



# "Optimist OPTICS"

"Achieving Our Goals"



## Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown

Michael Burk - President

### This Week's Program

### Next Week's Program

**May 8th**  
Patty Haas - Evansville Association of the Blind

**May 22nd**  
Alysia Rhinefort - 4C of Southern Indiana



Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:



**NOTE:** We **WILL NOT** meet at Old National next Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Evansville Association for the Blind at 500 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, just a couple blocks west of First Ave. They do have a cafeteria there, or you can bring your lunch or eat before/after. You might want to come a little early if you eat in the cafeteria. We will meet between 12noon and 1pm.

We will tour the facility. The tour will take around 45 minutes. They do have elevators and wheelchairs for those who may need it. This is a great opportunity for us. This would be a great time to encourage our fellow members to attend.

It was a beautiful Spring Day as the Downtown Optimist Club reconvened at the Blue and Gold Room at the ONB Bank Tower.

President Michael Burk began the meeting at 12:12pm by ringing the bell. Ron Eberhart led the group in an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and Optimist Creed.

Michael listed several announcements: He is trying to set-up a joint meeting of the club's board and Foundation board to discuss the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Right now, looks like the meeting will take place on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> during the Grave Visitation Day. 7am at the Golden Corral on the East Side.

He also mentioned that Alecia Schmitz won the Essay Contest at the District Convention on April 13<sup>th</sup>. He and Gary Burk attended. Our club will present her with a \$500 scholarship. She also won a \$2500 scholarship from the District. Josh Shull, our boy winner, will also receive a \$500 scholarship from the club. Both will be attending future meetings to read their essay to our members and receive a Gold Medallion. Michael also presented information about Evansville for members at the District's August Meeting will here in Evansville at the Tropicana Hotel.

Michael also announced that the District has revised the Zones. We are now in Zone 7 with club including ours, East Side, USI, and Lakeview. He also was asking is any past Presidents are interested in being Lt. Governor starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ron Eberhart suggested that he consider do it as he will be a Past President then.

Sunshine Report from Gary Burk was good. No sick Optimists!!

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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**  
**Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.**

# “Optimist OPTICS” - continued



Ed Harrison  
Memorial  
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA  
Camp Carson



Prez Michael stood in as Sarge at Arms today. First up was the half-pot drawing. The name pulled out from the pot was Josh Paulson. Josh was not present so he missed out winning \$19.00. He also did a couple of trivia questions with one group getting it right...and one group didn't and had to pay up \$1 each. Conscience money contributors were: Dan Phillips, Gary Burk, Tim Deisher, Ron Eberhart, Colleen York, and Doc Bender who mentioned that he will be competing again in the Senior Games competing in Ping Pong, Swimming, and Badminton. Good Luck Doc!!

Dan Phillips introduced our speakers today. Amy Bouchie and Jessie Welcher. Both are volunteers for Parenting Time Center. Amy Bouchie joined the Parenting Time Center board 2 years ago. After meeting with the Executive Director, Kathryn Kornblum Zelle, she was motivated to try to contribute to the needs of the families in our community who are affected by substance abuse, domestic abuse, and the divisions this creates in families, especially affecting the children.

Jessica Welcher has been part of the Parenting Time Center Board for three years. Advocacy for children, protection from abuse, and restoration of families are vitally important to make our Tri-State community strong.

They both discussed what PTC is and who they serve. They are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and our Foundation has contributed to them with a grant this past year. PTC offers divorced parents and children a safe place to meet and exchange their children. Sometimes there is conflict between divorced parents and this alleviates that problem at their facility. This gives them a safe place to meet.

PTC has a staff of 5 Social Workers. They assist 200 children and provide over 6000 hours of service each year. They are open 7 days a week to accommodate the parents and children. Amy cited statistics that Indiana is #2 in the nation for child abuse and Kentucky is #1. She also told us about the effects of being from a divorced family. It is very traumatic on the kids and increases likelihood of using drugs, being violent as well as many other emotional issues.

Our Foundation donated money to help set-up a Teen room at PTC. They also offer cooperative Parenting classes, and Video conferencing. Parenting Time Center's Mission is: *Empower Parents and Children to Create Positive Relationships on a Safe and Nurturing Environment.*

It was a great meeting.

**Make sure to attend our next meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Evansville Blind Association and don't forget to call "your Buddy"!**

Ron Eberhart



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