

"Optimist OPTICS"



*"Everything We Do
is for the Kids"*

This Week's Program

December 16th, 2009
Chase Kelly, Vectren
Climate Change Legislation

Ron Eberhart
President

Next Week's Program

December 23rd, 2009
Ho Ho Ho - more to follow!



Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



President Ron called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in Spanish. Now, guess who, with his wife, returned from Cancun last night? He left his tan in Mexico, so now we know why he gained weight on the trip. Bob Levi had a guest today, his son in law, Monty Merkel. Welcome Monty, and come again.

Returnees were John Campbell, Cheryl Graves and Dan Korb. With the returnees, we had a good crowd today. Bob Shetler now has two consecutive weeks at the club. *Sunshine report* from Don Julian- No news is good news. Thanks Don!

- No report on the Tri-Star basketball meeting at Kipplees.
- We do not have a final tally on the donation to Santa Clothes Club by our members and Foundation.
- Mean Gene said that all the spots for the bell ringers are filled. Make sure you get your checks, payable to the Salvation Army, to Gene as soon as possible. Mail them to the Club's P O Box 15905.
- Next Tuesday, December 15, is Board meeting day. Ron wanted to make sure all members are invited to see how a well oiled machine works behind the scene.

Doc's Medical Minutes – "Leptin" was the word for today. You do the research while you having your lunch. Fat is the key word. Sarge, Roger Heathcotte, received *conscience money* from Ron Eberhart, John Schuck, Cheryl Graves, Gene Melchioris, John Bender and Dan Korb. Tally on the questions: Table #1 Paid, Table #2 Paid, Table #3 Paid, the club's treasury won.

Don Julian introduced today's speaker, Ray Arensman, Professor Emeritus from U. of E. His first statement was, "you can go to the Rotary Club for 6 months and not learn what we did today". His talk was on the economy, and not the stock market. His point was that the economy is not as fragile as the stock market. The 1st three months this year, the economy collapsed by 3%; in the 1st six months at a rate of decline of 1% which indicates a reduced rate of decline in the economy. Mr. Arensman said that the Government programs seem to be working. The GNP declined four straight quarters, which officially puts in a recession. There are four things that affect our economy; 1. Exports, 2. Business Investments, 3. Government Spending Over Taxes, 4. Personal Consumption Expenditures.

1. Exports are down, as we all know.
 2. Business investments fell 40% in the 1st quarter last year.
 3. Government spending rolls over everyday, by the repurchase of bonds, treasuries, etc. The concern is how the National Debt is being used.
 4. Arensman said that the American consumer is flat on his butt. Amen to that one.
- He said that 48% of the homes are devalued below their loan levels. The last thing to recover after a long recession is employment. Everyone is going to have to live more modestly.

Emily Baxter and Ken Dennis won the Buddy Prizes, and Ken won the half-pot, which he once again donated back to the club.

Newsletter 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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Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.