



OPTI-TOPICS

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

President.....Bob Martin
1st Vice President.....Jim Roe
2nd Vice President.....Jim Pepper
Secretary Treasurer.....Al Renz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Casteel '10 Buddy Beck '11
Matt Hancock '10 Jim Berry '11
Patti Walker '11

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Jim Berry was ubiquitous today. Pres. Bob called on him for our invocation and pledge of allegiance. Then Jim introduced his guests; his wife Nell, Chuck Vedane and Doug Seay. Later, Jim would introduce our speaker. Jim Roe also had a guest from Harvest, Zack Sable. Pres. Bob urged a good turnout for our Saturday essay contest awards ceremony at the Optimist Recreation Center (1:00 pm). George Ferrell has written up the contest results, and will try to get the Times to give us coverage, along with pictures of the winners. Bob, furthermore, announced that the next District Board Meeting will be April 23-25, and that Al Renz is heading up a nominating committee for club officers and directors for 2010/2011. This is needed by April 10 per Optimist International rules.



Jim Berry was obviously proud and delighted to introduce his son-in law, Dale Bowen, and rightly so. Dale spoke on Lincoln Village located on Meridian Street near Oakwood Avenue. This might be described as a reclamation project for this area – an interdenominational effort involving many churches and many dedicated volunteers – evidenced by the video that was shown, and the description of the loving effort this group has achieved in our community without fanfare. Buildings that were formerly occupied by

gangs and houses of prostitution, and others living in squalor and poverty have been bought. These properties have undergone refurbishment; giving the people much needed hope. Lincoln Village has changed, and continues to change, this sector of Huntsville. The caring volunteers, working closely with the children, are happy to report that the children have exceeded the No-Child-Left-Behind test standards for reading and math, and there is much optimism for the future. The speaker exuded sincerity and love for this community- service work. One knows this is God's work, and will not go unrewarded. Currently students from Vanderbilt and Wheaton College (outside Chicago) have opted to spend their spring break here instead of at the beach, offering their talents and assistance to this project. The HEALs Clinic, which we have supported for several years, is closely related to Lincoln Village.

After not having a winner to our attendance prize recently the pot had grown considerably. Byrom claimed it all today. George Ferrell is working on programs for April and as soon as his plans are in place I'll list them in our Calendar.

CALENDAR

03/13	Sat.	1:00 pm	ORC	Essay Contest Awards
03/18	Thurs.	11:45	ORC	Business Meeting
03/25	Thurs.	11:45	DHI	Mayor Tommy Battle
04/01	Thurs.	11:45	DHI	TBA by George Ferrell
04/06	Tues.	4:00 pm	1 st Comm. Bank	Board Meeting

