



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Pres. Jim Pepper called on Chaplain Sandridge to give our opening prayer and lead us in the pledge of allegiance. Sidney gave thanks for the fellowship we all enjoy at Optimist meetings, and asked for continued blessings and guidance for our club and its members and their families.

At 12:15 Jim banged the bell, following a steak meal. He asked Gay to report on our Christmas Party scheduled for Tuesday at 6:30 pm in our regular room at the DHI. Jim noted that Kevin McElyea plans to attend and that we'll be presenting him with a gift. Gay passed around the sign-up sheet and said that special singing entertainment is planned. Fabiani announced that all military veterans and their families are eligible for free admission to the Nutcracker Ballet. Also, free, is the Living Christmas Tree Monday, 6:30 pm at First Baptist. Next Thursday at 6:30 we're invited to Central Presbyterian's Christmas concert featuring Hawthorne Conservatory students. Our annual pancake breakfast supports the training of these young musicians.



Bob Martin introduced our speaker, Doug Brown, Executive Director for CAJA (Court Appointed Juvenile Advocates). Doug is a Baptist minister from Tennessee. CAJA's aim is to protect abused and neglected children from an adult court system, and to ensure that every child can enjoy a safe and permanent home. Doug said that there are annually 7,000 children in Foster Homes in our State, and this includes 525 in Madison County. CAJA members stand ready to support judges in investigating cases and presenting unbiased opinions – one case at a time, protecting children for any adult agendas.

He appealed to our members to contact him to volunteer for this vital mission, either by becoming personally involved or by providing financial support. Doug credits Hartwell Lutz

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for starting this work many years ago and noted that he still actively participates. Doug explained how Foster Homes are licensed under the Human Resources Program and are closely monitored to ensure children are getting their fair chance at success in life.

Peter Sathi won the money today. Except for the Christmas Party no luncheon meetings are planned until January 5. Also, no newsletters will be sent out during the Holidays. I thank Clyde for getting out last week's letter, and for agreeing to pinch hit for me from time to time.



Optimistic Quote of the Week

A well-spent day brings happy sleep.

~Leonardo da Vinci

CALENDAR

12/13	Tuesday 6:30 pm	Downtown Holiday Inn CHRISTMAS PARTY
12/15	Thursday	NO MEETING
12/22	Thursday	NO MEETING
12/29	Thursday	NO MEETING
1/3	Tuesday 4:00 pm	1st Commercial Bank Board Meeting
1/5	Thursday 11:45 am	Downtown Holiday Inn TBA



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**