



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Opening

Sixteen Optimists attended the regularly scheduled Business Meeting of Club at the Optimist Recreation Center. President Jim Pepper apparently opened the meeting before I got there at 11:40 a. m., so I don't know who gave the prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Pepper was the chef today, and the menu was chicken fingers, French fries, coleslaw, and bread. It was announced that absentees Alberto and Fabiani were in Colombia, and our newest member, Jane Shinn, was recovering from a heart attack. If Alberto had been here, the Club would have sung "Happy Birthday" since he turned 60 years of age on this day.

Treasurer's Report

Al Renz gave the Treasurer's report through the first 5 months of our fiscal year ending February 29, 2012. Our income for this period included a \$220.69 rebate from our Club credit card. Al also reported that thus far we had spent \$5,037.13 on youth activities and repaid \$900 to the Optimist Foundation. The Club's bank balance at the end of February was \$5, 652.96.

Al next gave a comprehensive review of the situation with Jeff Klimek for the newer members present. The current status is that Jeff has lost his job, his bankruptcy has been dismissed by the Court, and the Club's only remaining option is to pursue both criminal and civil legal actions. The Club's Board of Directors voted at their last meeting to do this.

Al reported that the fund raiser for the Everyone Can Play Park at Logan's Road House set a new record for the amount of money raised. The honorary waiters from the Optimist Club and the Kiwanis Club raised \$10,721 in "tips". One waiter received \$3,500, displacing Bob Martin as the leader in tips received for the park at this activity.

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Foundation Report

Bill Clarke gave the Club some good news: The IRS has reinstated the Foundation as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, so you can now get a tax deduction for any donations you care to give to the Foundation. More good news: Last month the Foundation's assets increased from \$755,100 to \$769,538 even after cutting a check for \$6,761.64 to reimburse the Club's youth activity expenses. John Shirey, Tom Casteel and Bill Clarke have been appointed as a committee to review the Foundation's books.

Youth Activities

Jim Pepper announced that the Hazel Green JOOI Club will hold their installation next Wednesday, March 21, at 3:30 p.m., weather permitting. An earlier date for the installation was canceled due to severe weather warnings. Jim said the Hazel Green club has been very active, and encouraged anyone who can to attend the installation.

Alberto was absent, but a brief report was presented on the results of the Oratorical Contest last Saturday. Only one contestant showed up, but the winner, Alyce, gave an excellent speech and should do well in the further competitions.

Jack Fauble raised a question on whether the winner(s) of the Club's Essay Contest was getting a fair share of recognition with only \$200 cash, a medal, and attendance at a future Club luncheon meeting. A long discussion resulted on whether to have our Essay and Oratorical contest winners be invited to perform at the Youth Appreciation Banquet scheduled for April 26. YAB chairperson Gay Pepper promised that her committee would discuss the matter and arrive at an equitable recommendation.

Announcements

The JOOI Club at Morris Elementary School will march in the St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 17. They will be directly behind the Veterans entry. Attend if you can.

Tom Casteel was absent today due to travel. He was reported to have two brothers in the hospital in Louisiana, and he went there to help out.

Jane Shinn's address is: 2305 Redfern St SW, Huntsville, AL 35805-3146, if anyone wishes to send her a get-well card.

There will be **no meeting on March 29** at the Holiday Inn. This is due to a new policy adopted by the Club to not hold a meeting on the fifth Thursday of any month with 5 Thursdays.

The Respect for Law banquet will be on May 10, 2012.
There will be no Club meeting that week.

Closing

Jack Fauble led the recitation of the Creed since he had a copy to read available in his notebook.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“Wisdom is avoiding all thoughts that weaken you
and embracing those that strengthen you.”**

~Chinese proverb

CALENDAR

- 3/22 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBD - George McDonough
- 3/29 **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**
- 4/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 4/5 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Amber Snider - Alabama Mentor
- 4/12 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
**Cristina Lynn/ Russ Holder
Country Singers/Songwriters**
- 4/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 4/26 Thursday 6:30 pm Downtown Holiday Inn
Youth Appreciation Banquet