

Optimist Outlook

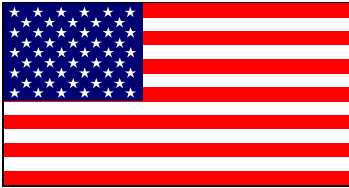
The Official Bulletin of the Optimist Club of West Knoxville

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The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself ...

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Christian D. Larson



Guests

We had no guests this week. Bring a guest, they might be our next new member.

Plug-in

Saturday dawned cloudy and damp; The weather went downhill from there. In spite of monsoonal rains, **Plug Into Your Community** was a huge success. The planning committee took advantage of the vast parking lots at Farragut High School to create what was essentially side-by-side E-cycling events. The lines of cars moved quickly as compared to past Plug-in Saturdays. We had ample volunteers and a great spirit of cooperation.

The result of good planning, hard work and community participation yielded approximately **100 tons** of recycled electronic gear that won't end up contaminating landfills. Early reports show donations at about **\$6,100**.

This was a huge cooperative effort with help coming from **AmeriCorps, Goodwill Industries, City of Knoxville, the Town of Farragut, Rural Metro, Knox Co. Sherriff's Dept., Knox Volunteer Rescue Squad** and of course, the **Optimist Club of West Knoxville**.

OCWK members helping included **Beth Bledsoe, Brian, Laura & Zack Osgood, Rhonda Luebke, Chris, Mary & Will Albrecht, Dan Green, Bart Kaserman, Kelly Vittatoo and daughter, Bud McKelvey** and **Mike Dyer** (who drove up from Dayton).

Your editor received reports that **Bud McKelvey's** crew from the Town of Farragut Public Works Dept. was particularly well organized and worth their weight in gold. Thanks to all!

If you volunteered at the event and your name is missing from the list, please come to lunch on Thursday and admonish me publicly. Your help was indeed appreciated.

We will do it all again on Saturday, January 24th at Chilhowee Park. Your help will be critical to another successful E-cycling event!

Happy Dollars

Laura Osgood gave a Happy Dollar because **Sam** is going back to classes at U.T. and **Laura** gets to spend 1-on-1 time with young Konnor.

Bud McKelvey and **Dan Green** each had a Happy Dollar to give because your editor's alma mater once again stubbed its' toe in a BCS bowl game. In spite of 3 straight years of humiliation in post-season gridiron competition, your editor remains a steadfast **Buckeye** fan.

Sgt.-at-Arms Dept.

Sheriff **Bud McKelvey** announced that **John Gardner's** birthday is on January 10th. After some negotiating, **John** paid his fine. Happy Birthday!

Angel Tree

Bud McKelvey thanked everyone who helped in any way during "Angel Tree Season". MANY hours were dedicated to this program that made Christmas morning joy possible for over 5,000 kids.

The last act performed was the tear-down and storage of the barn. This was accomplished with the efforts of **Bud McKelvey, Chris, Will and John Albrecht**. (John is my brother who was visiting and has been pressed into helping with Optimist activities in the past. —ed.)

Dime-A-Day

OI Foundation Rep. **Betty Effler's** goal is for our club to have **100% participation** in this year's campaign. A Dime-A-Day is equal to \$36.50 for the entire year. Dime-A-Day supports OI's Oratorical and Essay contests, and JOOI clubs like our own. Early participants are: **Milton & Betty Effler, Carolyn Blind, Chris & Mary Albrecht, Kelly Vittatoo, and Rhonda Luebke**.

Please consider participating. Your donation is 100% tax deductible. **Betty Effler** has enrollment forms. You can write a check to the OI Foundation, or put it on your credit card. If you use a credit card, it can be set up in monthly installments. See how easy it can be to help a very worthwhile cause?

Gambling News

The 1st drawing of the new year produced the name of **Rick Kirby**. He wasn't there, so the \$\$\$ rolls over. **It can pay to attend!**

Program

The program featured **Bart Kaserman**, our membership chair who identified some of our "missing members". An effort will be made to start contacting these folks and encouraging them to come to lunch.

Next up was **Rhonda Luebke** who briefly discussed OI's **PGI** program (Personal Growth & Involvement) and gave a short talk on "How Optimists can make a better world".

Brian Osgood wrapped things up by outlining our various fund-raising activities. Brian noted how we have many very busy people in our club who still find ways to be involved.

Coming Attractions

January 15th: A speaker from the Emerald Youth Foundation

January 22nd: TBA