



# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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VP Jim Pepper presided today. Chaplain Sidney Sandridge offered our prayer and led us in the pledge of allegiance. We had a good turnout – but no guests, to hear an outstanding program. It was good to celebrate the return of one of our former active members, Martha Pullen, who can be seen regularly on TV and conducts seminars worldwide. It was good to welcome her with a hug.

Before Martha got started, VP Jim asked for brief committee updates. Jesse Lang said he had 5 and maybe 6 contestants for our March 12 Oratorical Contest. Jack Fauble said Essay Contest judging has been completed, and he will be making awards to the top 3 winners at a near-term luncheon. Jim reported that Logan McElyea has had kidney stones removed and is on the road to recovery. Next, our speaker was introduced.

Martha was wearing her Optimist luncheon badge which someone found in our badge box. She started by reflecting on life-changing events she has experienced. In particular she recalled when, as a cheer leader at the University of Alabama, meeting President JFK at a bowl game vs. Oklahoma. Then she remembered being hired by Sidney Sandridge, then President of Athens College. I was sitting next to Sidney and he whispered that she was a very excellent teacher.

Another story Martha told was being in Huntsville for an important meeting with Redstone officials, and breaking a front-tooth crown the night before. She remembered driving around after dark in search of some super glue to make her own repair to the damage. She

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hadn't been in Huntsville in about ten years at the time, and found herself on Madison Street when she noticed a medical technician sign, so even though the hour was late she tried the door and it opened. Inside was Joe working late. He fixed her problem and the rest is history.



The last life-changing event she related was her first visit to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. She encouraged everyone to

make it a point to visit that facility, founded by Danny Thomas, and named for St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of helpless causes. She was impressed by the upbeat attitude of the children being treated for cancer and other serious life-threatening diseases. It reminded her of the tenets in our Optimist Creed which we recite at each meeting.

Survival rates for these youngsters have increased from under 20% in 1962 when St. Jude came into existence to over 90% in many cases today. They never charge more than the insurance covered rate for their treatment, and some of the country's leading physicians can be called on. Again, Martha urged us to visit St. Jude's, and support it.

Then VP Jim passed around the bucket for our adopted Logan, and I imagine the members were generous.

Peter Sathi won the attendance prize.

A handwritten mark in black ink, consisting of a circle with a stylized letter inside, possibly a 'W' or 'M'.

## CALENDAR

- 3/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 3/3 Thursday 11:45 Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Stephanie Osborn - Novelist**
- 3/10 Thursday 11:45 Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Dr. Russo - Women's Cancer**
- 3/12 Saturday TBA Optimist Recreation Center  
**Club Oratorical Contest**
- 3/17 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food Tom Casteel**
- 3/24 Thursday 11:45 Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBA - Tom Casteel**
- 3/31 Thursday 11:45 Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBA - Tom Casteel**

### Optimistic Quote of The Week

**"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."**

*Mother Teresa*