The **COOKOUT** - held at Veteran’s Park on Tuesday evening was a great success. Quite a few non-members attended to mingle with our Optimistic members on a beautiful evening. Thanks to **Doug Waller & John Ashland** for spearheading this event to spur additional membership.

**John Malknecht** returned from goose hunting in Alberta, which he described as successful.

**Tom Rappe** angled at his annual fishing trip to Nisswa, MN - and despite chowing down many fish, he lost 4 pounds!

**Dick Swanson** presented the details of the “Avenue of Flags” program to the Bloomington Optimist Club for their consideration.

**Doug Waller** noted that his granddaughter was on a trip to Australia.

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They work with mental Illness & mental health in the Twin Cities. Their goal is to provide stable employment, peer-supported housing, and recovery services for adults with mental illness.

- 1 in 5 adults will experience mental illness at some point in their lives.
- 93,000 in Twin Cities have some form of mental illness.
- People with mental illness are more likely to be unemployed / homeless (60%) / likely to die 25 years earlier than others.

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Glad to have our guest - **Steve Meyer**, from Oelwein, Iowa (guest of John Ashland)

**Change of Watch** will be held at the Bloomington Event Center on American Boulevard.