

“Optimist OPTICS” - continued



Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:



The **half-pot winner** today was Shannon Perry, who was not present. The half-pot winnings will roll over to the next meeting.

Conscious money was given by Colleen (continued healing for Gary!), Sally (Good Luck to IU, ranked #11 in the Big Ten!), and Dan (Heritage Hills is in the Regional Basketball playoffs!)

Doc Bender offered conscious money with a **medical minute**...comments on the History of a Pandemic. A Pandemic occurs only once every 100 years. In 1918, Influenza killed 51 million people worldwide. This occurred at the same time as the end of WWI...about 100 years ago. The war killed 36 million people. “So any time you think this isn’t a serious illness, history is repeating itself, and it will run it’s course.”

Dr. Jeff Olson also shared his views on the Coronavirus. The common flu kills 18,000-60,000 a year. There are so many fewer deaths caused by the Coronavirus so far, yet everyone is “freaked out”. He struggles to understand the big panic, as the symptoms are mild, people get over it (60% of the people who have had it are recovered from it), and the only people who are seriously affected are the elderly, and those whose health is otherwise compromised. As far as stopping the spread, he says, “the cat’s out of the bag”, and it’s going to be everywhere.

There were no trivia winners as President Rich once again stumped everyone with three questions related to St. Patrick’s Day. Way to support the club, Rich! \$\$\$\$\$

Dan Phillips and Michelle Brummett won the buddy prize! Please remember to contact your buddy....it pays off (usually in candy!)

Kendall Paul, Executive Director of the Vanderburgh Humane Society was our guest speaker. She has been with VHS for 26 years, and ED for the past 14. We learned about their many successful programs, and the words they live by, “Alter, Adopt, Adore”.

VHS serves their own animals and employs a full time veterinarian to alter (spay and neuter) the animals. They partner with other area animal rescue organizations to perform these surgeries for their animals in their own low cost clinic. This clinic also serves the public who have pets, but are not likely to have a private vet to care for them.

VHS takes in strays, litters, and personal pets that can no longer be kept. They take in twice as many cats as dogs. In 2017 they began partnering with the River Kitty Cat Café at 226 Main Street. They acquired the business last year, and are reaching their 450th cat adoption through this program! The cat café has a “cool vibe” and offers drinks and snacks (including wine and coffee). You can pay to sit and play in a separate room with the cats if you’d like. This has become a local attraction and they see a lot of business when big events come to the Ford Center. In addition to this program, VHS partners with humane societies in other states to maximize adoptions, sending cats to Chicago, and receiving puppies from Atlanta through the “Puppy Pipeline”. She says they are constantly networking.

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Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11:45am
Old National Bank Building, Downtown; Blue and Gold Room
Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905
www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org
Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.

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The organization also employs a full time person who educates the community about animal safety and care of animals, gives tours, and takes animals into the community. Other programs which allow the public to adore these animals is the Cardio for Canines (check out a shelter dog for a walk or run on a Saturday morning), and Mutts Morning Out (to socialize and advocate for the dog). Another very worthwhile program allows battered women to leave their abusive situation, without leaving their pet behind with the abuser. VHS will take care of the animal until the person can care for them again on their own. And if that's not enough, they also operate a pet food bank and a thrift store at their location.



So you can see they have a lot going on at VHS! Kendall appreciated the opportunity to speak with us and reminded everyone that donations are needed to keep it all running. They are a private organization and so their only funding comes from generous donors, fundraisers, and patrons of the River Kitty Cat Café.



Our next meeting is 3/26. The guest speaker will be Anne McKim, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. Please join us!

The next board meeting is 3/17 at 12:00 in Room 205 at ONB. All are welcome.

Committee assignments are as follows:



March Programs and Bulletin: Colleen York
Buddy prizes: Sally Olson
Invocation: Jeff Olson



April Programs: Michael Burke
Bulletin: **need a volunteer! Contact Rich.**
Buddy prizes: Colleen York
Invocation: Ron Eberhart



May Programs, Bulletin, Buddy Prizes and Invocation: Gary Burke (we hope Gary will be joining us by then but if not, we are sure someone will step in to volunteer to cover for Gary!)

Submitted by Colleen York



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Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



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