

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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We had 20 to 25 in attendance today. Jim Berry opened the meeting with a prayer and then led us in the pledge of allegiance. After a delicious meal Pres. Jim Roe smashed the gavel to the bell at 12:20 pm to get things going. Introduction of guests was limited to my grandson Graham, who starts 8th grade next week. Table chit chat among Graham, Zack, Jim Berry and myself resulted in Zack presenting a Gideon New Testament to Graham, properly signed and dated. I'm sure this will be a keeper. Also, we discovered that Jim Berry's middle name is Graham – as is Graham's.

It was good to have Al Renz back from his trip to the northwest. He called up Fabiani and Jack Fauble and recognized them each for attaining PGI Level I. Then Al read a note from Dallas Clark, a past club president and 40-year Optimist. Dallas keeps up with club activities by reading the weekly news, and he sent in a \$50 check to support our pancake breakfast. He'd like us to find 10 needy children who like to eat pancakes.



Pres. Jim next called on Duane to introduce our speaker, Sheriff Blake Dorning. Blake appeared in full uniform, and we all felt a little safer. Duane noted in his introduction that the Sheriff's priority is to serve "We the People" of Madison County. He is currently in his 3rd term in office and proudly wears 3 stars, evidence of our continued respect. Furthermore, he is accepted across

the state, being president of the Alabama Sheriff's Association.

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Sheriff Dorning explained how his office plays an important participative role throughout the county's court system. He gave several practical tips for avoiding what he calls "crimes of opportunity." Keep your doors locked. When out of town make sure a neighbor has an eye on your property. Be sure mail and papers are picked up. He said even mowers are stolen if left conveniently in the front yard over night. He said there was a recent flurry of air conditioning theft by a crew in a truck with air conditioning service clearly displayed. In addition to normal picture taking of criminals he has found photographing tattoos to be effective where individuals otherwise change their appearance.

Blake had several stories of heroic acts by deputies during the recent tornado. Despite the vast property damage, loss of life was minimal. He could only explain this by a spiritual element being at play. We are indeed grateful to Blake and his "common sense" approach to law enforcement.

Sidney Sandridge won the attendance prize.



Optimistic Quote of The Week

"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you."

Mary Lou Retton

CALENDAR

8/11 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**Barbara Nash - Young People's European
Musical Concerts**

8/18 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food - Duane Plank

8/25 Thursday - **No Meeting**

8/27 Saturday 2:00 pm Jack Fauble's Farm

Picnic with Youth Clubs

9/24 Saturday 7:30 to 11:30 Cooper House
Central Presbyterian

Pancake Breakfast for Hawthorne Conservatory