



## THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLUMBIA (Downtown Optimist)

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### Downtown Optimist Club Zoom Meeting Newsletter

April 19, 2021 at 12:01 pm

Members attended Rick McKernan, Mary Dewey, Ed Musterman, Scott Stager, Tony Parisio, Steve Cox, Deborah Swanegan, John Jones, Red Leighton, Steve Winter, Nadia Ryakmayatullof, and Jerry Sullivan. Prayer/Pledge for April 12: Rick McKernan Prayer and John Jones Pledge

Birthday: Special Day since is not Tax Day

Jerry Sullivan talked about his Mineral Area College where he worked at before moving to Columbia. Their men's basketball team is in the National Tournament that will be Hutchison, Kansas tomorrow at 2:00 pm. He and his wife will be going to the game tomorrow.

3th qtr. Optimist conference that will take place on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 in Arnold, MO Drury Inn and Suites Hotel. This will start Friday night with the Executive Committee meeting at 7:30 to 8:30 pm and then fellowship from 8:30 to 10:00 pm. Saturday morning will start with the 8 to 9 board meeting and follow with training and 15 youth giving their speakers virtual. The club will pay you to go to conferences if you want to go to them but not your hotel room. John Jones, Deborah Swanegan, Mary Dewey and Tony Parisio are going are signed up for the 3th qtr. conference for in person and Rick McKernan will attend by Zoom.

Board Meeting on Thursday, April 15 at 6:00 pm at the clubhouse. One funding request the Cornerstones of Care. They tabled the vote for funding until they have the director Christin Collen of the Columbia location comes in and talks about Cornerstones of Care in Columbia. The office is located at 1900 N Providence Rd Suite 305 and been opened for 2 years. Cornerstones of Care is based out of Kansas City, MO. They are partner with children, young adults and families to improve the safety and health through 6 key services area, which are Education, Mental & Behavioral Health, Foster Care & Adoptions, Youth Support, Family Support and Community training. They will go into a home where there are problems to be there for the kids by helping the parents work on getting along with each by giving them the support they need.

Rick ask the question "How are they difference from Lutheran Family & Children and Phoenix House." This is what is says on their website: 350 children in Boone County are in need of foster homes but as of November 2019, there are only 43 licensed foster homes in the county. Uniting families through foster care and adoption. We offer certification and support for a variety of foster care services, including traditional, respite, kinship, and medical foster care in

**Bringing Out The Best In Kids Since 1936**

Columbia and surrounding areas. In addition, our specialized treatment foster care program offers the highest level of care available to children who have experienced significant trauma. Our home finding team works hard to match children with families in both foster care and adoption cases, working to help children experience permanency and find their forever homes.

Keeping children safe through prevention and intervention services.

Believing prevention and early intervention combat trauma and promote safety and health, we opened our Columbia office in 2019 to bring intensive in-home services (IIS) and intensive family reunification services (IFRS) to the area. Both programs are proven to support healthy, stable home environments that are safe for children. We also utilize Solution-Based Casework, an evidence-based model that reduces lengths of stay for youth in residential treatment and prevents re-entries of children into state custody.

They board voted on John Jones as a new member as soon as he turns in his membership form.

Tony was going to check about in-person and zoom meeting at HyVee or at the Clubhouse. John Jones we can meet at Simmons Bank downtown in one of the boardrooms. John said "He had one board room that can hold up to 25 member and other board room holds up to 15 people." They are thinking about meeting in person and zoom on Monday, April 26 look for more information to come.

Tony read off the officers and board for 2021-2022 year (Committee member chair is Ed Musterman)

President: Tony Parisio for other year

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jerry Sullivan

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Nadia Ryakmayatullo

Treasurer: Jack Beard ??

Secretary: Phyllis Nichols

Board member: Deborah Swanegan

They talked about the changes in the By-Laws that Jerry Sullivan, Ed Musterman and Mary Dewey came up with when they looked over it on Tuesday, April 13. He will send Tony, Ed and Mary the updated copy when he gets it finished. Then Tony will share the changed that were made to club at the next club meeting.

High School Scholarships Nadia Ryakmayatullo has been reading all the applications finally came up with 6 winners. She sent them to Tony to look over and send them back to her. He will let us know whom the 6 students are at the next club meeting. Nadia will check to see if we will be able to give them their scholarship in person this year or not and she will let us know. Board had approved only 6 1 thousand scholarships this year. Nadia will ask the board to see if we can

give 8 1 thousand scholarship next year that way we can give 2 out to each of the 4 high schools in town.

John Jones was wondering if we did anything with the True False Festival for high school students. Maybe have them video tape what they liked about Columbia. Rick says that Boys and Girls Club had a program over there for high school students to video tape and edit film club.

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. The first park on June 16 will be at Cosmo Park theme Bicentennial Birthday Bash. Next park on July 21 will be at Clary-Shy (Farmer Market) theme Healthy Habits. 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 the 3th week of May for people to sign up and help with the Family Fun Fests.

Rick came up with a new idea for another geocaching event by using the Bill of Rights. Still working on all the detail for this event. Was meeting with the Social Department on Tuesday to talk to him about this idea. This will be just the "Hunt for Optimum" with other clubs helping us with this event.

Jerry Sullivan led us with the closing of the Creed at 1:05 pm

**Tony Parisio, President**



**CHOOSE  
OPTIMISM**