



# **“Optimist OPTICS”**

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



## **Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown**

**John Perkins - President**

### **This Week's Program**

**May 23rd -  
911 Gives Hope, Dave Weiss**

### **Next Week's Program**

**June 13th -**



**Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble**

**Financial Support**



President John Perkins began the meeting with a nice “ding” to the famous DOC bell at 12:18pm. John started the meeting with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag led by Gary Burk, and then we recited the Optimist Creed led by Jeff Olson.

John welcomed guest Chris Telezyn to our meeting again. Chris recently transferred to Evansville with Western and South Life. He was a member of the Terra Haute Optimist Club and his family has a long history of being involved in that club. Chris is planning on transferring to our club.

We welcomed Emily Baxter who had missed several meetings due to her travel duties with Vectren. We were very happy to see her smiling face. She was still beaming and talking about her first grand daughter.

#### **Announcements:**

- John reminded members of our upcoming **picnic on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Scott Township Park**. More details to follow.
- Also, **Board Meeting** this coming **Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**, Noon, at room 205 at ONB Downtown.
- Ron will have the New logoed polo shirts at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to distribute to members who ordered one. If you ordered one and have not paid for it, be sure to bring your money to the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



President John presented new member Tanya Merkel, with her official Optimist Club badge. Congratulations!!

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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



Ed Harrison  
Memorial  
Golf Scramble

Financial Support

YMCA  
Camp Carson



Sarge Josh Paulson took conscience money from several members then went into his trivia questions for members. Most tables were losers except for one table with trivia savvy members.

Half-Pot winner was Ron Eberhart. He took home \$22 which was half of the “pot”. With the new half-pot rules, the amount can build if we do not have a winner. It went unclaimed for several weeks until this last meeting. This is the largest payout to date.

Buddy Prize went to Dan Phillips.

New member, Tanya Merkel introduced our speaker this week, Eric Smith, Executive Director, of Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Eric has become Director giving up another position in marketing and advertising because he felt he needed to make more of a contribution to help kids.

He gave us an overview of the organization which helps over 300 kids annually. At Big Brothers Big Sister, they match carefully screen volunteers (Bigs”) with children facing adversity (“littles”) in one-to-one relationships. Men and Women who want to be mentors apply to the program. If accepted they are placed with a boy or girl and become a person who spends time with them in place of their dad or mother figure. They take the kids to various activities in which many of them have never participated. These are caring adults, a friend, listener, to be there for the child. 80% of the kids improve in class work, as well as increasing self-worth.



Eric related a story of two individuals, Justin the mentor and Chris the “little”. Over a period of 5 years they did countless activities together and help Chris grow into a better young man.

Facts Chris shared: 78% of children in EVSC are on free lunch; 55% lives with a single parent or grandparents. ; 11% have an incarcerated parent; Vanderburgh County poverty level is 25%. There are over 200 kids on their waiting list who need a mentor.

Don't miss out next meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. And, be sure to call your buddy.

Ron Eberhart – Newsletter Writer

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