

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Pres. Jim Roe asked Jim Pepper to open today's business meeting with a prayer and to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. About 20 were in attendance. Those who opted not to attend missed a great meal courtesy of Al Renz and Darrel McCoglan. It featured what they called

Johnsonville bratburgers, probably an 8 ounce patty of bratwurst, Wisconsin style, garnished with various cheeses, onions, and tomatoes. Also included were hotdogs, baked beans, potato and fruit salad; and mini cupcakes. It was our last picnic of the season.

Jim Berry has agreed to be program chairman for October so we can look forward to a first-rate start for the new Optimist year.

Sec-Treas Al Renz distributed the financial report and we were all glad to learn that the IRS has reinstated the club's tax-exempt status. Al reported receiving an IRS refund of \$1,447. Recall, the club was guilty of not making a timely submission of required forms awhile back. Credit for the favorable IRS decision has to go to our Sec-Treas who put together a very compelling package of the youth work we perform, and the recent financial difficulties we found the club in. It's good to have a fresh start. The whole financial report was accepted with little comment.

Alberto appealed for support for pancake breakfast on Saturday the 24th. He needs many volunteers to join him, starting at 6:30 am to help for a couple hours. Also, at 3:00 pm the day before (Friday the 23rd) he needs help to set up the room at Cooper House for the breakfast.

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Pres. Jim said there is a regular club meeting on the 22nd (see Calendar). However, on the 29th we'll be meeting at 6:30 pm instead of the usual time to install officers. Tom Howell will officiate.

Next, Fabiani passed out information on serving veterans, especially those who have been wounded in action, to help them re-integrate into the community workforce. He felt the Optimist Club might play a role.

Then Fabiani presented the crux of a long-term plan he envisions for our club. This is a forerunner to remarks he has been preparing for his November 2nd talk before 18 middle school principals. He sees our club building on 9 years of JOOI Club organizing experience, starting with the Randolph Club, and most recently with Grace Lutheran. Currently he is working with Whitesburg Middle School to be our 5th junior club. **T**eams of 2 experienced Optimists could be assigned to each JOOI Club to meet with them monthly. This is the **T** in his **ACT** acronym. **A** is for **A**ttitude, and **C** is for **C**ommitment. Furthermore, to ensure success he proposes to get a new club up and going by providing a banner, gavel, and bell; and to pay their dues for two years; and to take a student representative of each club to a District meeting once each year to meet with other young people from around the District. He recognizes there is a cost involved, but the spread of Optimism in this way will, in the long run, enhance the value of our club to the community.

Following Fabiani's impassioned and enthusiastic vision, Jim Berry moved to wholly adopt this plan. Alberto seconded. There was discussion about the source of funding. Since some thought the HOF (Huntsville Optimist Foundation) would end up with the bill and there would be a problem with possibly interpreting parts of the plan as scholarships which violate the HOF charter of no scholarships in order to retain its tax exempt status. I hope I have fairly reported the club's and the HOF's positions. Jim Berry's motion passed with the funding source to be determined.

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Optimistic Quote of The Week

"The American, by nature, is optimistic. He is experimental, an inventor and a builder who builds best when called upon to build greatly."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

CALENDAR

- 9/22 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Ron Little - Guitar & Song
- 9/24 Saturday 7:30 to 11:30 Cooper House
Central Presbyterian
Pancake Breakfast for Hawthorne Conservatory
- 9/29 Thursday 6:30 pm Downtown Holiday Inn
Installation of Officers
- 10/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 10/6 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Jim Berry - TBA
- 10/13 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Jim Berry - TBA
- 10/20 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - TBA