



THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLUMBIA (Downtown Optimist)

Mailing address: P. O. Box 1959 * Columbia, MO 65205-1959

Web: www.downtownoptimistclub.org

The Weekly Bulletin
Monday, October 14, 2019

Attendee: club members present

Call to order: Vice President Tony Parisio at 12:00 pm

Invocation:

Larry Fick

Pledge:

Jim Murphy

Introduction of Guests and New and Old Members (who have been gone)

None

Welcome any new or returning members

None

Birthdays and Anniversaries

None but Veep Parisio mentioned his upcoming birthday is in early November.

Mystery Person:

Veep Parisio declared himself the mystery person.

Sign In or Pay the Pig:

Jerry Sullivan paid and signed in. Carl Scott paid once to celebrate Mizzou homecoming win and a second time to encourage Cardinals to wake up their bats after two no hitless games.

President Announcements

- **The 1st Quarter Conference will take in Arnold, Missouri from Friday, October 25 4:30 to 10:00 pm and Saturday, October 26 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. From 4:30 to 7:00 pm on Friday we will be having a Trunk or Treat benefiting CCC/OIF in the parking behind the hotel. Please let me know if anyone wants to go so we can get you registered Carl Scott requested clarification whether or not auction will be held at this meeting. He wants to contribute an item if there's an auction**
- **Board Meeting Thursday, October 17, 2019 at the Club House at 6:00 pm**
Three funding are: Nora Stewart Learning Center, Destiny of HOPE, and Columbia Public School District High Functions Autism Center
- **Food Bank: Jim Murphy, Carl Scott, and Larry Fick: They happily worked on buddy Pacs last week as our club makes a substantial contribution for these.**
- **Koeze/ Restaurant Certificates- Steve Winter said "The first order will be due on Monday, October 28 and Chris D's will not be on the Restaurant this year. We only have Murry's, D'Rows, Sophia/Addison and Shakespeare Pizza." We want everyone to go 1 % high that last year's orders this year. Koeze nuts prices have gone up a little this year. First order will be due on Monday, October 28th. Steve Winter emphasized the 1% increase in sales goals this year refers**

Bringing Out The Best In Kids Since 1936

to volume of sales, not the dollar amount. The 3% Koeze nuts price increase doesn't count for sales goals.

- **Club Social – Steve Winters: Tuesday, November 5 for the Shrimp Dinner at 6:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and kids eat free. Larry will start taking money Monday, September 16, 2019, We have 40 lbs of easy to peel jumbo shrimp. Larry Fick said there are 25 signed up for this dinner. He encouraged Board members who haven't been able to attend recent luncheon meeting to sign up for this event. Contact Larry at 445-2743 or email: lfick41@centurytel.net/ to sign up.**
- **Christmas Trees: C.O Scheffer: 1 or 2 trucks will be in on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Mizzou Baseball team will be helping unloading and drilling the 50 – 9-10' trees that day. All the Frasers will be in one truck load. Jim Murphy spent hours completing Christmas tree tags.**

Announcements from the Floor:

- Carl Scott announced the Tuesday October 15 open house at Ronald McDonald House.
- Jim Murphy called for a **CLUBHOUSE WORK DAY Saturday morning at 9:00 am, October 26**. Workers are needed to move trailers and tree stands and clean up parts of the yard. The commitment should only take an hour if 6 or more member show up. Steve and Becca Winters volunteered to organize inside the clubhouse.
- Two yard lights are out on the shed.
- Christmas tree volunteers need to know the map of clubhouse light switches controlling yard lights is included in the sales instruction notebook
- Chuck Pease is in failing health

• **Today's Speaker:**

Mike Reynolds from Adult High School at the Columbia Tribune

A convergence of events in Columbia has led to a free adult high school called The Excel Center: Goodwill Industries took the initiative to persuade former governor Greiten and the state legislature to provide general revenue funds for a statewide program offering an opportunity for roughly 600,000 Missouri adults without a high school diploma to gain the 24 credits to qualify and obtain a real high school diploma. An equally important goal is to prepare these students for higher skilled employment. Recently the Columbia Tribune moved its operating personnel out of its main building at 101 North 4th Street allowing The Excel School to lease space. This creates the fourth adult free high school in Missouri after St. Louis, Springfield and Poplar Bluff. Mr. Reynold, a recent retiree from administration in the Columbia Public Schools accepted the administrator position on July 1 a couple of days after retiring.

In preparation for opening day October 21 at 8:40 am, he has hired 10 staff including six certified and seasoned teachers and 3 life coaches, contracted for remodeling to include 6 large classrooms, established day care inside the facility for parents with small children, developed an academic partnership with MACC, and acquired Google laptop teaching aids for students. To date 160 students have qualified and are enrolled in the school. The target enrollment is 200 students.

Students who qualify must be at least 21 years old and earn less than 125% of the median local income. Students take a skills assessment test upon enrollment and a course plan is plotted. Course are offered in 8-week segments with choices for morning (starting at 8:40) or evening (starting at 5:45) classes. Classes are held Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday. School is open Fridays without formal classes for make-up work and tutorials. In addition to math lab (basic to algebra), science (basic to biology and chemistry) and language arts (English literature and writing skills), students will

be offered personal finance, opportunities for post-secondary education through networking with MACC as well as internships for those close to graduation.

Child care is free during class hours. A cafeteria with vending machines is open for students to purchase food or snacks. A gym is available for future physical education classes. Bus fare or gas money is available for those who qualify. The Google laptop platform offers students the ability to move at their own pace. Each student is provided with his or her own laptop to do all their work at school. There is no homework for these students who may be working or have other responsibilities during the day. Most work assignments are performed during class times or at special Friday tutorial sessions. The laptops remain at the school. A student with no high school credits could be enrolled in the program for four or five years while students with the majority of their class credits can move to graduation relatively quickly.

Funding for these schools is 70% from the State of Missouri, 20% federal and 10% from good will. Approximately two-thirds of enrolled students are women. Enrollment is still open. Call 573-499-1220 or 53-607-0508 or apply at www.mersgoodwill.org. For more information contact Mike Reynolds at: mreynolds@mogoodwillexcel.org.

Optimist are invited to the Monday, October 21 **OPEN HOUSE** at its location in the former Tribune Office Building, 101 N. 4th Street. It will be held at 8:15 am before classes begin at 8:40 that morning.

UPCOMING SPEAKER

- **10/21/19 Trent Rush from Missouri Symphony**
- **10/28/19 Valorie Livingston, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs**
- **11/4/19 No Meeting at Noon**
- **11/5/19 Shrimp Dinner with Speaker Carrie Gartner from The Loop(Talking about the Improved of the Loop)**
- **11/11/19 Cheryl Howard from Nora Stewart Early Learning Center**
- **11/18/19 Jolene Schulz from Assistance League Ambassadors (Operation School Bell)**
- **11/25/19 Ashlee Smith with a tour of Ronald McDonald House and fixing a meal for the families that night (Still working on the time) (NO NOON MEETING)**
- **12/2/19 Jane Williams & Pat McMurry, Love INC**
- **12/9/19 Ron Schmidt from City of Columbia CARE program**
- **12/16/19 Holiday luncheon at the Clubhouse**

Adjourn with the Creed: We finished with the Creed at 12:48 p.m.

Optimistically Yours,

Sid Sullivan



East Missouri District 2018-2019 "IT'S FOR THE KIDS"

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