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Club meets
1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 am
Downtown Holiday Inn
Huntsville, AL

Opti - Topics

Twenty-four Optimists and one guest assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn today for a regular meeting of the Optimist Club of Huntsville. Our guest today was second-timer Tim Vanderveer (Alberto's guest) who announced he is submitting his application to join our Club. Tim said he makes speeches in his spare time on hospitality as the key to a club's growth and vitality. He said our club met his high expectations on hospitality, and we were indeed fit to be called Optimists.

We ate from the buffet today, and there were very nice arrays of entrees, vegetables and desserts (chocolate cake, pecan pie and key lime pie). Your editor had the baked salmon along with the seafood gumbo, and both were excellent.

Opening

Vice President George McDonough presided today, and he reported that President Tom Casteel was in Crestwood Hospital with a severe case of cellulitis in one of his legs. [*Editor's note: Cellulitis is a bacterial infection that causes inflammation in tissue under the skin accompanied by a high fever. Tom is recovering nicely and is expected to be released either Friday or Saturday. Unfortunately, Tom will miss the JOOI Club District Convention this weekend.*]

Clyde Nevins gave the invocation and Bob Martin led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Our business meeting
is held on the 3rd
Thursday of the
month at the Optimist
Recreation Center on
Oakwood Avenue**

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Announcements

George McDonough reported that Guy Kubic's membership application had been accepted by the Membership Committee, and is now in the one week probationary period wherein members can object to his becoming a member. This is in accordance with the new policy recently adopted by the Club.



Fabiani Duarte announced that he, Milt Williams and John Inman, along with members of *Semper Fi* had met at Lee High School this morning with about LHS 25 students. The meeting resulted in the Ambassadors Club, already functioning at LHS, committing to form a JOOI Club there. Members of the Ambassadors Club will form the JOOI Club leadership and then recruit new members for the JOOI Club. Election of JOOI Club officers was set for next Wednesday, and the new JOOI Club is expected to be up and running by the end of March. One of the projects of the new club will be to work with *Semper Fi* to televise local school sports news.

Fabiani also reported that he will be attending the JOOI Club District Convention this weekend. There will be 8 students and 2 advisors from our local JOOI Clubs (Morris Elementary, Chapman School, and Columbia High School), also attending.

Fabiani urged Club members to attend the Healthy Living program at Columbia High School on March 15. The affair will be held between 11:30 and 1:30 p.m. at Columbia High School, and a lunch will be served at cost of only \$2.00. Fabiani will send out an e-mail to everyone with the particulars in the coming week.

VP McDonough thanked Fabiani for all the work he has done and is doing with the JOOI Clubs.



Alberto Duarte reminded everyone of the upcoming Oratorical Contest at the Cooper House this Saturday. He asked that as many Club members as possible be there to help with the project, as he has indications there may be a large number of entrants this year. Club members should arrive at 8:00 a. m.

Program



Alberto Duarte introduced our speaker for today, Ms. Mary Flynn of the Hawthorne Conservatory. After giving her biographical information leading up to joining the Conservatory, Alberto presented her a check for \$2,105.13, the profit from the recent pancake breakfast.

Ms. Flynn began her talk by saying she couldn't have been more delighted in how the recent pancake breakfast was conducted. She was happy to see so many familiar faces from our Club, and was very impressed with the conduct of the Chapman JOOI Club members who assisted us that day.

The Conservatory was founded in 1996 from an endowment by Marguerite Hawthorne, and is an arm of the Central Presbyterian Church. The mission of the conservatory is to provide free music lessons and, in many cases, musical instruments to children who could not otherwise learn to play a musical instrument. At this time there are 65 students at the conservatory, and each student receives a private one-on-one music lesson each week. Currently, lessons are given in piano, flute, violin and trumpet by a staff of highly skilled musicians, including Ms. Flynn.

Ms. Flynn has been director of the conservatory since 2003. She told how rewarding and satisfying it has been for her to be a part of Hawthorne Conservatory. She recounted some heart-warming stories of several students who had begun their music instruction at the conservatory. Four of these students now have a full (all tuition paid) scholarship to universities, including one at Vanderbilt. She said there are many benefits to be derived from studying music:

- ✚ It generates skills that carry over into math and science
- ✚ It instills discipline into a person's work ethic
- ✚ It increases the joy of living
- ✚ It promotes cultural awareness and understanding

Ms. Flynn closed her talk by expressing her great appreciation to the Optimist Club for their long and continued support for the Hawthorne Conservatory. Our Club provided the first piano for the conservatory, a \$12,000 Yamaha upright piano in 1996, and funds from a later pancake breakfast were used to buy another piano, some trumpets and all the violins needed to begin the violin instruction. Her hope is to begin cello instruction with the Club's latest contribution.

In answer to a question, Ms. Flynn said the conservatory will sponsor two recitals in May. She will inform our Club on the dates and times when they are set.

Closing

In the absence of President Casteel, who has the tin with the numbers in it, there was no drawing for the attendance prize today. VP McDonough asked Al Renz to collect the money for enriching next week's attendance prize.

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.”

~ Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

CALENDAR

3/9 Saturday 9:00 am Cooper House

Club Oratorical Contest

3/9 – 3/10 Saturday-Sunday Meridian, Mississippi

JOOI District Convention

3/14 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Gay Pepper

3/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)

3/28 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Gay Pepper

4/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

4/4 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Alberto Duarte

4/11 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: