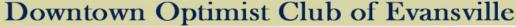
Circle of Leaders for this year!







Meetings: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday 11:45 am

Old National Bank - Bob Jones Family Community Room **Riverside Drive at Main Street**

Downtown Evansville



"Dare to Care"

This Week's Program

April 9th — Gelina Mascoe Haitian Center of Evansville

Next Week's Program

April 23rd— **Dona Grant** Holly's House



Downtown Optimist Club Newsletter March 26, 2025

Spring has sprung and so has another lively Downtown Optimist Club meeting! Acting President Ron Eberhart took the helm on Wednesday, March 26th, at precisely 12:15 p.m.—or as precisely as we can manage.

Ron kicked things off by welcoming members and our esteemed guest, Kaleb Knepp. Kaleb was invited by Mark Hackert, who was notably *not* present. Mark, as it turns out, was en route to Savannah, GA. Whether he was lost or simply avoiding the meeting remains a mystery.



Springtime Spirit and Service

Following a refreshing Springtime Prayer, the club joined in the Pledge to our Flag and the Optimist Creed—because no great meeting begins without a little faith, patriotism, and optimism!

Ron then launched into announcements, thanking the six superheroes (and their sidekicks) who participated in the Tri-State Food Bank "Box 'em Up" event. Together, this mighty group packed over 1.000 boxes of food for those in need. Special shout-out to Todd Wahl, Karen Morris (who orchestrated the effort), Beth Paul, and Josh Paulson, who brought along his son for some hands -on charity work. Well done, team!



Upcoming Adventures & Gatherings

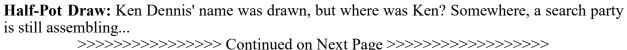
Mark your calendars for these upcoming club events:

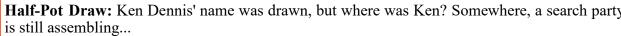
- Grave Visitation: Saturday, May 24th, coordinated by Michael Burk. A solemn but meaningful tradition.
- Annual & NOW Meeting: June 11th at Wesselman Park, noon sharp. Bring your best picnic energy!
- Camp Carson Visit & Check Presentation: July 16th—an annual tradition where we help subsidize campers and make a difference in young lives.



Sarge Alert: Rich Hawley on the Loose!

Next, our Sarge-at-Arms, Rich Hawley, took the floor *loaded for bear*—or at least for some well -aimed groans and chuckles.







Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:



Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905 www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.













Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:





Optimist Newsletter Continued

Rich followed up with his signature set of world-class (debatable) jokes:

- What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common? They're both para-sites.
- What do you call a fish in a bowtie? SoFishticated.
- What do you call a factory that makes just OK products? A Sadis-factory.

Yes, folks, he *really* told these jokes. And yes, we still gave him conscience money.

Trivia Time!

Do you know your Easter traditions? Well, if you guessed *Lily* as the traditional Easter flower, you'd be wrong—it's actually the *Daffodil*! And for those wondering, a male rabbit is called a *Buck* (not to be confused with what Rich was collecting from members).

Speaker? What Speaker?

Our guest speaker was a no-show, having apparently entered the wrong date in his calendar. So instead, we went down memory lane with a spontaneous Spring Break storytelling session. Thanks to Emily Baxter for the idea! Members shared tales of youthful adventures—some fond, some embarrassing, and some we're pretty sure were exaggerated for dramatic effect. One of her fondest Spring Memories is the time when he son was a baby and took his first plane ride to Dallas. It was just Emily and her son traveling together for the first time. Other's talked about their trip to Florida. Todd Wahl talked about the infamous trip to Florida in his 1971 Dodge Dart. His parent's car motor went out so he was determined to go and they went in the Dart. Emily Baxter's memory was her first plan ride with her son who was an infant. They were headed to Dallas.

Next Meeting – April 9th

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting will feature Gelina Mascoe from the Haitian Center of Evansville. She will share insights into the center's work and mission—definitely one not to miss!

Stay optimistic, stay engaged, and we'll see you then!

Ron Eberhart, Scribe



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Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.