



THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLUMBIA (Downtown Optimist)

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

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Downtown Optimist Club Zoom Meeting Newsletter

March 8, 2021

Members attended:

On March 8 meeting:, Rick McKernan, Mary Dewey, Ed Musterman, Scott Stager, Tony Parisio, Max Miller, Larry Fick, Steve Winter, and Special Guest Lister Florence, and Patricia Bisha Kanyike

Prayer/Pledge for February 1: Larry Fick, Prayer and Ed Musterman Pledge

Birthday: N/A

Board Meeting Thursday, March 18: We have 3 funding request: Greg Gilmore from the Daniel Boone Baseball and Softball League \$700. Julie Dorn from the Central and Northeast Missouri Food Bank \$5000. Diamond Council Paul Blythe \$1050. Rick will make a presentation.

Update for us having in person meeting at HyVee. Tony said "Right now they are letting any groups in. They are using the room to give out the COVID-19 shots." He will be trying to getting an evening meeting together at the Clubhouse soon.

Rick McKernan Geocaching/Scavenger Hunt had 50 kids take part in this event. This event will get the kids out of the house with their parents. They will going to 10 of the City Parks and Recreation Parks in town looking for the geocaching object that will the Optimist Creed inside. Each Creed will have a line that is bold that they will have to read and take a selfies of themselves with Creed in their hand. Creed will have a number on them letting us know which park they are coming from. Rick shared the video with us of the 3 boys who took part in the geocaching. We will be putting this story in the next Optimist magazine with pictures. We will be trying to put the winning video of the 3 boys on the East Missouri Optimist Facebook pages and the International Optimist website/Facebook pages. We are getting the video edited and better viewing before we can put the video on the Facebook pages.

This is information from Kent Ford from Kids1st Optimist Club about our winners. Columbia Optimist Clubs are proud to announce the winners of their 2021 Essay Contest. Students at Father Tolton Catholic High School wrote all of the top three essays. Placing first, with a total

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of 279 of a possible 300 points, was Aubrey Willmeth. Second place, with 274 points, was Wrenn Addison Orey. Finishing third with 267 points was Cayleigh Claire Neuner. The top three will receive Essay Contest medallions. All who entered will receive a certificate. Aubrey's essay will be forwarded to the Optimist's Eastern Missouri District competition. The winner there will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and will be advanced to the National/International competition for a chance to win an additional scholarship. The theme for this year's Essay Contest is "Reaching Your Dreams by Choosing Optimism." Children under age 19 were eligible to enter. Thirty-eight submitted essays. Optimist International, with headquarters in St. Louis, is a worldwide volunteer organization of more than 2,500 local clubs dedicated to bringing out the best in children. The Columbia sponsors of the contest thank all of the students who entered.

Oratorical winner was also a student from Father Tolton High School. We have 2 students moving on to the 3rd qtr. Conference which will be on Friday, April 31 and May 1 in Arnold, Missouri now not St. Louis. Oratorical contest will be done my virtual this year during the conference than in person. This is will be done for the safety of the students.

Rick Mckernan also talked about the Computer Giveaway that will take place in February. He would like to thank everyone who came out and help set the computers on Thursday and Friday evening. Also, like to thank the Volunteer Action volunteer for a great job Saturday getting the computers from the club house to their cars and through the drive thru safety.

High School Scholarship deadline is March 15. Right now we have about 5 students who have applied right now. Nadia Ryakhmyaullov is the club member who took over for Cyrilla Galbreath this year.

We are raising money for a bench in Jim's memories that will place along the walking trail that Shirley walks at Lenoir Home. Please let me know if you want to donate. Money can be sent to me at Mary Dewey 5938 Shelly Dr. Fulton, MO 65251. Make check out to Downtown Optimist Club and after I have all the money collected who wants to donate. I will give the checks to Jack to write one check out for the bench. I have already collected \$625.00 from club members. You can still donate ay anytime for Jim Beckett bench.

Tony Parisio, President



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