



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT

Jim Roe
256-883-8950
j_m_roe@yahoo.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Pepper
256-655-9659
jpepper777@msn.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Berry
256-539-2101
jberryn@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Al Renz
256-772-7929
optimist3480@aol.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Bob Martin
256-722-8062
bmartin12@bellsouth.net

We had a good turnout today, but, again, no guests. Anytime we exceed our guaranteed minimum of 22 eaters is good. Sidney Sandridge gave the prayer and led us in the pledge of allegiance. Pres. Jim Roe praised Essay Contest chairman Jack Fauble for a job well done. However, Jack was quick to extend the plaudits to Fabiani and Byrom. Jim asked that the winners be invited to the YAW (Youth Appreciation Week) Banquet, and possibly read their essays. Pres. Jim encouraged members to attend the Oratorical Contest Saturday, March 12, at 9:00am, at the ORC.

Next he called on Bob Martin for a nominating committee report on their recommended slate of Officers and Directors for 2011/2012. Be prepared to vote at our 3/17 business meeting. Floor nominations are not excluded. Bob's report follows:

OFFICERS 10/01/11 - 09/30/12

President	Jim Pepper
1 st Vice President	Tom Casteel
2 nd Vice President	Jack Fauble
Secretary/Treasurer	Al Renz (Appointed)

DIRECTORS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
Matt Hancock	9/30/12	Bob Martin	9/30/13
Connie Gipson	9/30/12	Byrom Goodwin	9/30/13
Jim Berry	9/30/12	Alfred Adams	9/30/13

Jim Roe: Past President

DIRECTORS

Tom Casteel
256-714-4677
tom@leetsac.net

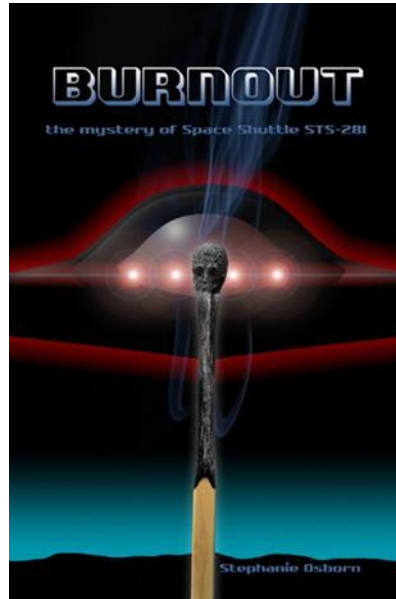
Connie Gipson
256-534-1384
cfgipson@yahoo.com

Matt Hancock
256-990-0077
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

Buddy Beck
256-837-9722

Gay Pepper
256-617-0742
gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com

Patti Walker
256-829-1312
patti.walker@bxs.com



Tom Casteel introduced today's speaker, space scientist and science fiction novelist Stephanie Osborn. Stephanie holds math and science credentials from Vanderbilt and other prestigious schools. She has 20 years experience in engineering and science, but currently devotes her time to writing.

An event occurred (The Shuttle Columbia Disaster) that had a major impact on her career. She had in hand for about a year her first draft of her first novel, and she read part of it to us. It was uncanny how her writing described in detail what happened. She thought about not continuing with the book project, but instead decided to pursue writing full-time.

She found it not easy breaking in as a new author, and went on to relate a very discouraging picture to anyone thinking of becoming a writer. First, she needed an agent, but this turned out to be very difficult since agents wanted to read what she had published. Overcoming this problem was a struggle, but she finally connected up with a sympathetic agent who put her in touch with an editor who discredited her work.

The agent, however, was able to help her find a less critical editor. She proceeded to distribute an e-book for comments, leading to galley proofs and an unbounded manuscript to be checked for accuracy. Finally, she published her first novel. It was well received and she now has several follow-on works which she had with her.

Jim Roe commented that he had read her first novel and highly recommends it, especially to those having NASA affiliations.

Clyde won the attendance prize – again!

Carl W.

CALENDAR

- 3/10 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Dr. Russo - Women's Cancer
- 3/12 Saturday 9:00 am Optimist Recreation Center
Club Oratorical Contest
- 3/17 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food Tom Casteel
- 3/24 Thurs. 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBA - Tom Casteel
- 3/31 Thurs. 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBA - Tom Casteel

Optimistic Quote of The Week

" Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push. A smile. A world of optimism and hope. A "you can do it" when things are tough."

Richard M. DeVos