



July 30, 2022

"You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do."

Optimist Board

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Ken Bishop	2021
Shawn Steelman	2022
Robert Blake	2022
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COMING UP

Board Meeting: August 11

TAKE A MINUTE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO MADE US STRONG:

- Carroll Sapp – 1987
- “Buddy” Glascock – 1988
- William Burnett – 1992
- Remus James – 1994
- Ron Marley – 1997
- Cecil Vaughn – 2001
- Billy Jo Sapp – 2004
- Marvin Sappington – 2004
- Arcie Sapp – 2005
- Kenneth Nichols – 2006
- Lahmon Wren – 2007
- Joe Smith - 2009
- Jimmy Jo Calvin- 2009
- Bob Sappington – 2010
- Clifford Caldwell-2013
- Mel Rupard-2013
- Ernest Woods—2013
- John Johnson—2013
- Michael Dalton--2013
- Jim Moore--2016
- Carl Long--2016
- Don Jones-2017
- Clay Austin-2017
- Sharon Donley-2017
- Ben Nieman- 2017
- Nick Kimbler- 2018
- Barbara Perry- 2018
- Jacob Zagorac- 2019
- Joy Woods- 2021
- Steve Walsh-2021
- Kristi Savage Clarke 2022

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Next week:

Breakfast: Aug. 6- Carole Iles, Dorise Slinker, Jennifer Lawson

Program-To be announced

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dana Cafourek, followed by Rev. Elmer Schaefer preparing us for breakfast with a prayer. A delicious breakfast was served by Dana Cafourek, Mike Fulca, and Letitia DenHartog.

This morning's meeting started with a thank you card from Hayden Steelman, after which Elmer introduced Tanya Samuels and her daughter Carly, who was fourth runner up in the local American Miss contest. Carly has earned the right to compete in the National competition in Orlando Florida and is hoping to get some financial support for this from the Ashland Optimist club.

Rich Ward introduced our speaker, Angela Carson, head of development and Marketing for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Angela spoke about her very personal history with CASA, which involved her and her husband adopting their fourth child when she was placed in foster care with them. Angela admitted that this is a rare ending, since the goal of foster care is to reunify the foster child with a family member. After Angela's daughter started kindergarten, Angela still had a heart for advocacy, but had too full of a home to continue in foster care, so she got involved with CASA.

Boone and Callaway County are in the 13th Judicial Circuit and currently service 722 foster kids, which is a record, with the normal number being closer to 650 foster children. Many foster families have numerous foster children living with them and many children move as many as five times while they are in foster care. Because of the need for foster homes, the courts prefer that children remain in their homes, unless the situation is egregious. CASA volunteers were able to help 386 foster children in the past year, which means they are helping just over half of the children in our area in foster care, but that foster care cases in Callaway County have increased 33% in the past year.

A CASA volunteer signs up to stay with a child or a family group for the entire time they are in foster care, usually two years, and generally puts in eight to ten hours a month. The CASA volunteer may be the only consistent positive adult presence in a foster child's life, with the child's possible moves and case worker changes. The CASA volunteer will generally be involved in a monthly meeting with the children they are assigned, plus communicate with the children, their parents, relatives, teachers, doctors, counselors, caregivers and anyone else involved in the child's life, review the children's case files, gather and document information, formulate recommendations, in the form of a court report, on what is in the best interest of the children and submit court reports and present your recommendations to the judge in the courtroom when their case is reviewed, generally every three months. The CASA volunteer may also attend the child's sporting competitions and other extra-curricular activities.

Angela talked about the upcoming training sessions coming up in August and October. If you are interested in being involved, you can go to www.homcasa.org for more information about a CASA Info session on Zoom and the volunteer application. An interview and background check are required before you start the fifteen hour in-person training. CASA also has a Facebook page at [heartofmocasa](https://www.facebook.com/heartofmocasa). If you want to help but feel that being a volunteer may be more than you are ready for, CASA is also interested in donations to help cover the cost of recruiting, screening, and training volunteers. Angela talked about the incredible support volunteers receive and the fact that judges listen to 94% of the recommendations that CASA volunteers provide.

After Angela was finished answering questions, she drew for the Attendance drawing. Danna Wren, William Bloss, and Jim Green had their chance at riches, but since none of them attended this morning, the pot will have a chance to grow. Since it was the final meeting of the month, Barrett figured the poker pot, which Dan Kennish won with a pair of tens. He was thrilled to say, "It pays to attend!"

Letitia Den Hartog
ashlandoptimist.org