



OPTI-TOPICS

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Chaplain Sidney opened today's luncheon meeting with a prayer of thanks, and then led us in the pledge of allegiance. Pres. Bob reminded us of the YAW (Youth Appreciation Week) Banquet at the Mayfair Church of Christ on Thursday, April 22 at 6:00 pm. There will be no noon meeting that day. Jim Berry said Jesse Lang will soon undergo eye surgery. Duane Plank said Frances Shirey was slated for back surgery. Both are extended our thoughts and prayers, along with those performing the procedures.



George Ferrell introduced our speaker, Betsy Ross, and we all got carried back to colonial times by the clothing she wore. She told about growing up as a Quaker, being educated by the Friends Society in reading writing and a trade (in her case sewing), going to work in her father's upholstery business,, and marrying an Episcopalian. Since marrying one of a different denomination was verboten she was read out of the church, however, she continued working for her father and became a recognized expert with the needle. It was interesting to note that she met and fell in love with John Ross, and that Rev. William Franklin, Ben's father, married them. She added that Ben would have agreed 100% with our Optimist Creed, as would all the

founding fathers – and founding mothers. When war loomed on the horizon she reported the sentiment was evenly divided between continuing under King George’s control and becoming independent. She and John were in the latter camp, John joining the militia and she getting a visit by a small committee headed by General George Washington to design a flag to be used by those wanting to unite the colonies and pursue freedom. John was assigned to guard an ammunition stockpile and was killed in an explosion. Unlucky Betsy became a widow 3 times due to her military tastes, but did comply with Washington’s wishes for a flag with 13 stripes of alternating red and white color, and a field of blue containing 13 stars. She brought out a minor detail not generally known. She opted for 5-pointed stars as opposed to the General’s proposed 6-pointed ones, and prevailed.

Betsy drew Tom Casteel’s name for the attendance prize. Al Renz noted that the Regional Oratorical Contest will be held at the Worthington Bank (South Parkway) in Huntsville Saturday, April 10, at 10:00 am. George has another treat for us this coming week – the annual concert by the bluegrass group known as The Young & Restless. They usually include some country songs and end with some gospel tunes. Consider bringing a guest to this one.

CALENDAR

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|-------|--------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 04/06 | Tues. | 4:00pm | 1 st Comm. Bank | Board Meeting |
| 04/08 | Thurs. | 11:45 | DHI | Young & Restless Bluegrass Music |
| 04/15 | Thurs. | 11:45 | ORC | Business Meeting |
| 04/22 | Thurs. | 6:00pm | Mayfair Church | YAW |
| | | | NO NOON MEETING | |
| 04/29 | Thurs. | 11:45 | DHI | Global Warming |

