



# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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There were seventeen Optimists and two guests (Marlene Renz and our speaker) attending today's meeting.

Chaplain Sidney Sandridge opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gay Pepper announced that the Optimist Christmas party would be held Tuesday, December 13 in our usual meeting room. She passed around a sign-up sheet and asked for a definite yes or no from each member as well as the number of guests. Jim Pepper reported that Logan McElyea is feeling much better and that he and his mom have been invited to join us at our Christmas party..

**NOTE: Everyone attending the Christmas party is asked to bring a \$10 gift (wrapped) and batteries for donating to Christmas Charities Year Round. All sizes of batteries are needed, AAA, AA, C, D, and 9V.** Also, if you have good used clothing, you can bring it as well. Donating at the party can save you a trip to the Jordan Lane location of Christmas Charities.

Bob Martin announced that on December 14, one day after our Christmas party, Optimists are scheduled to help bag toys for Christmas Charities from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock p. m. at the Christmas Charities site on Jordan Lane. JOOI Club members are also invited to help.

Fabiani thanked the club for their fine participation in the Veterans' Day parade.

Bob Martin introduced our speaker Ms. Violet Edwards, Executive Secretary of Christmas Charities Year Round. Ms. Edwards, a former Employee of the Month at WAAY TV, became Executive Secretary in 2008 after an number of years as a volunteer. She outlined the many programs her



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organization conducts throughout the year, including a Financial Literacy class, a clothing and cloth recycling program, a canned food program (60,000 to 100,000 cans!), a back-to-school clothing program, and a veterans' assistance program. The organization also provides furniture and clothing to the needy throughout the year.

Ms. Edwards reported that her organization has weathered the loss of United Way funding quite well. In the last year, she has been able to accumulate, bale, and ship forty 1,000-lb bales, in 40,000-lb increments, of clothing for which the organization received \$30,000. She also reported that this year, for the first time in many years, Christmas Charities will be able to bag all new toys, including hand-held video games and Fisher-Price toys (that's why the batteries are needed).

Christmas Charities will sponsor a Can Structure Competition at the Space and Rocket Center this Saturday at 12 o'clock noon. High school teams will create structures from cans and be judged by on-lookers. Optimists are invited.

Jim Pepper announced that there will be no December Board of Directors meeting.

Jim Berry won the door prize (Chev Kellogg missed out).



### Optimistic Quote of the Week

**"I awoke this morning with a devout thanksgiving for my friends, both old and new."**

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### CALENDAR

12/8 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Doug Brown – Executive Director - CASA**

12/13 Tuesday 6:30 pm Downtown Holiday Inn  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

12/15 Thursday **NO MEETING**