

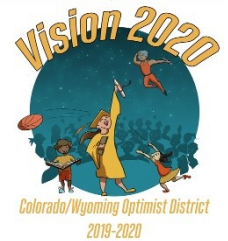


Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

September 25, 2020 – Vol. 44, Issue 52

Optimist Club of Monaco South



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 44 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
<https://www.monacosouth.org>



OPTIMIST
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Editor for this Issue—Phil Perington

Good Morning Optimists

Camaraderie Day, last meeting in September 2020

We were Greeted this fine morning by **Mark Metevia** and **Dave Peck**, both armed and ready with handheld temperature gauges and patient grins. They were really enjoying the moment reporting temperatures none above 98.6, the legal limit to enter and join the festive gathering.



Mark Metevia & Dave Peck serve as our greeters today.



Russ Paul gets his temperature checked upon arrival by Dave Peck.

Upon further study it was determined the average temp was 97.3 degrees. Lots of cool customers today!

Getting Setup

Prez elect **Dan Rodriguez** was busy working on the computer screen making sure we had a live Zoom feed, calling out "Is anybody there?" 3 or 4 times. Finally, a round of boisterous *Yes we are!*, came rolling in loud and clear from Prez **Bob Meyer**, who was orchestration the Zoom call from his home. The Opening Bell was just moments away!



In the Room

Al Gapuzan, **Russ Paul**, **Noel Hasselgren**, along with a very determined Parker resident **Larry Pulaski** were in the house and welcomed by all. There was small talk of the Rockies making the playoffs, right after the Red Sea parted. *Could it happen?*



Others engaging in early morning camaraderie included **Joe Marci**, **Ed Collins** and **Phil Perington**, and two charter members, **Oscar Sorensen** and **Bill Litchfield**. While **Gary Miller** reported **Ed Collins** had attempted to pay for breakfast with a \$100 bill but was quickly told to try again. However, the wafting smell of giant and delicious

breakfast burritos brought him to his senses, and Ed magically found a \$10 bill.

End of year Drawing ticket sales were brisk, as Dr. **Bob Finkelmeier** worked the floor reminding everyone they could be the winner by skillfully drawing the last remaining card for this Monaco South Optimist Club fiscal year.



First Bell

At approximately 7 a.m., we get the morning bell to come to order. Today is Prez **Bob Meyer's** last meeting, and Prez elect **Dan Rodriguez's** transition into his new role. The Invocation was presented by **Noel Hasselgren** in a tribute to Optimism, "... make this a day to remember, that we keep our Optimism alive and well, making every word of our Creed possible by pressing on to the greater achievements of tomorrow. It is our duty and gift to make all those around us aware of the enormous possibilities of Optimism including a total stranger."

Noel then led us in the *Pledge of Allegiance* followed by the determined cry of *Play Ball!*

From the Prez

President **Bob Meyer** welcomed everyone and thank all who made this unprecedented year unique due the Covid-19 pandemic.

He then urges anyone interested in attending the Annual Installation Banquet to hurry and RSVP online and be assured the \$30 payment will be accepted at the door. The room is sequestered to accommodate up to 50 attendees. A sumptuous table service menu awaits everyone. He has prepared a detailed yearend report we should all enjoy and proudly reflect upon. Note: Prez Bob's attached to the GUMS distribution email, plus it can be accessed by [Clicking Here](#).



Announcements

Let's See Who is There: **Frank Middleton**, who was on the Zoom call, asked if it was possible to pan the room for the benefit of all those other members on Zoom. Attendance totals for the day were 18 present and 23 online. **Bob Avery** is taking attendance from his fishing hole in the wilds of Oregon we learned.

The Villager Newspaper: **Mark Metevia** made another pitch for signing up for the weekly "[The Villager Newspaper](#)."

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******

Prez Rants & Raves



This is my final 'Rants and Raves' column of the year. Monaco South Optimists, thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your assistance this year!

We had another successful concurrent Zoom and in-person MSOC weekly membership meeting on Friday with about 40 members participating either in-person or via Zoom.

I cannot remember much of the meeting because I was between my bathroom and my study as my colonoscopy prep took a lot out of me (literally). I know ... TMI (Too much information).

There was a big card drawing winner since we had only one card left, but, for the life of me, I do not know who it was. I think you will find it here in another area.

Yesterday's 2020-2021 Installation Luncheon at Maggiano's DTC was a huge success, even if we had only a couple dozen MSOC members present. The food was plentiful and delicious. The camaraderie was wonderful, and I got to say 'Good Morning (and 'Good Afternoon)', Optimists' for the last time of my 2019-2020 term.

Many pictures were taken, and I am sure Dr. **Bob Finkelmeier**, in his final GUMS newsletter, captured most of them.

My 'Highlights of the Year' speech is attached to the GUMS distribution email and elsewhere in GUMS.

I am truly honored and humbled to have served as your President this year!

Thank you all, and Yours in Optimism, Prez Bob

Announcements Continued

The Villager weekly newspaper attempts to balance reported by The Denver Post.



The above subscription form is attached to the GUMS distribution email.

Owner and Publisher **Bob Sweeney**, a Friend of Optimist member (FOO) is offering us subscription at \$52 per year and will donate \$26 back to



Monaco South. As a comparison a Denver Post subscription is \$420. Bob regularly reports on our Club activities and contributions to the Community.

John Young was the first new subscriber to take him up on the deal, followed by **Pat Bush**. It is anticipated many other members will follow suit. The Villager covers what is going on in the area, especially the activities in the State Legislature. For many years Bob Sweeney and his News organization annually contributed \$50,000 to The Liberty Day Educational Programs, which included a March trip to the State Capital with up to one-hundred 5th grade students and teachers from around the area. It has been their privilege to open the session on the floor of the House with the Pledge of Allegiance. Past Monaco South members **Andy McKean** and **Jimmy Sengenberger** have participated along with other Club members, including **John Oss**, **Fred Pasternak**, and your editor **Phil Perington**.

CO-WY Junior Golf: **Joe Marci** reminded us that the Annual Jr. Golf Tournament will be on October 17-18 needs 6 to 8 spotters. There are 82 players signed up from all over the Western US. This is a national qualifying tournament for OI's 2021 Championship Tournament. The Club will buy your lunch and provide liquid refreshments.

Dime-A-Day Representative Perry Allen: **Bob Meyer** and **Dan Rodriguez** gave a big thank you to **Perry Allen** and announced our new Club Foundation Representative is being taken over by **Andy Towt**. We are looking forward to a robust Club participation in Dime-A-Day contributions once again. Monaco South has always been near or at the top of total contributions nationally. Other levels of participation are also available.

Tamarac Optimist Fundraiser: **Claire Young** wants to share with us one of the ladies Optimist's latest fundraising activities, a "Living Estate Downsizing Event," October 8th, 9th, and 10th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 3621 S. Peach Way. See the attached flyer, all proceeds from this event supports Tamarac's programs for youth in our communities.



Club Budgeting is Taking Place: **Greg Young** announced that all project leaders should submit their budget requests for this coming fiscal year, October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Greg will be putting together a proposed budget for review by the Officers and Board. Should he not hear from you by September 24th, you may not have funds allocated for your project this coming year. All budget items will be subject to revision pending results from the Tree Lot.

Membership Dues: **Greg Young** also advised that your dues invoice will be coming out and you will get a \$10 discount, or \$118 for regular membership and \$78 for life members. Further you will get a \$5 discount for paying the full year by November. Please watch for your dues invoice and be prepared to pay it promptly. Feel free to send him your dues now and save the club some time and postage.

MPB Super Citizen Presentation: MPB Super Citizen



representative **Gary Miller**, **George Buzick**, and **Greg Young** made a Super Citizen presentation on Tuesday morning, Septem-



ber 22nd, at Most Precious Blood School. They reported that MPB is truly happy to be back in school and back functioning with a Super Citizen presentation. This one was held outside, socially distanced, and everyone wearing masks most of the time. Greg Young told the

kiddos that they can "Still give everyone you meet a smile, because they can see it in your eyes and face, and it will make them feel better in this time of uncertainty." The SC recipient was Diana "Anna" Kimmon pictured here with her family.

Speaking of the Super Citizen Program: **Bob Finkelmeier** reminded all Super Citizen coordinators to contact their respective school to see how they would like to handle their Super Citizen program under the conditions prescribed by the pandemic. So far this year only Most Precious Blood has announced a September Super Citizen. **Gary Miller** the MPB coordinator said he has worked with them to establish a 2020-2021 protocol for their needs. **Please let both Robert Wardlaw and Bob know what your school might like to do.**

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Spotlight on a Club Member

Andy Towt

The spotlight was on **Andy Towt** this morning as he shared memories and reflections of his life, growth, and experiences. His Dad met his Mom in Pennsylvania, whereupon they moved to Boston where he was born. However, they soon moved to New Jersey, but he is still emotionally attached to Boston and speaking the Boston brogue. He never knew the Kardashian clan. His fascination and comparisons of Public education in different cities has been his lifelong passion. The Nuclear family is at risk and he is concerned with the future of our kids not getting a fair and equal education.

He then reflected on the Kennedy assassination and how teachers openly cried and sent kids home. In those days he still walked home. Another memory came during the Vietnam War. He distinctly remembers the daily radio reports reading casualty lists and instinctively knew "this is not good." He subsequently developed an emotional wall around DC, but admitted he visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall and was truly moved by it. The Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy 1968 assassinations have stayed with him as well. A tribute to this time of turmoil is recorded in the ballad Abraham, Martin & John.

Moving along, Andy tried wrestling at the urging of an over-zealous Coach in Central NJ, but never made varsity. He said it was a positive experience and he learned a lot about people and life. As a young man he joined the Boy



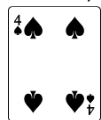
Andy Towt

Scouts to experience camping to get away from the concrete and asphalt of NJ. His Scoutmaster was an ex Drill Sargent who gave them technical life skills that remain forever. Once again he continued Learning about people & how to motivate others by leading the way by doing what is asked. He noted Eagle Scout Projects have evolved to bigger and more expansive endeavors.

He attended the University of Maine on a Student deferment, as a forestry major from NJ. He quickly discovered It was really cold but toughed it out and graduated. He was more focused than at any other time in his life. He met his wife while in Maine and has been blessed with a son, daughter and four grandkids. He has spent his career working in the Nuclear industry and waste management. The Towt's moved to Colorado 4-years ago to be closer to the rest of the family. It was at his oldest grandson's Super Citizen Award he became energized by the Optimist Club "really doing something." If by magic, **John Oss** popped up, gave him a card, and invited him to breakfast. At his first breakfast he signed up after seeing a room full of potential new friends. The rest is history. He is extremely active within the Club. He espoused three reasons for moving to Colorado: No bugs, blue sky, and grandkids with Optimists close to being number one. Andy is a true blessing and we all wish him many more of years of camaraderie and Service to Youth.

Is there a Drawing?

Yes, there is — the last one of the year with \$100 in the



pot and the one and only card to find was the 4 of spades. The lucky guy holding the right ticket was **Al Gapuzan** who reluctantly reported it



was **Kent Gloor's**. Also, the cup winners included **Ed Collins**, **Peter Dimond**, **Mark Metavia**, and **Pat Bush**. **Kent Gloor** and **Greg Hurd** were the only two big winners in the 2019–2020 MSOC year. At our next meeting a new pot will be underway with \$20 in the pot to start off.

Close of this Optimist Year

The meeting was brought to a close with the Optimist Creed — "Promise Yourself ... To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind."

Optimist Club of Monaco South 44th Celebration & Installation

... will be covered in a special newsletter coming out later this week. Additionally, the *GUMS* Chief Editor role moving over to **George Buzick** will also be addressed.



On-Line Trivia Contest

By Andy Towt

TRIVIA
CHALLENGE

I missed the mark on last week's question: **Who is the Rolling Stones rock band's lead guitarist who is known for his "bad boy" antics and**

drug abuse. I had one reply, which was wrong. The lead guitarist is **Keith Richards**. Sorry folks, I guess there are no Stone's Fans out there.

This week's question has a yes or no answer, so I expect a large, correct response: At the September 25th Optimist's Meeting, **Andy Towt** was asked to speak about himself.

Question: **Did he stay within the allotted five-minute time frame?** Please submit a **YES** or **NO**, and if you want to comment, do not include anything about people being bothered by your snoring.



Weekly Greeters

10/2/2020

Limited face-to-face meeting along with a Zoom meeting starting at 7:00 a.m.

Pictures for this issue were taken by Noel Hasselgren, Steve Kady, Greg Young, and Bob Finkelmeier. Thank you!

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 44th Year — Chartered in 1976
See the Online Calendar @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/Events/Calendar>

Due to the need to be cautious during the CONVID-19 outbreak, meetings are virtual until at least the end of August or maybe September. Please check back for updates.

Oct 2	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Backstreet Tavern & Zoom Virtual Meeting
Oct 9	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Backstreet Tavern & Zoom Virtual Meeting
Oct 15	Thu	7:00 pm	Monthly Board Meeting: TBD
Oct 16	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Backstreet Tavern & Zoom Virtual Meeting
Oct 17	Sat	7:00 am	Optimist Junior Golf Tournament, Green Valley Ranch Golf Club
Oct 17	Sat	9:00 am	CO-WY Virtual Special Convention, register by Oct. 9 th Click Here

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: Aug **Paul Stratton**, Sept **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.