



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

November 29, 2019 – Vol. 44, Issue 9

Optimist Club of Monaco South



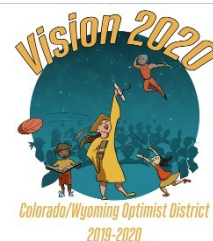
OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

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

Editor for this Issue—Phil Perington



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Good Morning Optimists



Thanksgiving Weekend, First Day of Tree Lot Setup and Sales, and the Santa Season.

Today's Greeters are **George Buzick** and **John Young** both smiling and providing a warm welcome and glad tidings to all. It was great to see George surrounded by caring friends and comforting thoughts.

Left, George Buzick & John Young.

Photos Noel Hasselgren



Morning Observations & Conversations

A very early crowd of **Allen Malask**, **Russ Paul**, **Joe Marci**, **Noel Hasselgren**, **Pat Bush**, **Steve Kady**, and your **GUMS** editor, anxiously gathered, waiting for **Dr. Bob Finkelmeier** to appear with his drawing tickets and shiny silver bed pan—even before he got his coat off drawing tickets were being purchased in hopes of the big pot of \$100.



Photos Phil Perington

The Breakfast buffet featured individual omelets with all the trimmings—it seemed like there were a lot of hungry chow hounds this morning.

Overall it looked like Thanksgiving was getting a second wind. **Pat Bush** was prowling the line looking for turkey burritos and lots of catsup. The always smiling **Jack Kittell** arrived and announced he was here for cashiers training and some overdue renewal of camaraderie. **Gary Strowbridge** was heard complaining how he has never been able to find an acceptable pair of snow boots—someone suggested he spend a little more money. **Frank Middleton** was after **Dr. Bob** having seen his name "Frank" in last week's edition of **GUMS** featuring a cartoon guy named Frank.

Bob Avery and **Paul Bernard** quietly noted, "tryptophan turkey hangovers" were in abundance this morning and that



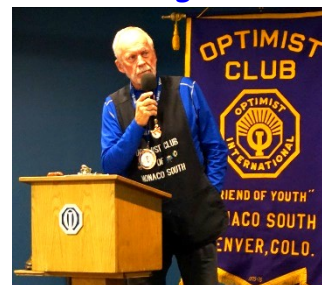
Morning early birds, Allen Malask, Russ Paul, Joe Marci, Noel Hasselgren, Pat Bush, and John Young.

the energy level might be having trouble gaining steam.

Mike McMahon was circling about spreading cheer and good feelings to all. It was a lighthearted crowd—mostly dressed warm for the morning labor at the Tree Lot.

First Bell, Invocation & Pledge

President **Bob Meyer**, arrives this morning, wearing his colorfully decorated Monaco South sales apron. He gave the assembled together at 7:05 a.m., whereby your editor presented the Invocation ... "giving thanks to all who protect and serve our children for the freedoms we enjoy, including the camaraderie and good will of the Optimist spirit." He then lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the robust shouts of "Play Ball!" And, "sell those trees!"



On This Date in History

As has become the norm, **Prez Bob** shares some birthdates for November 29th. 1832, American author, Louisa May Alcott; 1927, Vin Scully, American sportscaster; 1955, Howie Mandel; and in 1988 football quarterback, Russell Wilson.

And for major events on this date: 1864, the Sand Creek massacre was a massacre of Cheyenne and Arapaho people by the U.S. Army in the American Indian Wars; 1890, first Army-Navy football game, Navy won 24 to 0; 1929, first flight over the South Pole; 1944, doctors at Johns Hopkins performed the surgery that opened the door to today's open heart surgery; in 1947, Kukla, Fran, and Ollie an early American TV show using puppets appeared; and last, 2017, Matt Lauer fired by NBC for sexual misconduct allegations.



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******

From the Prez

A hearty "Welcome" to everyone for this first day of the tree lot. There remains a lot more work to do—so all hands are needed at the Tree Lot. The lights are on the poles and 1200-1300 trees have been delivered and need to be setup.



At left the Tree lot trailer at 8:30 a.m. on Friday morning. There is still a lot to be done.

Celebration of Life for Twyla Buzick

The celebration of Twyla's life will be held on Friday, December 6, beginning

at 11:00 a.m. There will be a brief eulogy and an opportunity, for those who would like, to share memories of Twyla. A light lunch will be served immediately after the celebration. Location is Red Rocks Country Club, 16235 West Belleview Avenue, Morrison, CO.

Important Reminder: To use the American Legion Post 1 Hall for OCMS projects it must be coordinate through the Legion office. No projects can be done without the Hall staff giving permission. Further, going behind the bar is strictly prohibited. This also goes for the kitchen area. And, when parking in the lot, there is no backing into the South fence—all cars should be pulled in "head first."

Announcements

Super Citizen Presentations: Robert Wardlaw shared we have six Super Citizen presentations this month. A sign-up sheet is being passed around. Please sign up and become a part of this tremendous program for students, many of whom, both past and present visit our tree lot with their parents or guardians. Occasionally, a parent is actually a past Super Citizen. It is always a wonderful moment on the tree lot. Here is what I have to date—see below.

December Super Citizen Presenters

Dec 8 @ 1:00	Samuels	Joe Marci
Dec 12 @ 9:00	McMeen	?
Dec 13 @ 8:30	Slavens	Michael Chavez
Dec 17 @ 2:30	MPB	George Buzick
Dec 19 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Paul Stratton
Dec 20 @ 3:00	Bradley	Bob Avery

Christmas Food Basket Delivery: Michael Chavez reminded us that the Christmas baskets delivery is just around the corner, set for Saturday, December 21st. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Legion Hall parking lot. Details to follow.

Also, as a follow up on **Bill Walters Thanksgiving Dinners** at the Boys & Girls Clubs and Girls Inc. ABC Channel 4 presented a cover story about the event. See "Big Thanksgiving Feast A Tradition At Boys & Girls Club" @ <https://denver.cbslocal.com/2019/11/28/thanksgiving-boys-girls-club/> Click the link to see if you are in the video clip.

Holiday Soirée with the Tamarac Club: This years Holiday party will be with the Tamarac Optimist on Friday evening, December 13th. The cost is \$25 per person, payable to Tamarac Optimist and given to Nancy DeNiro, 14091 E Marina Dr #311, Aurora, CO 80014 in advance—you must RSVP. This is always a fun event and a good way to say Thank You to the ladies for helping tag and price trees.

Tree Lot Update: Tom Kramis provided a "big thank you" to everyone who has helped with the Tree Lot management transition. **Joe Marci** has been a shining example of Yoda leadership. Thank you to the Monday crew of **John**

Oss, Kevin Koalenz, Gary Miller, Henry Schonewise, Cesar Camarena, Jon Wachter, Ron Gustas, Bill Blunden, and special kudos to Steve Kady for recruiting 14 Firemen and one lady for the Monday 400+ tree unloading. Also, the Wednesday delivery of 700+ trees was powered by **Noel Hasselgren, George Buzick, John Young, Mike White, Andy Towt, John Oss, Don Roth, Jim VanderKamp, Ken Duffy, Mark Smith, Pat Bush, Bob Meyer, Henry Schonewise, Cesar Camarena, and Bob Avery.** **Russ Paul** took a bus to the lot with a new coffee maker in hand. **Gary Miller** and **Mike Webb** provided vital electrical hook ups for both Lot Trailer and Santa Hauz.

The re-finishing work on the Santa House has started and major improvements to the trailer are almost completed. A "Murphy bed" is still under consideration. **Cesar Camarena** has been an incredible force of nature with his carpentry skills. Many advisors gave helpful advise to Tom on how to stack trees.

The next task is to get the lights set up and the stairway secured at the Santa Hauz. The heater is on— it is nice and warm. **Mike Miller** was responsible for making sure the generator and heat is working correctly. **Joe Marci** has taken over for **Ron Cisco** and nosh is fully stocked. We have 1,082 trees on the lot. The first tree sold was for a couple from Highlands Ranch—see story below. We need more to sign up. The portable heater is up and working full blast for the Tamarac ladies on Friday. **Tom Hoch** has finished with pricing and stock cards for tree on the lot. **Greg Young** has been putting in long hours getting the Cashiers Station organized and set to go.



From early morning, left, to late Friday evening, as shown below.

Photos Bob Avery



First Tree Sale: "Hello, My name is Kelsey and I am your



Photo Greg Young

first official Christmas Tree customer of 2019. I wanted to reach out and say thank you for selling me a tree two days before the lot was officially open. I am a nurse and have to work over the Thanksgiving

holiday, thus I am unable to spend the holiday with my family out of town. My family's tradition is always to set the Christmas tree up thanksgiving night and decorate it on Friday. Silly as it may be, but being able to purchase a tree and set it up helps soften the void of my family. You guys were very helpful! Most people would have turned me away as you weren't open, but I appreciate the fact that you didn't! I wanted to send this email to express how much I appreciate you allowing me to purchase a tree and brighten up my holiday! Thank you!

Kelsey

Presidential Rants & Raves

The first two days at the Christmas tree lot were very successful. But we need more volunteers for all shifts. Please remember that all of our activities and projects are funded by the net income generated from the Christmas tree lot. In an ideal world, every Monaco South member works a minimum of five 3-hour shifts.



Come on guys and sign up! Historically, the first couple weekends of the Christmas tree lot are the busiest, with sales of over 180 trees per day on the first Saturdays and Sundays. That means we need "all hands on deck" for the weekend shifts.

Check the weekly schedule and fill in where you can. During the week, it's a lot slower and much camaraderie is to be had. Also, please make bough bundles during slow periods.

Please do whatever you can to make the Christmas tree lot a continued success!

See my message on page 1 about the celebration of **Twyla Buzick's** life on Friday, December 6th at 11 a.m. Please come out and support **George Buzick and his family**.

Optimist Dues are due! See Greg Young.

Also, don't forget **Dime-A-Day** and the other OIF donor opportunities. See **Perry Allen**.

Please continue to check the MSOC calendar at <https://www.monacosouth.org/events/calendar>. You wouldn't want to miss any of our great service projects and activities.

I continue to challenge all Monaco South members to bring a guest to upcoming meetings. Let's continue to grow the Club so that we can maintain, and build upon, our service projects and activities.

I also ask for your continued support as the 2019-2020 Monaco South president.

Yours in Optimism, **Prez Bob**

Announcements Continued

Kids Books for Santa Hauz: Don Thomson asked us to bring more books for the Santa Hauz. **Mike McMahon** then offered that his wife has 400 books we can have and will make arrangements to get them to the lot. If anyone else has slightly used books for kid, please give them to Don.

Signing Up for Tree Lot Shifts & Cashier Duties

Greg Young provided an informative and helpful training on how to sign up to work the lot. Go to http://www.msocxmas.org/xmas_schedule.php For more detailed

instructions see the LOT SIGN UP instruction attached to the GUMS distribution email. Once you add your name to a given day and shift time, be sure to SAVE you entry.

We have finally entered the 21st century with our state of the art staffing controls and inventory practices. It is a good thing. Greg deserves a lot of credit for getting us on board.

Also discussed were the schedule protocol and how to sign up for tree lot duty. Saturday will be an important day for all hands on deck. We have one less selling week this year. A giant thank you to **Paul Bernard** for making this interactive website a reality. Members must work five 3-hour shifts to get trees and wreaths at cost. Unloading will count toward working a shift. Please add your name legibly and be sure and Save your entry.

For Cashier we have a new **Square D Terminal**, to use it see the instructions available from Greg or found in the Tree Lot Trailer.

Updated Tree Lot Manager list & Lot Cell Phone

An updated Tree Lot Manager List along with the Trailer phone number, 720-998-5729, is attached to the **GUMS** distribution email and to included on the Tree Lot schedule webpage at http://www.msocxmas.org/xmas_schedule.php

Should you have questions about scheduling yourself for a given day, contact one of the Day Managers.

Should you know someone who would like to volunteer, please let day manager know and provide the individuals name and contact information to Greg Young.

Email From Last Weeks Speaker

"You guys all are amazing! Yes, everything in the **GUMS** article captured great...except maybe you could take a few of the gray hairs out of my picture next time.

Thanks, so much for the blessing of being with you! I'll be

coming by your tree lot today or tomorrow to get a tree!

Dave Schunk, President, Volunteers of America"

Emails From Club Members

From **Marcus Goodbody**, "I can't drive anymore so I am asking to be removed from tree lot duties. Sorry about that."



From **Don StJohn via Char**, "Don sends a message to all members ... I wish I could be there to help as I used to put in lots of hours. Come on guys get out and help as much as possible ... some day you won't be able ... be thankful you still have the get up and go. Happy Thanksgiving. Don



Drawing

This weeks big pot is \$100 and the card to find was the King of Hearts. Well the two that went for the big money, **Jack Kitchell** and **Jack Kleinheksel**, both went away empty handed. Those



that took cups of cash were **Kent Gloor, Michael Chavez, Jack Kleinheksel, Don Thomson, Bob Avery, and George Buzick**.

Next week the pot grows to \$110.



Weekly Greeters

12/6/19	Steve Kady & Michael Chavez
12/13/19	Don Thomson & Mike White

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 43rd Year — Chartered in 1976

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

Dec 6	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Brad Appel, Wish for Wheels
Dec 6	Fri	1:00 pm	Super Citizen, Samuels Elementary
Dec 12	Thu	5:00 am	Channel 4 Toy Drive, King Soopers, 2450 S Colorado Blvd
Dec 12	Thu	9:00 am	Super Citizen, McMeen Elementary
Dec 13	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Michelle Freeman, High Line Canal Conservancy
Dec 13	Fri	8:30 am	Super Citizen, Slavens Elementary
Dec 13	Fri	5:00 pm	Christmas Party: Rhinestone Cowboy Holiday, Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E Girard
Dec 17	Tue	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood Elementary
Dec 19	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School
Dec 19	Thu	6:00 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Dec 20	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: White Elephant Gift Exchange

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: November **Phil Perington**, December **George Buzick**, January **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.