



## THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLUMBIA (Downtown Optimist)

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### Downtown Optimist Club Zoom Meeting Newsletter

May 3, 2021 at 12:01 pm

Members attended Rick McKernan, Mary Dewey, Ed Musterman, Scott Stager, Tony Parisio, Steve Winter, Jerry Sullivan, Coery Koch, John Jones, Red Leighton, , and Jerry Sullivan. Guest were Mikey B and Lister Florence. Guest Speaker: Jerrell Morton and Felecia Jackson-Quall from Job Point

Prayer/Pledge for May 3 Rick McKernan Prayer and John Jones Pledge

Birthday/Anniversary: Red Leighton 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday is on Sunday this weekend

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

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

OI Foundation Rep: Mary Dewey

Board member: Deborah Swanegan

High School Scholarships Nadia Ryakmayatullo has been reading all the applications finally came up with 6 winners will receive 1 thousand scholarship each. The winners are: Jade Leighty from Hickman High School, Landon Viers and Morgan McBees from Battle High School, Xavier Forte and Jadehee from Rock Bridge High School, and Arlexus Cisneres Ochan from Douglass High School.

Board Meeting on Thursday, April 15 we had one funding request the Cornerstones of Care. Kristen from the Columbia office will come to the May 20 board meeting and talk about where the money will go for at the Columbia office and the youth and family here.

They talked about the changes in the By-Laws that Jerry Sullivan, Ed Musternan 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.

3th qtr. Optimist conference that will take place on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 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. We have two Oratorical Contest speaking that day. Good Luck to them. Rick McKernan will be taking over for me as for 2021-2022 as Zone 2 Lt. Governor Congratulations to him. Tony Parisio will the Master Webmaster and Mary Dewey OI Foundation for the East Missouri Optimist District. The winner of the Oratorical was a 7<sup>th</sup> grader and her name is Morgan Moats. Erin Turner the winner of the Essay contest reader her essay to the group in-person, Both did a great job and won \$2,500 scholarship.

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.

Guest Speakers: Jerrell Morton and Felecia Jackson-Quall from Job Point: YouthBuild

*Job Point is Missouri's premier employment center and Community Development Corporation. Since 1965, we have been linking people and jobs by providing career planning and job placement assistance. We specialize in preparing individuals to enter the workforce, while meeting a critical need of the business community. The organization is headquartered in Columbia, Missouri, with services extending to Moberly, Boonville and the surrounding communities. Since 2003, Job Point's YouthBuild program has helped over 1,100 youth and young adults reclaim their education and build the skills they need for life-long learning, leadership and personal and professional success..*

### ***Vision***

To unleash human potential by creating life-changing solutions for personal fulfillment and economic independence.

### ***Mission***

We promote the abilities of individuals seeking employment through innovative training, education and business partnership, enriching the communities where we work and live.

## ***Core Values***

Integrity

Able and Adaptable

Collaborative Spirit

Clarity in Communication

Excellence in Customer Service

## **Learn about YouthBuild:**

We believe that every person has the potential to do great things for themselves, their families and our community at large. Regardless of their circumstances, age, education or background, we see that potential for greatness in people.

Through the YouthBuild program, we help youth and young adults see that untapped potential, too. We work together with each person to empower them to reclaim their education, gain job skills, and become leaders in their communities, while building houses or helping improve local infrastructure.

**Program Details** The core elements of this program are:

**Education:** Young adults spend about half of the time working on their educational goals. Whether they're working toward their high school diploma equivalent or simply working on improving literacy skills, we provide an individualized learning environment that gives them the tools and support they need to succeed. Their success is critical in helping prepare them for a career or post-secondary education.

**Construction and other Career Pathways:** We are rebuilding our community together. Through on-site construction training, our YouthBuild students are building single-family style homes that are affordable for low-income families in Columbia's most impoverished neighborhoods. They also work on improving local infrastructure through road and bridge construction.

**Support Services:** We recognize that there are certain barriers that exist in the lives of our students and we are committed to helping them overcome those barriers and work through them. We provide extra support, mentoring, career counseling and preparation to help where needed. We are committed to helping each person find success in pursuing their career or academic goals, despite the barriers that stand in their way.

**Leadership Development:** *We are not just building houses, we are building confident future community leaders. We help these young adults find stability in their lives and develop a lifelong love for learning. They learn leadership, accountability, collaboration and the value of community service and helping others.*

**Alumni Success:** *Although the traditional timeframe for YouthBuild participation is 6-9 months, we continue to work with these young adults even after they graduate and complete the program. Long-term success is the goal. We are there to help with the job search and career placement as well as during times of transition and change. Plus, they join our growing and active group of alumni who are committed to improving themselves and making our community a better place for everyone to call home.*

**Love:** *We welcome each person with open arms. We do not see them as broken or bad apples that need to be fixed or tossed out. We are here to cheer them on and encourage them as they work toward their goals and tap into their true potential.*

**Eligibility Requirements:** *1. Between the ages of 16 and 24 on the date of enrollment; AND  
2. Member of a low-income family, a youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care), an offender, a youth who is an individual with a disability, a child of an incarcerated parent, a homeless youth, or a migrant youth; AND  
3. School dropout, or an individual who was a school dropout and has subsequently re-enrolled*

Up to, but not more than, 25% of the participants in the program may be youth who do not meet criteria 2 or 3 above, but they **MUST** have low basic skills; or have been referred by a local secondary school

Priority is given to candidates living in Columbia's inner city between the ages of 16 and 24 without a high school diploma. Through on-site construction training, single family style homes are built for sale to low-income families, and local infrastructure is improved through road and bridge construction and repairs. The traditional time period of participation in YouthBuild is 6 – 9 months, depending on the academic performance of each individual.

Tony Parisio led us with the closing of the Creed at 1:05 pm

**Tony Parisio, President**



**CHOOSE  
OPTIMISM**