

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Sixty-eight Optimists, educators, military personnel and guests assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn today in a special Club meeting to formalize a lasting partnership for bettering the youth of our community. This meeting was also designated a NOW banquet by Club President Tom Casteel because of its potential in attracting guests. President Casteel announced that Dr. Casey Wardynski, Chairman of the Huntsville Schools, would address the meeting first so he might leave for the airport to catch a scheduled flight.

Dr. Wardynski's Address

Fabiani Duarte gave a brief introduction for Dr. Wardynski, who spoke for about fifteen minutes. Dr. Wardynski's talk emphasized that people from different walks of life were not very different when it came to wanting a good education for the children of the community. A person's background, whether it be in education, the military or whatever, is unimportant when compared with their ability to get the job done. He praised the organizations represented at the meeting for working to get this partnership organized.

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The Partnership Agreement Signed

Following Dr. Wardynski's address, President Tom Casteel and Col. William Webb, ret., President of Still Serving Veterans, joined Dr. Wardynski in the formal signing of the partnership agreement. Dr. Wardynski then left for the airport, remarking that the food looked good as he left. Following that, Rev. Jim Berry gave the invocation, and Jim Roe led in the Pledge of Allegiance to lead into eating our lunch for the day.

Opening

After lunch, President Tom Casteel gave a brief history of the Optimist Club of Huntsville and an overview of its several youth programs. He highlighted that the Club formed its first JOOI Club at Randolph High School 10 years ago this year, and now has 6 active JOOI Clubs in the city and county. He then asked Club Vice President Fabiani Duarte to elaborate on the purpose of today's meeting and to introduce our special guests.

Program

Fabiani opened the program by relating how important his participation in the Optimist Club's youth programs and his community service through his JOOI Club involvement had been in getting him scholarships to college.

He next introduced five representatives in attendance of schools that currently have JOOI Clubs: Whitesburg Middle School, Hampton Cove Middle School, Grace Lutheran School, Randolph School, and Morris Elementary School, each of whom gave an overview of the community service projects they had engaged in this past year.

Fabiani then gave an overview of the 3-way partnership, comprised of the Huntsville City Schools, Still Serving Veterans, and the Optimist Club of Huntsville. He reported that the Optimist Club has committed up to \$1,000 for each

new JOOI Club, the money to be used for paying dues to Optimist International and as “seed money” for starting their community service projects. The Optimist Club will also provide a Club liaison person for each JOOI Club. Each participating school will provide a sponsor, and there will be a military veteran assigned to be a mentor for each JOOI Club. The JOOI Club’s community service projects will generally come from GenerationOn (see www.generationon.org), a program closely tied with the Common Core educational standards now mandated in Alabama.

To conclude the program, Fabiani introduced Dr. Cathy Vasile, a director of instruction for the Huntsville City Schools, who filled in for “Dr. W.” Dr. Vasile asked the principals of the three Huntsville City Schools present to form a panel to answer questions. She and the panel fielded four questions from the floor:

- (1) How well was the digital transformation working?,
- (2) How does the curriculum being used compare to that used in Texas?,
- (3) How were the youth being protected from corruption on the internet?, and
- (4) How were the schools that are using uniforms selected, and how well were the uniforms being received?

She concluded by thanking the organizations who worked hard to put the partnership and this banquet together.

Closing

President Tom Casteel thanked all the organizations present, and encouraged the several guests of Optimists to join our Club in serving the youth of our community and county. He also gave a special thanks to Fabiani Duarte who did a lot of hard work in organizing the program for today, as well as being a key man in forming the partnership.

Due to the special nature of the meeting, there was no drawing for the attendance prize today. Dr. Carl Winkler closed the meeting by leading those assembled in the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I've got a hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

~George Bernard Shaw

CALENDAR

- 10/18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Fabiani Duarte)
- 10/25 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Representative from The Village of Promise
- 11/1 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBD - Jim Roe
- 11/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 11/8 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBD - Jim Roe
- 11/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)
- 11/22 Thursday - **NO MEETING**
A graphic for Thanksgiving featuring the word "THANKSGIVING" in a playful, colorful font. Each letter is inside a small, stylized leaf or banner shape. The colors include yellow, orange, green, and red.
- 11/29 **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**

The following changes are to be made to our Policy and Procedures manual.

Add the following paragraphs describing the membership process.

6.1 MEMBERSHIP

6.1.1 Application

An Optimist International membership application form that bears the endorsement of a member in good standing along with a check for \$30.00 shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

6.1.2 Membership Committee

The Secretary-Treasurer shall immediately refer all such applications to the Membership Committee for review. The Membership Committee shall review the application within seven days and recommend the applicant's election or rejection.

6.1.2 Club Approval

If approved by the Membership Committee, the Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the membership of the identity of the proposed member at the next meeting of the Club for vote by the club.

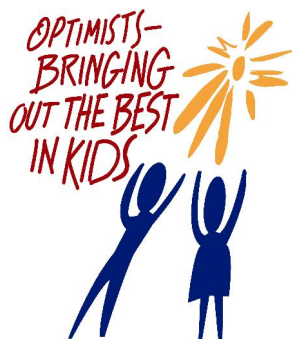
6.1.3 Post Processing

If the application is approved by the club, the Secretary-Treasurer shall submit the new member's information with registration payment to Optimist International and mail a pro-rated invoice for the current quarter dues to the new member.

Add the following paragraph outlining the fees for a college member.

6.6.1.4 College Club Members

The dues for members attending college full-time shall be \$10.00 per quarter. They shall pay the current meal cost for any meetings they attend.



Huntsville Optimist Club
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TO:



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