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

Opti - Topics

Twenty Optimists and four guests attended our meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn, today. Our lunches were off the buffet because of a large group convening at the hotel.

Opening

President Tom Casteel called on Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation, but Jim yielded the honor to our soon-to-be seminarian, Fabiani Duarte. Tom next called on one of our guests (and Fabiani's girlfriend) Megan McFerran, to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Immediately after lunch, we were shown a 10-minute video produced by Megan McFerran composed of numerous video clips of Fabiani's activities over the past several years. There were short video clips of Fabiani singing, acting, exercising, orating, and preaching, giving a nice sampling of his manifold skills.

President Tom asked for introduction of our guests. Tim Vander Veer introduced his two guests: Ken Robinson and Andrew Driver, both of whom he assured us were great guys. Prior to introducing his guest, Fabiani expressed his sincere thanks to the Club, saying that his accomplishments were in large part due to his association with the Optimist Club over these many years—our creed, our programs, and our fellowship were all instrumental to his development. He also thanked Megan for her excellent video. Fabiani's guest was Jeremy Woods, a young man who now works in a bank but plans to go to France next year as a missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Alberto introduced his guest, Megan McFerran.

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

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Program

Raytheon

Program Chairman Bill Peters introduced our speaker for the day, Deborah Thomas. Mrs. Thomas is an engineer and former cohort of Bills at Raytheon Missile Systems here in Huntsville. Today, she spoke to us on Raytheon's STEM program, STEM being an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Mrs. Thomas related that there are two reasons for programs like STEM. First, there are fewer students these days interested in making their careers math and science; and second, there are several schools in Huntsville and Madison County whose students do not always have parents to encourage and assist them, especially in math and science. She outlined the several efforts that Raytheon has in their STEM effort in Huntsville:

- ❖ **Math Counts** Part of the nation-wide Math Counts competitions where Junior and Senior High school "mathletes" compete in solving mathematics problems. Raytheon sends volunteers to officiate in the competition, and hosted the state championship competition in 2011.
- ❖ **Lego League** A robotics competition for students elementary and secondary schools, where students design, build, and program a robot to do multiple challenges. Their robot "Monkey Madness" won first in the Technology Challenge Championship this year.
- ❖ **Math Alive** A popular interactive math exhibit sponsored by Raytheon at the U. S. Space and Rocket Center.
- ❖ **Workshops** Raytheon sponsored a 3-day engineering and science clinic for 33 science teachers, curriculum developers and school administrators to show how interesting science activities could be introduced into class rooms.

- ❖ **Tutoring** Last year, Raytheon sent 9 tutors to Morris Elementary School to tutor students in mathematics, and put on a STEM lab at Blossomwood Elementary School every other Friday.

Mrs. Thomas closed her talk by encouraging our Club members to get involved in tutoring students in math and science. She said to get by any “Moses moments” we might have in thinking we couldn’t do it. Much of the mathematics tutoring is as simple as how to handle money and how to tell time on an analog clock.

Announcements

President Tom announced that the committee on dues structure will meet next Tuesday, just prior to the Board of Directors meeting.

John Inman announced that there is a lot of momentum at our Lee High School JOOI Club’s video program. He also said that he has met with the principal of Huntsville High School, and his interest was enough that he is soliciting a sponsor for a JOOI Club there. He also has an appointment with the Vice Principal at Huntsville Middle School to discuss starting a JOOI Club there.

Tom expressed his and the Club’s thanks to the Picnic Committee and to Ford’s Chapel United Methodist Church for making our picnic a great success.

Tom reminded the Band Program members to get in touch with their schools to see if there is a new band director to interface with, and to shoot for getting instruments to the schools about the second week after schools open.

Alberto thanked the Club for all their support for Fabiani through the years, and especially for all those who attended his sermon at the First Baptist Church. He and Fabiani are leaving for Macon tomorrow.

Fabiani subsequently arose to ask the Club to take care of Alberto while he was away.

Closing

Gay Pepper walked away with the attendance prize today, her name being drawn on the first try by Mrs. Thomas. Carl Winkler led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins



Don't forget to bring your school supplies for Morris Elementary School to next Thursday's business meeting. The first day of school for students in Huntsville is August 19, one week from this Monday.

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road. "

~Henry Ward Beecher

CALENDAR

8/13 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

8/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Bill Peters)

8/22 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Chris Crumbly – Manager, Advanced Development Office Space Launch System, NASA

8/29 Thursday **No Meeting (5th Thursday)**

9/5 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – George McDonough

9/12 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – George McDonough



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



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