



OPTI-TOPICS

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Sidney Sandridge's prayer reminded us of the many things we are grateful for, and for the fellowship we enjoy at the Optimist Club. Then he led us in the pledge of allegiance. It was good to have our Sec/Treas sans a cane, nor a chauffeur. How to go Al! Tariq Madyun was again the guest of Duane, and this time he told us a little about himself. Other guests were a colleague of our speaker and Fabiani.



Alberto, a native of Colombia, introduced Sheila McFerran, who hails from Dublin, emphasizing the "I" in OI. Sheila is President and CEO of "Hands On Greater Huntsville", has been in this country 30 years, becoming a US citizen in 1985. HOGH is essentially an umbrella group, consisting of 177 non-profit organizations. She was already aware of the extensive service projects identified with the Optimist Club, so she merely mentioned that volunteer needs and opportunities are listed in the Huntsville Times each

Sunday. Rather, she called our attention to our current school problems, the alarming drop-out rate starting at age 11; our need to preserve our environment, to take care of the homeless, and the needs of many of our senior citizens.

Sheila urged us to become active and speak out on all those issues that could benefit from our attention; and to become board members of some of the 177 organizations in North Alabama and South Central Tennessee that she represents. She said the need is urgent, and our focused influence could be vital to making Huntsville all it can be. Her inspired presentation, with just a hint of Irish brogue was fascinating to listen to. Huntsville certainly is fortunate to have one of her caliber in a key civic position. Also, she is a living example of avoiding junk food with its obesity consequences. She gave us much food for thought today.

Our picnic is set for Saturday the 24th at Sidney's farm. More on this at our next meeting. Alberto brought us an outstanding program today, and I feel sure he'll have another good one next week. Bring a guest who is a potential new member. Zack won the drawing today.

CALENDAR

07/06	Tues. 4:00pm	1 st Comm. Bank	Board Meeting
07/08	Thurs. 11:45	DHI	TBA by Alberto
07/15	Thurs. 11:45	ORC	Business Meeting
			Food/Alberto
07/24	Sat. TBA	Sandridge Farm	Club Picnic
			Sheriff's Chicken
07/29	Thurs. 11:45	DHI	Lisa Sparks
			School Foundation Board

