



February 12th Meeting Highlights President Jeff Olson kicked off our latest meeting at the punctual time of 12:08 p.m.—proving that optimism includes faith in starting close to on time. He led us in a thoughtful prayer, the Pledge to Our Flag, and the ever-inspiring Optimist Creed.



CONTE

TRI-STAR

Announcements

Mark your calendars, folks! The upcoming **Board Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday**, February 18th, at the ONB Hub on Main Street and 2nd Street. Bring your best decision-making faces and possibly some snacks (because no good decision is made on an empty stomach).

Sunshine Report

Ron Eberhart shared that Jamie Dill's mother was set to be discharged from the hospital today, which explains Jamie's absence. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery!

Treasurer's Report

Todd Wahl gave us an update on our ongoing saga with the Indiana State regarding our tax-exempt status. Apparently, patience is not just a virtue but also a necessity when dealing with state bureaucracy. Todd walked us through our progress so far, noting that our last contact was a Zoom call a couple of months ago. Fingers crossed, folks!

Sarge Report – A Temporary Takeover

Our official Sergeant-at-Arms was absent (with permission, mind you), so Ron Eberhart fearlessly stepped in to ensure that conscience money was collected. Every member present, moved by either guilt or tradition, dutifully forked over some cash.

Ron then called upon Bob Shetler to draw for the half-pot. Bob pulled Beth Paul's name—but alas, Beth hadn't purchased a ticket! A friendly reminder, folks: you gotta be in it to win it.

Trivia Time with Ron

Ron delighted us with some Valentine's Day-themed trivia:



Ed Harrison Memorial **Golf Scramble**

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In what century did Valentine's Day become recognized? The 14th century, thanks to the poetic stylings of Geoffrey Chaucer.

• Which female poet is associated with Valentine's Day? That would be Elizabeth Barrett Browning, whose famous Sonnet 43 begins with: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways."



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Optimist Newsletter Continued













Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble





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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