



# "Optimist OPTICS"

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



Jeff Olson - President

## Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown

### This Week's Program

Apr 23rd - Sheila Seiler, Executive Director  
Susan G Komen for the Cure

### Next Week's Program

May 14th -  
TBA



Ed Harrison  
Memorial  
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA  
Camp Carson



Time: 12:11pm....and President Jeff picked-up the cherished optimist gavel and rang the 90+ year old bell to bring the meeting to order. Jeff called Shaun Kingston forward to lead us in the Invocation which was the Lord's Prayer. We then recited the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag, followed by the Optimist Creed.

Jeff called for the "Sunshine Report"...but our "Mr. Sunshine" was out of the room getting his food. Later, Don Julian reported on a conversation he had with John Schuck.

Next up...Shaun was back, but this time as Sarge. He received very little applause because we all knew he want to "fleece our pockets" of precious money. He called for "conscience" money and many paraded up front. Our perennial contributor, Mark Hackert, paid again for his daughter being recognized in the paper for her basketball talents. Also...he was thankful for his healthy family, particularly, his new grand baby. Also contributing were Gary Burk, Dan Phillips, John Bender for his participation in the Senior Games, Prez Jeff, and last our Treasurer, Todd Wahl, who is leaving the fold and taking a new job out of town. Todd said he would remain as Treasurer until we find a worthy replacement and then he donated 10 bucks. Thanks Todd. You will be missed. Sarg Shaun asked two trivia questions...and the very smart groups got both correct. Thus, we were not "fleeced" this time.

The half-pot was drawn by our speaker, Larry Rhodes. Ron Eberhart won the \$\$\$\$\$\$ and very graciously gave the money back to the club. Thanks Ron. What a great guy you are!!!

Buddy Prizes, provided by our own Sunshine Boy, Don Julian "sweetened" the day for the two winners. Bill Simmons and Gen Melchoirs won the candy bars.

Announcements: Jeff mentioned that Father Robert A. Deig, 88, a Past President of our club, 1967 - 68 had recently passed away. Father Deig served in the Catholic Diocese for 58 years.

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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](http://www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org)  
**Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.**

## ***"Optimist OPTICS"- continued***



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Jeff called on Ron Eberhart to give an update on the USI Optimist Club. Ron attended their meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. They discussed upcoming projects and also worked on a new slate of officers for next year. The club is doing great activities with kids.

Gene Melchoirs asked to be recognized so he could explain the "check confusion" with his past dues by reading a note he had written. After Gene spoke, I was really confused. Anyway....everything was straightened out until Treasurer Todd gave Gene the new dues bill after the meeting and total confusion broke out again. Not really...just kidding Gene.

Jeff attended the Joshua Leaders Club dinner at Acropolis restaurant. He and Gary Burk gave an account of the lovely evening with the kids. This was part of their training on "dinner etiquette and manners." Gary also mentioned that these kids will be working with the incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they will be moving up to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade very soon.

Jeff also noted that our club will be subsidizing 6 kids for the Respect for Law Camp this June. Gary will be contacting the Joshua kids first to see if they would like to participate.

Welcome to new member: Frank Amodio. Our board of directors through an email discussed voted to approve his application. He will be inducted soon.

Essay Contest Update: The winner of our essay contest is Allison Reitz from Memorial High School. She will a \$500 scholarship from our foundation. She was unable to attend a club meeting because she had missed too many school days due to snow. The title of this year's essay was: "How Dreams Lead to Success." Jeff and Mark will be attending the District this weekend in Terre Haute.

Also, Jeff reminded members that our club will be participating in the Golf Gives Back promotion affiliated with the Romain Golf Tournament in June. For every \$35 ticket we sell, we get to keep the \$35. This is a great opportunity for our club to make additional money for our projects.

Reminder: Board Meeting on Tuesday @ noon in the Blue & Gold Room.

Our speaker today was Larry Rhodes. Larry is quite an accomplished person not only in the insurance industry, but as a Vietnam Veteran. Larry spoke to use today about "Operation: Support on the Homefront" an organization he created to help families of the military. Larry graduated from Reitz High School and U. of E.

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## ***"Optimist OPTICS"- continued***



The primary purpose of the organization is to conduct a collective effort by local businesses, interested groups, veterans, and individuals who want to help support the families of the Southwestern Indiana area whose citizen/soldier has been called from a Reserve or National Guard unit to active Military duty.

We provide support in the following ways:

- Soldier Send-Off Ceremonies when units are called to active duty.
- Financial support to the families remaining at home when their family member is on active duty.
- Christmas Parties for families when the unit is on active duty.
- Welcome Home Parades upon the soldiers return to the city.
- Providing a means for the soldier to connect with potential employers upon their return from active duty.
- Financial support provided to families of the soldier once they have returned from active duty and need assistance in the re-settling process to civilian life.



Many people are always asking him, "how can they help". He answers by telling them that they can pray or donate money.

That's it for this week!! Be sure to call your Buddy, and invite a guest and we will see you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Ron Eberhart, April Newsletter Editor



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