



# Optimist Newsletter Continued



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## Guest Speaker – Mark Hackert, Uber Tales

New member Mark Hackert took the floor to share his experiences as an **Uber driver** several years ago. **For those unable to attend in person, he also streamed his presentation on our Facebook page** (because even the Optimists embrace modern technology).

Mark drove for Uber during the pandemic and stopped about five years ago. He found the experience enjoyable, mainly because he loved interacting with people. Turns out, many of his passengers enjoyed sharing their life stories—because, let's be honest, Uber drivers are basically part-time therapists.

His most famous ride was the GM for Chicago Bulls. He said he could make between \$20 to \$30 an hour for just driving his van. One of his longest fares was to Bloomington, IN. He encountered some inebriated people. He always had a puke bucket in his car as well as disinfecting wipes and spray. He told about one of his fondest members which included a woman and her three children. The first encounter, was at a grocery store where her husband showed up drunk. The kids were well behaved, which impressed Mark. About a year later he encountered them again at the same store. This time the husband was sober and respectful. The woman remembered Mark and said....we always have “our song” which was playing on his radio the first time.

He said to be an Uber driver is easy. Just register online. They do a background check on you. You drive your own hours and can choose which customer you want. He mentioned that cash tips were better for obvious reasons. Mark also said that one minor expense was an add-on to your insurance policy for about \$100.00. Thanks, Mark, for sharing your insight into being an Uber Driver.



## Final Thoughts

Another great meeting filled with humor, history, and heartwarming camaraderie. Until next time, keep being optimistic (and don't forget to buy your half-pot tickets)!

Ron Eberhart, Scribe

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