



THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLUMBIA (Downtown Optimist)

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Web: www.downtownoptimistclub.org

Downtown Optimist Club Zoom Meeting Newsletter

August 9, 2021 at 12:09 pm

Members attended In person President: Tony Parisio, Rick McKernan, Larry Fick, Jerry Sullivan, Steve Winter, Steve Kline and Larry Fick By Zoom Red Leighton, Mary Dewey, Lister Floyd and Scott Stager,

Prayer/Pledge for August 9: Rick McKerna Prayer and Larry Fick Pledge

Birthday/Anniversary: N/A

Rick talked about the “**Hallsville’s Back 2 the Future 20th Anniversary of Hallsville Optimist Club**”. Dave Murphy started that club in 2001. This event will take place on **Saturday, August 14 from 6 to??**. The cost is \$120 for a table of 6 or \$25.00 for single person. We will be taking to get couple of tables for that night. Dinner served at 6:00 pm with live music from Bruce Poe Band at 7:00 pm. There is **50/50 raffle and silent acution. This will take place at the Bob Lemone Building (500 N Route Z) Hallsville, MO. Member who are going are: John Jones and his wife, Rick McKernan and his wife and Valerie Goodin. Rick has 2 more ticket left for the table. Please let me know if you would like to go to this event in Hallsville.**

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 us for that day his email address is 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 also let everyone know that 4th qtr. Convention will be held in Cape Girardeu, MO this weekend Friday August 13 through Sunday morning August 15. There will be a Gala on Saturday evening, which will cost \$30.00. So far, Tony Parisio, Mary Dewey and Jerry Sullivin have signed up to go to the convention. Please let Tony know if you are interested in going to the convention so we can send your register in.

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. Thank you

Talked about the Bill of Right Geocaching program we what to host this fall. Taking the kids by bus to the Missouri Capital. We also talked about some different fundraiser and different event to bring the community together that the club and do this year or next year besides selling trees and Koeze Nuts.

Our Guest speaker: Nanette Ward from Stop Human Trafficking



Bringing Out The Best In Kids Since 1936

OUR MISSION

To end and prevent forced labor and sexual exploitation of innocent children, women and men.

THE COALITION

- Identifies victims
- Offers direct support to survivors
- Provides education and training
- Exposes traffickers and buyers

OUR SERVICES

SURVIVOR SUPPORT

- Safe, temporary shelter
- Transitional housing
- Safety planning
- Help applying for crime victim services and compensation
- Provision of Basic Needs
- Medical and Mental health services
- Advocacy and assistance connecting to law enforcement
- Help navigating the legal system
- Transportation
- Education and Employment Assistance

EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

- Increase survivor representation at conferences and events
- Advancing systems of care
- Empowering survivors
- Pursuing new or advanced methods to disrupt trafficking and exploitation pipelines

REQUEST A SPEAKER OR PRESENTATION

- Raise awareness of trafficking in our community
- Educate professionals and community members on how to identify, treat, and respond appropriately to potential victims of human trafficking

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Through advocacy, community collaboration and education, the coalition identifies victims, exposes traffickers and buyers, promotes slave-free practices and supports survivors of human trafficking on their journey toward wholeness.

The coalition also provides a toll-free number to help survivors in need or provide direction to concerned community members who may witness a trafficking situation.

Through advocacy, community collaboration, and education we work to eradicate human trafficking and exploitation in our communities.

"More than 90 percent of domestic, minor sex trafficking victims were enrolled in school at the time of their exploitation." ~ Federal Human Trafficking Report

Pimps and other sex traffickers prey on young girls between the ages of 12-14, from low-income neighborhoods with bad family lives. These girls are looking for a way out of their situations and when a trafficker promises that to them, they often believe the lie. Unfortunately, reality strikes when the traffickers exploit the girls with sex trafficking.

Experts in the field recognize four different types of sex traffickers. One type preys on minors online and when alone in public. They buy them gifts and make them feel special. Another type offers to buy minors alcohol and drugs. Once the minors are addicted to drugs, it becomes easier for the traffickers to force them into prostitution. A third type sends other already trafficked girls out to recruit new girls for the pimps to abuse. The last type kidnaps minors and forces them into trafficking.

70% of Child Sex Trafficking Victims Were Sold Online. The common age a child enters sex trafficking is 14 to 16 or younger. Too young and naïve to realize what's happening to them. Where pimps find their victims are from social network, Home Neighborhood, Clubs or Bars, Internet, school and bus stops.

Understanding Recruitment: Understanding the red flags and warning signs of a recruitment phase is crucial especially for vulnerable person, but also for friends, families, and bystanders; as we can all play a role in exposing the schemes of traffickers.

REPORTING

FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE DIAL 911 FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

ONE CALL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Human trafficking is in our community and we need your help to identify and report cases that you may encounter. If you spot a case of potential human trafficking or you are a victim, please contact one of the numbers below.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE (INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE)

[\(888\) 373-7888](tel:(888)373-7888)

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)

[\(866\) 347-2423](tel:(866)347-2423)

You can also fill out the [ICE Tip Form](#) to report suspected criminal activity.

IN CENTRAL MISSOURI:

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION'S TOLL-FREE NUMBER

[\(866\) 590-5959](tel:(866)590-5959)

FBI (KANSAS CITY)

[\(816\) 512-8200](tel:(816)512-8200)

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT – “CRIME STOPPERS” TIP LINE

[\(573\) 875-8477](tel:(573)875-8477)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL VIOLENCE SHELTERS

- True North, Columbia, MO: [\(800\) 548-2480](tel:(800)548-2480)
- Safe Passage, Moberly, MO: [\(660\) 269-8111](tel:(660)269-8111)
- ACCIS, Mexico, MO: [\(800\) 246-2280](tel:(800)246-2280)
- CADV, Camdenton, MO: [\(888\) 809-SAFE \(7233\)](tel:(888)809-SAFE(7233)) or [888-809-7233](tel:888-809-7233)
- WINGS, Boonville, MO: [\(660\) 882-5202](tel:(660)882-5202)
- Rape and Abuse Crisis Service: [1-800-303-0013](tel:1-800-303-0013)

Hope Road Documentary she talked about flyer is below.

HOPE ROAD
FROM VICTIM TO SURVIVOR
A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021
Moberly Area Community College (MACC)
Activities Center - Main Lobby Conf. Room
Moberly, MO - Doors Open at 5:30pm

Join Us for This Free Film About Child Sex Trafficking
Sponsored by the Stop Human Trafficking Coalition of
Central Missouri

Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Doors Open at 5:30 pm, Film Starts at 6:00 pm

Moberly Area Community College
Main Lobby Conference Room
101 College Ave., Moberly, MO 65270

Due to Limited Seating, Registration is Required.
Register at WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM
Search "Hope Road"

This film is going to be hard to watch. This film is for the man who is on the edge of buying a child for sex. We are hoping to educate you to the point where you don't cross over and buy. This film is also for parents. We want to give you information to help prevent your child from being coerced and trafficked. Please watch with an open mind. Any child is a potential target. This film is also for the members of your community who are willing to get involved to stop or curtail this very lucrative business. I once thought this could not happen in my small community, but it does. It happens in every community. Together, we can absolutely make a difference by demanding our law makers to get involved. And, this film is for law enforcement and educators who are working hard to put an end to this animalistic behavior. We thank the women of law enforcement who pushed us to make this film.

- Director Susan Cook

Closed with the Optimist Creed that was led by Jerry Sullivan

Meeting end at 1:05 pm

Tony Parisio, President



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**