Dime-A-Day program raises funds to fight childhood cancer. Give your check of \$36.50 to Greg.

**Lowry Elementary Spaghetti Dinner:** **Greg Young** also reported that Lowry Elementary, one of our Super Citizen schools, is having a school wide spaghetti dinner next Thursday, March 9 from 5:30-7 p.m. If there is anyone in the Optimist club that might want to come and help or serve spaghetti they would be welcome.

Continued on the next page

### Statement on Political Speakers and Candidates and Political Correctness

See the document approved by the Board on February 22, 2017 attached to the GUMS Distribution email.

## Kendra Black Denver City Councilwoman, District 4

**Tom Mauro** introduces our speaker this morning; Councilwoman Kendra Black, who represents the southeast part of Denver. Kendra starts by telling us how much she likes to come to our meetings.

She then proceeds to provide a brief update on what is happening city wide. She reports that the current population in the metro area is nearing 3 million, which has doubled since 1990. Over 250,000 per day drive into Denver to work, most of them in cars, with only the driver. The housing shortage is the norm, many people are looking for affordable places to live. But with single family homes renting at \$2500-\$3000 per month many cannot afford the cost. There are many cases of people living with family members. Therefore, the priorities for the year include mobility, homelessness, lodgers tax for those utilizing Airbnb, an online short-term rental website, at the top of the list. Another concern is the need for sidewalk installations and/or improvements. She reported that southeast Denver has one of the lowest ridership rates for Light Rail and that marijuana retail outlets are being limited due to the proliferation of these outlets.

She also reported that Initiative 300 was passed, which allows for people to consume marijuana in some places. As an examples, an art gallery that wanted to allow it in an outdoor location available for consumption during an exhibit.

The City will be putting a bond on the November 2017 ballot. This bond will not increase our taxes, but will extend the taxes we already pay from the 2007 bond. The District 4



Councilwoman Kendra Black  
Photo Noel Hasselgren

wish list for the bond includes our parks and maintenance projects.

She also said, people want to see more restaurants, a beer garden from what she gathered from a survey this past fall. Plus, streetscapes (landscaping along the sidewalks) along with art projects. She now has established several citizen Work Groups, to address specific wants/needs.

It's exciting to have the public engaged and working towards the improvement of our community. South by Southeast will be featured this summer for a fun day! The event will include music, arts, and entertainment.

Kendra also talked about a Senior Series to get seniors engaged and active. An example she discussed was, *"How to participate with social media, transportation, and the like."*

In summary, Southeast Denver has some of the best neighborhood, great schools, and unfortunately some very poor commercial development areas. Planning and how this impacts our community are some of the things we need to address and how they impact our area. For an example she mentioned the K-Mart property, at Evans and Monaco, an area of blight, people spray paint, and unfortunately, no plans are on the books for this area.

Further, she mentioned that the city has initiated a health study, and if an area has been designated blight, it can affect the value of the property.

Many of the topics discussed can be further reviewed in her monthly newsletter, *SCOOP*, @ [CLICK HERE](#).

### Announcements Continued

Volunteers will get a free dinner as a bonus! Olive Garden donated the spaghetti and breadsticks. If interested, please let Charis Sederberg at [charismarie@gmail.com](mailto:charismarie@gmail.com) know as soon as possible. Lowry is located at 8001 E Cedar Ave.

**Estes Park Winds & Train Show:** **Greg Hurd**, reports Big Winds in Estes Park recently. Some of the gusts topped 100 mph and even blew away his wind gauge. The Train show is tomorrow and Sunday at the Merchandise Mart, Boy Scouts active military and kids under 12 are admitted free.

**Tamarac Optimist Club Visitation:** On Friday, March 31 we will have a visitation from the Tamarac Optimist Club. Tamarac is our sister club, is a unique all-women's volunteer group dedicated to "Bringing Out The Best In Kids, Our Communities, and Ourselves."

### Drawing

With a \$100 in the pot the King of Spades was the card to find. Cups went to: **Mark Metevia, Bob Avery, Noel Hasselgren, John Young, Bob Avery** again, **Wyatt McCallie, Scott Walker**, and Gary Strowbridge. Greg Young got the name tag draw, but alas, \$100 was not in the cards.

| March Super Citizen Presenters |          |               |
|--------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Mar 10 @ 8:30                  | Slavens  | Tom Kramis    |
| Mar 15 @ 2:30                  | MPB      | George Buzick |
| Mar 16 @ 5:30                  | Hamilton | Harry Arkin   |
| Mar 24 @ 3:00                  | Bradley  | ?             |

| Weekly Greeters |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 3/10/17         | Joe Marci & George Buzick   |
| 3/17/17         | Pat Bush & Paul Gibson      |
| 3/24/17         | Bob Avery & Everett Gardner |
| 3/31/17         | ?                           |

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

- Mar 9 Thu 8:45 am Habitat for Humanity Build, 2680 S. Decatur St.
- Mar 10 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Bill Blunden, The Mosul Dam in Iraq, in Danger of Collapse
- Mar 12 Sun 12:30 pm Regional Tri-Star Basketball Competition, North High School, 2960 N. Speer Blvd.
- Mar 13 Mon Ski Day at Copper Mountain, See Bob Avery
- Mar 17 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day

**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**

|                    |              |  |                |              |  |
|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------|--------------|--|
| 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:** 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.