



## THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLUMBIA (Downtown Optimist)

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### Downtown Optimist Club Zoom Meeting Newsletter

August 16, 2021 at 12:09 pm

Members attended In person President: Tony Parisio, Rick McKernan, Red Leighton, Jerry Sullivan, John Jones, Mike Hackett, Chuck Boots, Evan Schillings, Steve Winter, Steve Kline and By Zoom Mary Dewey, Deb Swanegan and Scott Stager. Special Guest Erinie Wren Governor-Elect EMO, Lauren Dell Governor EMO and Soapbox Derby winners and family members.

Prayer/Pledge for August 16: John Jones Prayer and Mike Hackett Pledge

Birthday/Anniversary: N/A

Rick talked about the “**Hallsville’s Back 2 the Future 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hallsville Optimist Club**”. Rick and his wife, John and his wife, Red and his wife, Valeria and her husband had a great time in Hallsville celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hallsville Optimist Club. See picture on the next page.

Steve Winter is working on having a social dinner on Wednesday, September 1 Hamburger, Hotdogs, Tator Salad, Lettuce Salad, cobbler and ice cream. More information will come out later. Can’t wait to see everyone again. Larry Fick will start collect the \$10.00 from members as soon as he get back in town. We will ask the member’s wife who have passed away this way we are letting them know we are still thinking of them. Also, have soapbox kids and their families join us too. **Cost is \$10.00 a person and time will from 6 to 8 pm at the clubhouse. Look at attached flyer for more detail. (Looking for someone new to take over as Social Committee Chair Steve is going to step back from this committee)**

John Jones is working on a service project for the club. The project will be serving breakfast on Tuesday, August 17 at Blue Ridge Elementary School teacher. There will be about 50 staff members there for breakfast. We will be serving (his wife is making sausage gravy) and buy biscuits from SAM’S Clubs, pancakes, eggs, fruit with coffee and juice. This will only cost us around \$200. John is looking for grinders and electric frying pans. Let him know if you have any that we can use for that day his email address is [john.jones@simmonsbank.com](mailto:john.jones@simmonsbank.com). He is looking for 2 to 3 more club members to help that morning. We will start cooking at 7:00 am and service at 8:30 am. Please bring your electric grillers if you have one that we can use for that day.

Rick McKernan will be working on getting our new register flyer ready for us to hand out by the August Family Fun Fest on Wednesday, August 18th which will be at Albert-Oakland Park.

Tony Parisio talked about the 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. Convention will be held in Cape Girardeu, MO this past weekend. Jerry and Tony learned a lot about how to President Officer works. They also got some great ideas how to keep the club going during this COVID-19 time. Mary also learned a lot about the Secretary officer and will share the information with Phyllis Nichols. Tony was a big winner this past weekend. He won the Queen of Heart drawing, 50/50 and the 1<sup>st</sup> door prize. Way to go Tony. 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. Conference will be Friday October 22 and Saturday, October 23 in St. Peters, Missouri at the Marriott.

Mary Dewey talked about the Family Fun Fests that is a program that the Parks and Recreation host every summer for families to come out to the park and have fun. She has signed up the Optimist Clubs in Columbia for an information booth so we can talk about Optimist how we help the youth in the community. We have information for parents to take with them and game for the kids to play while we are talking the parents. The dates and theme for this event are on Wednesday from 5 to 8 pm. Third Park on August 18 will be at Albert-Oakland theme Bookworms and Butterflies. The last park on September 15 will be at Cosmo-Bethel Park theme Creative Kids. C.O. Scheffer will send out the sign up Genius out this week for people to sign up and help with the Family Fun Fests.

August 19 there is a board meeting at 6:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Right NO funding request. Funding request from the CYBA (Columbia Youth Basketball Association) for sponsorship of 2 basketball teams for \$300 has been moved to September boarding meeting)

Bike Safety Rodeo will be held at Karis Church (606 Ridgeway Ave) parking lot on Saturday, August 25 from 9 to 11 am. Please let me know if you would like to help with this event by email at [mcourtyfun@hotmail.com](mailto:mcourtyfun@hotmail.com). Thank you

Steve talked about ordering 50 of the Koeze Nuts order books for this year. There will be only two orders going out this year not three like last year. The 1<sup>st</sup> one will going out the end of October. The trees will be in around the 1<sup>st</sup> day of deer season and the lot opens on Black Friday.

Our Guest speaker: Were our Soap box Derby winners talking about their trip to National in Akron, OH. One of the common themes from all the kids was how much they enjoyed meeting the other racers from so many different places. Owen Schilling has traveled hundreds of miles to rally race in cities throughout the Midwest, and now sees old friends everywhere he goes. Dominic Sousley, our Stock division champion, said he had a great time in Akron, but said the drive getting there was really long. He enjoyed trading badges with the other drivers. Adelynn Rueger, Superstock champion, showed that girls can be just as competitive as the boys can, but she is more comfortable actually racing than she is talking in front of groups of people.

Nevertheless, she sent her written note about how much fun she had, and how much she appreciated our Optimist Club sponsoring the race. Preston Boots, Masters Division Champ, raced past years in other divisions, but this was his first year in the Masters Division. He enjoyed the racing in Akron, and the other family activities and places they could visit in their time off. All of the families remarked what a great family activity Soap Box Derby racing is, from working on the car together, to planning their race strategy and going down the hill. Everyone expressed their thanks to Evan for all of his help and support keeping them on track in Akron.

Closed with the Optimist Creed that was led by Erinie Wren our Governor-Elect (EMO)

Meeting end at 1:05 pm

**Tony Parisio, President**



**CHOOSE  
OPTIMISM**



**From the Hallsville 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, August 14. (John, Rick and Rick's Wife)  
Not sure what they are doing in this picture some kind of dance I think**



**Lauren Dell Governor 2021-2022**  
**Erinie Wren Governor Elect. 2022-2032**  
**Liz Christman Past Governor 2020-2021**