

"Optimist OPTICS

"Helping Kids, Now and for the Future"



Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown

This Week's Program

Next Week's Program

May 27th- Michael Burk

June 10th—TBA



The meeting was called to order at 12:14 pm by Mark Hackert and Dan Phillips came forth with historical items of interest from 1921 when the Optimist Club of Evansville Downtown was first started. Dan then gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge and Optimist Creed. Martha Julian, Don's wife, as the only visitor for the day but there were several returnees: Cheryl Graves, Ken Dennis, Mark Scoular, Shaun Kingston and Sheila Seiler.



Mike Burk let everyone know that all those participating in placing the Memorial Day flags should meet at the BKD Cross Pointe location on Saturday at 8:00 am. Donuts and coffee will be available. Flags will be placed predominantly at Oak Hill and Alexander cemeteries.



Karen Morris gave a short update about Joshua Academy and that we should probably split the amount available between 7 or 8.



John Bender came to the podium to speak about the photo history. John Campbell, who passed away last year, left a photo history including pictures from past members and also from Camp Carson. We are fortunate to have this photo history and the book will be available again at the next meeting.



Bill Simmons advised that Dan Korb, who was President in 1975, recently passed away. Visitation will be Sunday at Alexander East from 2 -5 pm and the service will be held Monday at 11 am at First Presbyterian. Dan sponsored both Ron Eberhart and Mark Hackert



Ron Eberhart advised the Convention will be held at the Tropicana on August 15 & 16. Ron also read the Proclamation from Mayor Lloyd Winnecke proclaiming Optimist Day.



The Sargent of Arms picked Mike Burk's number (his own!) for the half pot and he donated the money back to the club.

Ed Harrison Memorial **Golf Scramble** Conscience money was received from Ron Eberhart, Mike Burk, Dan Phillips, Don Julian, Shaun Kingston, Bill Simmons, Mark Scoular and Jeff Olson.







"Optimist OPTICS"- continued

















Financial Support for

Camp Carson



Dan Phillips introduced the guest speaker, Mark Scoular from Camp Carson and reminded everyone that Camp Carson is now accepting donations and up to \$1500 will be matched. Please make a check to the foundation.

Mike spoke about Camp Carson just finishing their 75th season with 25% growth. Indiana has the 4th largest military deployment so many of the campers come from military families. Deployments are now down but the impact is still there. Golden Corral has a Camp Corral that focuses on children who have lost a parent while deployed, have an injured or disabled parent due to deployment or a parent that suffers from PTSD. Over 16,000 children in Indiana qualify for this program.

Mark also told of running into Mrs. Browning recently who mentioned that she was scheduled for an upcoming trip to Washington, DC with a friend that she met many years ago during her time as a Camp Carson camper.

Lastly, he spoke about the reasons why children enjoy being a camper. He told the story of the 45' zipline drop. Many children stand at the top and just cannot make themselves jump. When they take the trip back down the stairs there is no teasing and no putdowns. They are greeted with positive reinforcement with high fives and "you can try again tomorrow", etc. There is NO bullying. Children are ACCEPTED and thev CHALLENGED. For some it is their first trip away from home. For some it may be the challenge of riding a horse for the first time. For some it may be making friends, or learning a new skill or building trust. And then children are EMPOWERED by reaching their goal!

Speaker in two weeks is Mike Burk who will be talking about Google Earth and the Memorial Day flags.

Sheila Seiler





Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11:45
Old National Bank Building, Downtown; Blue and Gold Room
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www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org
Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation. Inc.