

"Optimist OPTICS"



*"Everything We Do
is for the Kids"*

This Week's Program

*November 18th, 2009
Foundation Gifts to Organizations*

Next Week's Program

*November 25th, 2009
Arthritis Foundation*

**Ron Eberhart
Interim President**



**Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble**

Financial Support for:

**YMCA
Camp Carson**



President Ron called the meeting to order. Today's meeting was held at Ri Ra's, on a sunny day overlooking the beautiful Ohio River. Gary Burk led a brief history of Veteran's Day, Invocation, Pledge and Creed. Ron thanked Emily Baxter for her work on the Youth Appreciation Breakfast and acknowledged those who worked with Emily to place the students for job shadowing. It was a great breakfast and program, but it ran a little long. Pictures of the event are on the website.

Don Julian passed letters around from Susan Harp, the recipient of the Bish Thompson Award, and a letter of thanks from Operation City Beautiful acknowledging the receipt of the \$500 gift given in the name of Susan Harp.

In addition to Cheryl Musgrave, today's speaker was Randy Wheeler from radio station WIKY. Ron introduced Cheryl to the membership with her Bio, which is too extensive to put in the newsletter. Her mission throughout her political career has been to provide people of Vanderburgh County and Indiana with more efficient and cost-effective government. She was instrumental in computerizing County tax assessment records and property sales transactions online, a first in Indiana. She is a graduate of DePauw University, along with her husband Bob. They are proud parents of two children.

Currently, Cheryl is running for State Representative Seat – District 77. With all her involvement in the political process, she enjoyed planting a garden this year. She learned how to use her pressure cooker and canned the vegetables she grew. Cheryl made a comment, which I think we all know already, that Southwestern Indiana is not taken seriously in Indianapolis and surrounding counties. She is concerned about the secret meetings that have been held regarding the Homestead Act, and how the new Stadium has gone forward without community input.

Cheryl passed out a graph showing the Economy vs. Tax Increase. At the low points shown, 1983, 1991, 2001, the legislators have increased income tax and sales tax in 1993; allowed for 10 riverboat casinos in 1993; and sales tax increase with an increase in cigarette tax in 2002. The concern she has now, along with the governor, is that they will try to increase taxes again in 2010. The current recession is similar to the early 1980s, when income tax was raised from 1.9% to 3.4% and sales tax increased from 4% to 5%. This would be equivalent to an increase from 3.4% to 6.1% (income tax) and 7% to 8.75% (sales tax) today.

Cheryl said the top three issues today are jobs, taxes and education. As for jobs, she said there is no evidence that we have lifted from the recession. This is a crisis, but it does give opportunity to make changes in how things are being done. Because of time constraints, she was not able to cover the remaining two issues.

She was asked who her opponent is, and she said Gail Reicken.

Bulletin Editor, Gary Burk

Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown, Inc.

Meetings: 11:45 am Wednesday,

"New" Old National Bank Building, Downtown, Blue and Gold Room

Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905

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