



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Opening

The monthly business meeting of the Optimist Club of Huntsville was opened at the Optimist Recreation Center by President Tom Casteel. Fourteen Optimists were present. Clyde Nevins opened the meeting in prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Duane Plank had plenty of chicken tenders and sides for the attendees.

Illness Report

Jim Roe reported that Dr. Sidney Sandridge is in Huntsville Hospital with c-diff colitis. Last Tuesday, Sidney had severe diarrhea, fever and weakness. Later he developed chest pains, which precipitated his admittance for tests. A stress test showed no heart problem. Because this is a bacterial infection, Sidney's visitors will be required to wear preventive masks & such, so it would be much easier to just call him rather than visit. Sidney's number at the hospital is 256-265-8606, and he is expected to be there another two days.

Treasurer's Report

Club Treasurer Al Renz presented the Club's financial report for the first 8 months of our fiscal year. Highlights: As of the end of May, we had a bank balance of \$68.98; however, the club has \$5,312.71 in reimbursement requests with the Optimist Foundation. To date we have spent \$9,001.06 on youth programs. There is \$307 in dues still outstanding.

Al next gave a report on the situation with past Treasurer Jeff Klimek. Al attended the bankruptcy court meeting about 2 weeks ago, and sat in on proceedings with the court clerk during Jeff's application for bankruptcy

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reinstatement. The result of the meeting is that the court clerk approved his bankruptcy to be reinstated, and is recommending 13% of Jeff's new bankruptcy payments go to uncollateralized debt (which includes us). This time, payments will be deducted from his paycheck and not left to Jeff's initiative. Al will attend the court session in Decatur next week to determine if the judge concurs in the court clerk's recommendations. If approved, we could get a small check each month from the bankruptcy beginning as early as July.

Committee Reports

Tom Casteel reported that the *Band Committee* completed its instrument inventory last Saturday. There are two or three instruments missing; however, these generally tend to turn up later on. As of now the Club has 124 instruments. Many of them have been delivered to Robbins Music for inspection, repair and cleaning so they will be ready for the start of school in the fall.

Gay Pepper reported that the *Picnic Committee* had contacted Huntsville Parks and Playgrounds about using the pavilion at the Everybody Can Play Park for our picnic. Their response was that there is no objection to this kind of activity, but due to on-going work near the pavilion, it would not be available for our picnic until September. President Casteel asked for a show of hands on delaying our picnic until September, and those present concurred.

Alberto reported that the *JOOI Club Committee* is currently in hibernation, awaiting the start of the school year. Members are reminded to be collecting school supplies for Morris Elementary School.

New Business

President Tom Casteel asked for ideas on recruiting new members for our Club. He remarked that he is familiar with nearly all of the Optimist Clubs in our District, and, in his opinion, our club is the best, the most active and has the best participation of any of them. However, we need several new members if we are to adequately support our JOOI Clubs when school opens in the fall. He said for the past two administrations, the Club has not had a Membership

Committee, but will have when his full term starts in October of this year.

Gay Pepper suggested the Club have a “business” card printed with information on it, such our club’s web site and meeting days & times. On the back could be the name and phone number of the Optimist member to contact for scheduling a visit.

Duane Plank suggested that the Club contact every parent of our JOOI Club members by e-mail, letter, or both, to invite them to a special meeting where membership would be encouraged. Along these lines, a membership pitch could also be given to attendees at the Installation of Officers ceremony at each JOOI Club this fall.

Announcements

Duane Plank announced that Ms. Karyl Gardner of Leadership Huntsville will be our speaker at next week’s meeting. Her topic will be “What Leadership Huntsville Does for Children in Huntsville and Madison County.” Duane said she is a very enthusiastic lady, and her program promises to be very interesting.

Jim Roe suggested that Austin Boyd be invited back to speak at an upcoming meeting. Next month’s Program Chairman, Alberto Duarte, took note.

Tom Casteel announced that the next District Meeting will be August 9th – 12th at the Tuskegee Kellogg Institute. He said attendees will be able to meet two of the Tuskegee Airmen and visit an outstanding museum located on the campus. Duane Plank encouraged attendance, saying from his experience, Tuskegee Institute is the best-kept secret in Alabama and should not be missed.

Closing

Carl Winkler led the recitation of the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Don’t Forget: WE NEED MORE MEMBERS! Invite someone to our June 28th meeting.

Clyde Merins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

An *optimist* is neither naive, nor blind to the facts, nor in denial of grim reality. An optimist believes in the *optimal* usage of all options available, no matter how limited. As such, an optimist always sees the big picture.

~Vera Nazarian

CALENDAR

6/28 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Karyl Gardner - Leadership Huntsville

7/5 Thursday **NO MEETING**



7/10 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting

7/12 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBD - Alberto Duarte

7/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (Alberto Duarte)

7/26 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBD - Alberto Duarte

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International



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TO: