



***"Helping Kids, Now and
for the Future"***



Jeff Olson - President

Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown

This Week's Program

Mar 26th - Dr. Ray Nicholson
Health Department Chief

Next Week's Program

April 9th - Larry Rhodes "Aiding the Veterans"



Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:



March 12, 2014 was a very special meeting for the Evansville Downtown Optimist Club. President Jeff Olson began the meeting as usual calling on Mark Hackert for the Invocation, Pledge to our Flag, and to recite the Optimist Creed. Jeff then called on Ron Eberhart to come forward to oversee the special memorial meeting to honor John H. Campbell.



Ron explained that the board had discussed dedicating an entire meeting to memorialize John and the reason. Due to the fact that John's funeral was private, we were not able to "say goodbye" to John and get closure from his passing. Ron said that this was the first meeting of this nature that he could recall.

Tim Deisher, who was good friends with John and also Pam Macer, set up a phone call to Pam who is an attorney in Hawaii. Pam was our first female member and first female club President. Ron explained that when he was president in 1987 - 88 he had the distinct honor of changing the club bylaws to allow women to be members. Tim called Pam and she was able to listen to our meeting and make some personal remarks regarding her relationship with John.

Ron discussed the many activities in which John had participated. He noted that John was President in 1990 – 1991 and again 1999- 2000 when he took over for the President who moved to California. Ron could not recall her name. John also participated in our Circle of Leaders in 2011 – 12 acting as president in December, June, August and September.

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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.

“Optimist OPTICS”- continued



**Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble**

Financial Support for:

**YMCA
Camp Carson**



John joined the Downtown Optimist Club on April 1, 1980. Ron mentioned he joined on September 1, 1979. At that time, they were the young members of the club and now they were some of the old members.

John was very active as a member. In addition to serving as President on two occasions, he also served many terms on our board of directors. Ron noted that John was our “legal beagle”. He was always correcting and advising the club regarding our bylaws. John also served as our club Secretary for many years before relinquishing the duties several years ago due to his health problems.

Ron also mentioned that John was our resident Poet Lauriat. When John wrote the newsletter he used the name of “Zeke.” This style was in the “good ole boy” fashion with a lot of slang. It would take some concentration to read and understand the newsletter but we all enjoyed John’s interpretation of the meeting through the eyes of “Zeke”. Ron also mentioned that he had written some newsletters under the name of “Zike”...to compliment John’s creative writing.

John was our Scrapbook Chairman for many years, preparing the scrapbooks for each president. Ron explained that Bob Levi would take two pictures with his Polaroid camera. He would give one to the speaker and give one to John to put in the scrapbook. John was very artistic too, as is evident from his sketches on the many pages of the scrapbooks. We had several on display along with photos. Ron Eberhart prepared a 3 minute video with music from pictures of John. Many members watched the video after the meeting on his net book.



John also was Master of Ceremonies at many Changing of the Guards. Ron mentioned they “flipped flopped” on the duties each year. John was our MC at our 90 Anniversary celebration in 2011.

Ron explained that many years ago our club had skits at the annual meeting where we installed our new officers. Paul Ritchel had his crew at Creative Press write the skits for many years. John took over that duty for several years after Creative Press closed.

Ron recalled that John attended our annual grave visitations and that many years ago. John was in charge of memorializing members who had passed on at the annual breakfast after visiting the grave sites.

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John was one of our best "Sarge at Arms" and was our go to guy for many years when the president was looking to fill the slot. He would always accept the offer. As a trivial expert, John was the best in the club, as noted by Ron, except when our current president, John Olson, joined. John had some competition then. Trivia questions are now a part of the Sarg's part of the meeting and Ron thought that might have been how it originated from John using it so much.

Ron closed by mentioning that John was Secretary/Treasurer of the Andrew Erskine Trust. He took over this responsibility in 1998 when George Samson, our former secretary for many years, passed away. Several club members are on the Erksine board.

Next up was Pam on the phone. She shared some very personal experiences with John as they dated many years ago. She reiterated what a nice person John was and would do anything to help other people. She also explained that John was a great gardener too. She shared a couple of memories of John helping her children and shopping trips with her Grandmother.

Ron closed this portion of the meeting by reviewing the obituary that was in the Courier and Press. Ron noted that John was in the army and he asked Pam if she knew if he had gone to Vietnam. She explained that he had but didn't talk much about the experience.

Jeff Olson closed the meeting by delivering heart felt remarks. He explained that he did not know John as long as other members, but he was very helpful to him as a new member. John would explain the many activities of our club as they sat together at the meeting.

We did draw for the half-pot..which was won by President Jeff who donated the money back to the club. It was a great day, a time of reminiscing about one of our most loyal and active members who was always there to help the club. John will be greatly missed.

Ron Eberhart



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