

# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

## OFFICERS

### 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

VOL. 65, No. 22, March 17, 2011



Pres. Jim Roe called on Zack Thompson for today's invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance and his gratitude for citizen's right to bear arms. Then Jim gave each member present a business-size card copy of our Optimist Creed. In order to increase membership the motive is to give the card to a

prospective new member, and invite him or her to one of our regular luncheons.

Sec/Treas Al Renz reviewed our financial position, and we all agreed our finances were in good hands. Al passed around two sign-up sheets, one for the April 7 Country & Western singing program, and one for the Tuesday, May 2 Respect for Law banquet. There will be no Thursday meeting that week. Members can attend "Respect for Law" without additional charges, however, they will be charged \$12 for each of their guests.

All nominating committee selections were elected unanimously. We thank these individuals who agree to serve in this capacity.

Jack Fauble read the names of the authors of the top three essays from Madison and Randolph schools. They will be given an opportunity to read their essays aloud during our YAW (Youth Appreciation Week) banquet. Also, Jack will furnish Tom Casteel a copy of the first place winner's work for inclusion in our newsletter distribution. Furthermore, Jack asked that the Board consider increasing the prize money next time.

## 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

Jesse Lang will try to get our oratorical contest winner to practice her speech before the club at next week's luncheon meeting March 24. It turns out that the Zone Oratorical contest had to be canceled due to a low number of contestants, so she will automatically advance to Region competition to be held Saturday, April 16 at 1:00 pm in the Madison County public library. Winners from the three Regions will vie for the big scholarship prize at the District level.

Tom Casteel attended a recent JOOI Club convention, and presented an Internet Safety video to the youth attending. He said it was put together by people who understand how to communicate with teenagers, and was right on the mark. He'll try to show it at this week's meeting. In addition, Tom asked all band instrument committee members to be actively getting together information needed for the award's season.

Apparently Bill Clarke has risen to a leadership role in the HOF (Huntsville Optimist Foundation), and he reported that the organization is in danger of losing its tax-exempt status. No required forms have been submitted over the past five years. Regions Financial has recommended an individual to help the HOF, but Al Renz, newly elected to the HOF Board, will first try to put us back in good standing. Clyde revealed that the club Sec/Treas formerly got paid a small stipend, but this is no longer the case. He recommended that this be looked into. Bob Martin said he will bring this up at the next Board meeting, suggesting pay be restored – and even increased. Bill expressed his intent to report on HOF activities at each club business meeting in the future.

Due to the lateness of the hour Fabiani's and Patti's by-laws report was not brought up for discussion. Rather than extend the meeting he agreed to furnish a copy of their findings to the Board for comment before bringing any issues before the club at large.

Carl W.



## CALENDAR

- 3/24 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Oratorical Contest Speaker - Alyse Hester**  
**Internet Safety Video - Tom Casteel**
- 3/31 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBA - Tom Casteel**
- 4/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 4/7 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Country Western Singer - Cristina Lynn**
- 4/14 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Austin Boyd - Choose Life**
- 4/16 Saturday 1:00 pm Madison County Library  
**Regional Oratorical Contest**
- 4/21 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food Al Renz**
- 4/26 Tuesday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ  
**Youth Appreciation Week Banquet**
- 4/21 Thursday **NO MEETING**

### Optimistic Quote of The Week

**"What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls a butterfly."**

*Richard Bach*

# **"How my Education is the Key to a Successful Future"**

Amber Jeanne Monks - Randolph School

According to most dictionaries, education is roughly defined as "the years of schooling that one receives", or so I assume, but this is a short and concise statement, and my education has taught me that "education" is not a short and concise existence. It should not be held captive in a dictionary and locked up by punctuation. Not to go against one of the very cornerstones of my "education", but this word deserves more of a description. (Sorry Merriam Webster)

Education is a heart, something centered at one's core. It is everyone I know and love, and those that I am yet to meet. It is made up of the decisions I make, the chances I take, the morals I follow, as well as the morals I've yet to find or leave behind. It is anything that has had an impact on me ever, and anything that I've yet to find that does. These qualities and lessons sit at one's very core. But, still, it is more.

It is how I decide to compile all of these experiences; they are the ingredients for not only my personality, but also the formula in which I decide to live my life. In other words, how I interpret everything positive and negative that life has thrown at me, and the mistakes that I make doing so and applying it is exactly what my education is.

Education will never end. Simply the knowledge of these four words and their connection are the key to a successful future. More specifically, my education will lead me to a successful future because of them.

The most important thing to keep in mind about "Education" is the fact that it is an ever-continuing process. It is my ability to keep learning that will provide me the ability to be successful in the future. However, the education that I already have has had a huge influence on where I am right now.

Even though conventional, my school education has played a big role in my life. It has taught me not only what would probably amount to a million pages of information, but it has given me invaluable experiences working with others and forming friendships, which will give me ways to make relations and friendships with others throughout my life, even if they are very different from myself.

Another thing I have learned from my formal schooling is to reach out and to make a difference in the lives of others, as many of my teachers have done for me. My teachers have had an enormous impact on me as a student and as a person; from Preschool to 11<sup>th</sup> grade, they have helped to shape me into who I am today. By doing this, they have given me the drive to help others in any way I can. My teachers have also given me the drive to put effort into everything I do, to have a passion for it. Passion alone is a key to achieving goals in the present and the future.

Albert Einstein once said: "I never let my schooling interfere with my education." I believe that this renowned genius was only half right: The passion I use in school and the passion that I will use later on in my life have a lot to do with each other. In addition, the experiences and connections I make with others while in the process of schooling are crucial to the rest of my life.

Still I will not totally discredit the man with a seemingly infinite IQ. Education goes leagues beyond what is in books, or what is in the dictionary; it is really what is linked to one's passion, in one's heart. In that sense, I believe a more accurate description could not have been provided by the individual to whom we link " $E=mc^2$ ". If one believes that words on a page are a complete education, they are sorely mistaken.

What I have developed through the metabolism ( I'm using this to mean "The total of all occurrences in my life" instead of "in the human body" as according to human physiology) is what really counts in my education. Being able to combine everything I have learned from every part of my life, my true education is a key that I believe will open any lock I need it to in my future.