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

Opti - Topics

Opening

Twenty-one Optimists and our speaker assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn today on a beautiful Spring day. Jim Berry asked the blessing and Gay Pepper led us in reciting the National Anthem. The fare was basic today with steak and mashed potatoes and a grilled corn medley and salad. The highlight was chocolate chip pie.



As thought the pie wasn't enough, a decorated birthday cake was brought out in honor of our President Tom, whose 70th birthday was Saturday. We sang happy birthday and Gay and Peggy Otto passed out slices of cake to those who could handle a second desert. We also learned that Jesse Lang and John Inman have birthdays this Easter Sunday, we wish a Happy Birthday to them too.

Announcements



Fabiani announced that we would be installing 2 additional JOOI clubs this coming week. Lee High School on April 4th and Madison Academy on April 5th. Milt Williams is the coordinator for both schools. That will make 14 JOOI clubs that we are sponsoring, which represents almost half of the clubs in our District.

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

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Al Renz announced that our club's essay winner, Jennifer Walker who attends Westminster Christian Academy, placed third in the District competition. There were 32 entrants.

A young lady from Talladega finished first and one from the South Huntsville club finished 2nd. Jennifer and our other 2 club winners will attend the Youth Appreciation banquet to receive their checks and medallions.

Tom announced that George McDonough was not present because he had taken a spill and although not seriously injured, he is recuperating. Also Clyde Nevins is fighting flu like symptoms and couldn't make it.

Program



Gay Pepper introduced our speaker, Leah Norton, who is Director of Social Services for Agape of North Alabama, Inc. Agape, with offices in Madison, has been serving children and their families since 1969. Leah did a slide presentation that covered the services offered in the areas of Adoption, Domestic & International Home Study Services, Birth Parent Counseling and Foster Care.

She pointed out that in the United States, there are over 500,000 children in foster care, but in addition, thousands more are removed each year from their homes because of abuse and neglect by their families. Foster homes are needed for these children and Agape is one of the providers our state turns to in order to find temporary (and sometimes permanent) homes for these precious souls. Leah passed out 4 brochures that detail the material she covered.

Our speaker was asked to draw a name for our weekly attendance prize. Her first draw was Jim Otto, who was not in attendance, and her second draw gave the prize to Bob Martin.



Tom reminded everyone that our meeting next week will be the evening Youth Appreciation Banquet. If you were not at today's meeting, but plan on attending the banquet, please let Gay Pepper know. Carl Winkler did his usual superb job of leading us in reciting the Optimist Creed.

Al Reng

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

~ William Penn

Photos



Buddy Beck sets up the PA System before the meeting



Tom's Birthday Cake



Our speaker, Leah Norton gives her presentation



Carl Winkler, Jesse Lang, and Jim Berry waiting for the cake.

CALENDAR

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

Board Meeting

4/4 Thursday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ

Youth Appreciation Week Banquet

4/11 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Alberto Duarte

4/18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)

4/25 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Alberto Duarte

5/2 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Al Renz

5/6 Monday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ

Respect for Law Banquet

5/9 Thursday **No Meeting**

5/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)