

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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VOL. 65, No. 3, October 14, 2010

Today's luncheon meeting featured Chaplain Sidney Sandridge offering a sacred word of gratitude, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Pres. Jim Roe noted there were no guests today, however, he proudly recognized new member, Alfred Evans. Welcome to our club, Alfred.

Starting next week, Tom Casteel will be sending out the weekly Newsletter by e-mail to those having internet addresses, and by US Mail to those having that preference. Please make your wishes known to Tom. In this way every member will get the same copy. Also, information in excess of the current one-page format will be possible. From time to time Tom will send out our updated Membership Roster, and any special announcements from Pres. Jim. This takes Currie Systems out of the picture. We thank them for their good work over many years. I'll continue to write the bulk of the Newsletter and e-mail it to Tom for editing and distribution.



Program Chairman Jim Berry introduced our speakers today from Children First, an organization under the umbrella of Huntsville's First United Methodist Church. Dr. Natasha McCrary and Erynne Showers described their important role in promoting the success of today's elementary school children, especially those in poverty. Generally speaking these kids receive free school breakfast and lunch each school day, but when this is

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supplemented by a week-end food pack they are able to start the week nourished and ready to learn.

Evidence of the success of this program in improved student performance has been demonstrated. Our speakers' enthusiasm and dedication clearly came through their remarks. Thanks Jim for bringing their work to our attention. Hopefully, their appeal for support by adult individuals to elementary school children in several ways, involving personal time and food fund-raising, enabling an extension of this program to include school break periods, will be forthcoming.

Jim Pepper won the pot. Business meeting next time at the Optimist Recreation Center. Tom Casteel showed attractive Optimist car tags available for \$10 – all proceeds go to youth programs. Who is arranging for our November programs?

CALENDAR

10/21	Thurs. 11:45	ORC Business (Food/Renz)
10/28	Thurs. 11:45	DHI Doug Bennett Theatrical Lighting Sys.

