



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Friend of Youth

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

Web Site: huntsville@al-la-ms.org

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Tom Casteel
256-882-9380
tom@leetsac.net

1st VICE PRESIDENT

George McDonough
256-534-2591
gfmcdonough@yahoo.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Fabiani DuArte
256-880-8106
fabiani.a.duarte@gmail.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Al Renz
256-772-7929
optimist3480@aol.com

VOL. 67, No. 7 November 8, 2012

Opening

Sixteen Optimists gathered in the Sun Room of the Downtown Holiday Inn today. We had two guests with us also: Loretta Williams, wife of Milt, and Marlene Renz, wife of Al. Rev. Jim Berry gave the invocation following a brief tribute to our veterans. Clyde Nevins led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Reports

President Tom Casteel reported that Dr. Sidney Sandridge is now in Health South for rehab. According to Gladys, he should be there about 10 or 12 days. He will have an evaluation on Monday to establish the exact time in rehab. If you care to visit Sidney, visiting hours at Health South are 4:00 to 8:00 p. m. on weekdays, noon to 8:00 p. m. on Sundays.

Tom said Gay Pepper had set the day and time for our annual Christmas party. It will be in the Sun Room of the Holiday Inn on December 6 at 6:30 p. m. More details will become available later, but it is likely we will follow our traditional "dirty Santa" gift exchange.

Tom also reported that Alfred Adams' wife is in the hospital.

Fabiani reported that the Veterans Day parade is shaping up nicely. Fabiani is expecting a large turnout of JOOI Club members to march. There will be five cars for

DIRECTORS

2 YR

Connie Gipson
256-534-1384
cfgipson@yahoo.com

Matt Hancock
256-990-0077
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

Jim Roe
256-883-8950
j_m_roe@yahoo.com

1 YR

Alfred G. Adams
502-541-6469
alfredg.adams@gmail.com

Byrom Goodwin
256-881-3113

Bob Martin
256-722-8062
bmartin12@bellsouth.net

Club members to ride in, including Bob Martin's convertible, if they would rather not March. The parade is scheduled to start at 11:00 a. m. on Monday, Nov. 12. Our parade position is #15, which is close to the start, so be at the assembly area across from the downtown Post Office well before 11:00 if you want to be in the parade.

Fabiani Duarte reported that there is a lot of action in setting up and activating our JOOI Clubs. He urged members of the Club to attend as many of these events as possible. The schedule of JOOI Club events is given at the end of the bulletin.

Program



Program Chairman Fabiani Duarte introduced today's speaker, Ms. Bobby Bradley, co-founder and CEO of Village of Promise. Ms. Jennifer Cash, a staff member of Village of Promise, was also in attendance. Ms. Bradley showed a short video which described in a general way how the organization and its partners are fighting poverty in Huntsville.

Ms. Bradley gave the mission of Village of Promise: *Eradicate poverty one neighborhood at a time.* She recounted how she became involved in fighting poverty, beginning in 2002 when she learned of the work being done in Lincoln Village. Later, she learned of a program in New York City, The Harlem Children Zone, which had achieved noteworthy success in breaking the poverty cycle of families there. She also cited her own upbringing in Huntsville as a model for success. After starting an interest group to investigate options for fighting poverty in 2009, she co-founded the Village of Promise as a non-profit corporation in January of 2011. The organization's vision is to provide a pipeline of services from pre-natal to college, beginning with one neighborhood in Huntsville.

The four principles governing their efforts are:

- (1) Focus first on one neighborhood, starting at the elementary school level
- (2) Use only “best-practice” programs, i.e., those that have proven to work
- (3) Improve the neighborhood by partnering with other organizations & volunteers
- (4) Maintain accountability of kids in the program; track their progress and improvements

The neighborhood selected is that around University Place Elementary School which feeds into Westlawn Middle School and Butler High School. Their goal is to have every child in this neighborhood ready for college, recognizing that some will prefer trade school or the military.



President Casteel and Bobby Bradley

She next described the “nuts & bolts” of how the Village of Promise works. The biggest need of kids in the University Place neighborhood is reading improvement, so a big effort goes into providing tutors to help these kids to read at a higher level. There is both an in-school and after school tutoring in both reading and mathematics.

Also, recognizing a correlation between music and learning, another project is providing violin instruction to every 2nd grader at University Place Elementary School. A third project undertaken was planting an outdoor garden near the school so kids could learn where their food comes from. The garden has also been folded into the science curriculum at the school.

Two future efforts are planned:

- (1) The “Infant University” wherein new mothers are taught how to provide early education at home to small children, and
- (2) “Freedom School,” a six-week program that makes learning and reading fun.

Ms. Bradley concluded her talk by relating three things that we, as a club or as individuals, could do to help the Village of Promise:

- (1) Pray for the organization.
- (2) Visit the organization’s web site, www.villagepromise.com
- (3) Get involved as a volunteer.

She said they would be happy to host anyone from our Club at University Place School to see first-hand what they are doing.

Closing

Tom Casteel won the attendance prize on the first drawing. Dr. Carl Winkler led in the recitation of the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

There will be an election of a Club Director to our Foundation at the November business meeting. This election will be for the seat currently held by Gay Pepper. Gay has agreed to stay on until the election, and has also agreed to accept nomination for another term. Additional nominations will be accepted at the time of the election.

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Never doubt that a small group of committed individuals can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

~ Margaret Mead

CALENDAR

11/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)

11/22 Thursday - **NO MEETING**

T H A N K S G I V I N G

11/29 **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**

12/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

12/6 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD - Bob Martin

12/13 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD - Bob Martin

12/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Bob Martin)

12/27 Thursday - **NO MEETING**

Merry Christmas

1/3 Thursday - **NO MEETING**

Happy New Year

Key Dates for Junior Optimist Club Events

*** indicates events where Huntsville Optimist Club members are requested to attend**

1. Friday, November 9, 2012

- a. *9:00am – Grace Lutheran School Junior Optimist Club, South Memorial Parkway**
 - i. Wounded Warriors Delegation School Visit
 - ii. Hosted by School & Junior Optimist Club
- b. *10:00am – Randolph School Junior Optimist Club, Garth Road Campus**
 - i. Wounded Warriors Delegation School Visit
 - ii. 10:00am – Reception honoring Wounded Warriors
 - iii. 10:15am – Event hosted by School & Junior Optimist Club at Randolph High School Gym
- c. 11:30am - Ed White Middle School Junior Optimist Club Election
- d. 1:00pm – University Place Elementary School Junior Optimist Club Informational Session & Membership Application Distribution

2. Monday, November 12, 2012

- a. *9:00am-11:00am – Veterans Day Parade Line-Up at Lot K on Clinton Avenue (behind the Coca-Cola Building and across the street from US Post Office on Clinton Ave.)**
- b. *11:00am – Veterans Day Parade**

3. Tuesday, November 13, 2012

- a. *3:30pm – Hazel Green High School Junior Optimist Club Installation Ceremony, Room N119 at Hazel Green High School**
 - i. Refreshments and cake will be provided
 - ii. Parents, faculty, and potential new members invited

4. Wednesday, November 14, 2012

- a. 8:00am – Davis Hills Middle Junior Optimist Club Informational Meeting with Students
 - i. Distribution of membership applications
- b. 1:00pm – University Place Elementary JOOI Club Election of Officers

5. Thursday, November 15, 2012

- a. 1:30pm – Chapman Middle School
- b. 3:00pm – Hampton Cove Middle School JOOI Club Election of Officers

6. Friday, November 16, 2012

a. *11:00am – Ed White Middle School INSTALLATION CEREMONY

- i. Refreshments & cake
- ii. Parents, faculty, and potential new members invited
- iii. Please attend

b. *1:00pm – University Place Elementary School INSTALLATION CEREMONY

- i. Refreshments & cake
- ii. Parents, faculty, and potential new members invited
- iii. Please attend (This is where we are aiming to form a partnership with the Village of Promise and Randolph School. Randolph's JOOI Club will ideally mentor the University Place JOOI Club.)

7. Monday, November 19, 2012

- a. 8:00am – Davis Hills Middle JOOI Club Election of Officers

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



Huntsville Optimist Club
710 Versailles Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803-1728



TO: