Circle of Leaders for this year!

Downtown Optimist Club of Evansville





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

Feb 12th — *Mark Hackert* "*Being an Uber Driver*"

Next Week's Program

Feb 26th — Katherine Kornblum "Parenting Time Center"



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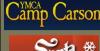






Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:





Downtown Optimist Club Newsletter

January 22, 2025 Meeting Recap

After a month-long hibernation (no, we weren't trapped under a pile of snow, just holiday food comas), the Downtown Optimist Club roared back to life on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Jeff Olson took the reins for the next two months, kicking things off at precisely 12:11 PM—because nothing says punctuality like an extra minute of anticipation.

Jeff led a thoughtful invocation, followed by the recitation of the Optimist Creed and the Pledge to our Flag, ensuring we started the meeting with both faith and patriotism intact.

Sunshine Report

Sally and Jeff reported on their visit to Dr. John Bender, who, despite a pesky foot problem, is still looking great. Keep healing, Doc!

On a more somber note, we announced that Emily Parker's sister passed away unexpectedly. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Emily and her family.

On a brighter note, Sally read a touching letter from a mother of an autistic child who attended the Children's Dance Theatre Nutcracker play. Thanks to our club's donation, families were able to enjoy a special, sensory-friendly performance. Proof that Optimists really do make a difference!

Meeting Highlights

Sarge-at-Arms Rich Hawley took center stage and wasted no time in getting down to business. First up, the much-anticipated half-pot drawing. And wouldn't you know it—Ron Eberhart pulled his own name and won \$24! We checked for hidden mirrors or secret hand signals, but it turns out luck was just in his favor.

Rich then passed the hat for conscience money, and our members dug deep. Whether out of guilt or generosity, a respectable amount was collected.

Trivia Time - Irish Edition!

With guest speaker Ron Eberhart fresh off another Irish adventure, it only made sense to test our knowledge of the Emerald Isle.

- Why is March 17th St. Patrick's Day? Answer: That's the day he died. (So, not for the Guinness, after all.)
- Where was the first St. Patrick's Day parade held? **Answer:** St. Augustine, FL. (Take that, New York!)
 - What do the three leaves on a clover represent? **Answer:** The Holy Trinity. (And possibly your odds of getting through an Irish roundabout without white-knuckling the steering wheel.)

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











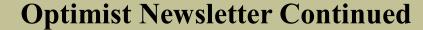






Financial Support for:





Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Beth Paul suggested we add *Toy Time with the Salvation Army* next year. She's gathering details, so stay tuned.
- In May, we'll be supporting *Little Lambs* by bringing wipes and diapers to donate. (No, not for club members—we're not *that* old.)
- Jeff is reaching out to Mark Hackert to see if he can be our February 13th speaker. His topic? The wild world of being an Uber Driver. Buckle up!
- We are still wrestling with Indiana over our tax-exempt status. Stay tuned for updates on this thrilling saga.

Guest Speaker: Ron Eberhart – Tales from Ireland

Ron took us on a virtual trip to Ireland, where his daughter Andrea and her family have been planting spiritual roots with their church in Belfast for the past decade. Ron's daughter, Andrea lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland with her husband and 3 children. They started a Church in Belfast about 10 years ago and are affiliated with Every Nation. He and Emma Lee have made the transatlantic trek seven times, so Ron knows his way around a proper Irish breakfast.

To help us grasp the geography, Ron cleverly compared Irish cities to their Hoosier counterparts:

Dublin = Richmond, IN

Belfast = Fort Wayne, IN

Ireland and Indiana are about the same size with Ireland slightly larger. Belfast is part of UK using the pound as their currency. It takes up about 20% of the land mass in Ireland in the Northeast.

Construction in Ireland is mostly with bricks and stucco due, concrete walls, due to the humid weather. Ron mentioned some of the most popular attractions including the Cliffs of Mohr, Giant's Causeway, and the Blarney Stone. Ron mentioned that he has never "kissed it". He also mentioned that the food tastes better due to less preservatives and most meat is raised in Ireland and a lot from grass fed animals. He also talked about his visit to the grave of St. Patrick which the holiday is named for. A visit to Irelands first church was on his tour agenda as was several trips to Tesco, the Walmart of Ireland. From roundabouts (a driving nightmare) to food (lots of potatoes) to weather (spoiler: it rains), Ron painted a vivid picture of life in Ireland. Now, who's up for a club field trip?

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 13th

Speaker TBD—hopefully an Uber driver with plenty of entertaining passenger stories.

See you then!

Ron Eberhart, Scribe.





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