



PRESIDENT

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

1st VICE PRESIDENT

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

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

John Inman
256-425-8022
inman_john@hotmail.com

SECRETARY TREASURER

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

Club meets

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

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

Opti - Topics

Opening

A fine turnout of twenty-three Optimists, one guest, one new member and one member-to-be assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn today for our regular meeting. Our guest was Nita Perry, wife of Bill. Our new member is Richie Myers, and our member-to-be is Andrew Driver. Sorry, no photos in this issue due to a lack of camera.

President George McDonough asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation and Jim Otto to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements



President George McDonough announced that December 5 will be our last meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn. It was recently announced by the City that the hotel is to be closed in mid December and will be demolished for a more profitable occupant. The Board of Directors has initiated an effort to locate a new meeting place. George asked that anyone who has a new, suggested meeting place relay the information to him and not contact the facility themselves.

The Downtown Holiday Inn has been an ideal place to meet for our Club, with good food and good service at a reasonable price. We'll miss it.

DIRECTORS

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

Jim Otto
256-287-9089
ppo7890@bellsouth.net

Tim Vander Veer
Vander_veer@hotmail.com
256-882-6510

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

Gay Pepper
256-288-4321
gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com

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

PAST PRESIDENT

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins
256-881-8215
clyde.nevins@Juno.com

Veterans' Day Parade



President George asked John Inman for a report on the upcoming Veterans' Day Parade. John reported that four JOOI Clubs had committed so far to be in the parade: Hazel Green, Whitesburg, Grace Lutheran and Hampton Cove. Our order in the parade is not known at this time. The martialing area for parade entrants is directly across the Downtown Post Office on Clinton Ave. Bob Martin announced that he will be driving his red convertible in the Veteran's Day parade, and he will display the Club's magnetic sign on it.

JOOI Clubs



John Inman also reported on the status of JOOI Clubs for this school year. He has e-mailed all known JOOI Club sponsors, principals and Optimist advisors to remind them that there is a November 15 deadline to get Club roster and officer information to OI. So far, only one JOOI Club, Westminster, has indicated they will not be sponsoring a JOOI Club this year. A number of clubs are still to be heard from.

Christmas Party



Christmas Party Chairwoman Gay Pepper announced that her committee is looking for a suitable meeting place for the Club's December 19 Christmas party to replace our normal site at the Downtown Holiday Inn. She had checked with the Cooper House, and it isn't available on that date (but is on December 18). She asked that anyone with a suggestion of another meeting place call her.

Jim Berry moved that the Committee move the party date to Dec. 18 and lock in the Cooper House. Alberto Duarte seconded. On a voice vote, the motion appeared to garner only 3 or 4 ayes and no nays. After the vote, several comments were voiced objecting to Wednesday night for the party, as it is a church night for many of our Club's members. President George McDonough tabled the motion, in effect, asking Gay to sound out other members who were not present before locking into the Cooper House on Dec. 18.

Program



Johnny and Christy Johnson

October Program Chairwoman Gay Pepper introduced Johnny and Christy Johnson, Directors of Shannon's House.

Mr. Johnson related how after retiring from a State Job in Montgomery, he and his wife moved to Huntsville to be close to kinfolk. Two days after praying for a way to serve God, they were offered to be the first Directors of Shannon's House in June, 2010.

Shannon's House was founded by the parents of Shannon Dickerson who passed away at the age of 28 of cancer. They bought the house on Big Cove Road and deeded the property to Mayfair Church of Christ.

Shannon's House was developed into as ministry of the Mayfair Church of Christ to provide free lodging to people who have loved ones in the Huntsville Hospital complex. Prospective guests are referred to the Johnsons by either the Main Huntsville Hospital or the Women's and Children's Hospital, but about 90 % are from the latter. A large majority of the guests are parents of children, especially premature babies, at the Women's and Children's Hospital. About 300 guests have used Shannon's House in the 3 years it has been open.

Shannon's House is a 4-bedroom house with 3 bathrooms. The Johnsons live in one bedroom, and the other 3 are available for guests. The Johnsons own their own home in South Huntsville, but stay predominantly at the Big Cove location. Besides sleeping accommodations, the house has a commons area with TV and wireless internet, a dining room, a restful garden and free parking. The Johnsons fix a Continental breakfast each morning for their guests. There is no cost for staying at the house, but they do accept voluntary donations from guests. Some other churches have also donated to this ministry.

The Johnsons remarked that being directors of Shannon's House has been a huge blessing. Some ladies at Mayfair have a quilting club, and they have provided a quilt to every baby whose parents have stayed at Shannon's House. This never fails to bring tears of gratitude. There have been a few sad occasions, but mostly they have met many sweet people; some have become good friends. Former guests come by to visit on many occasions.

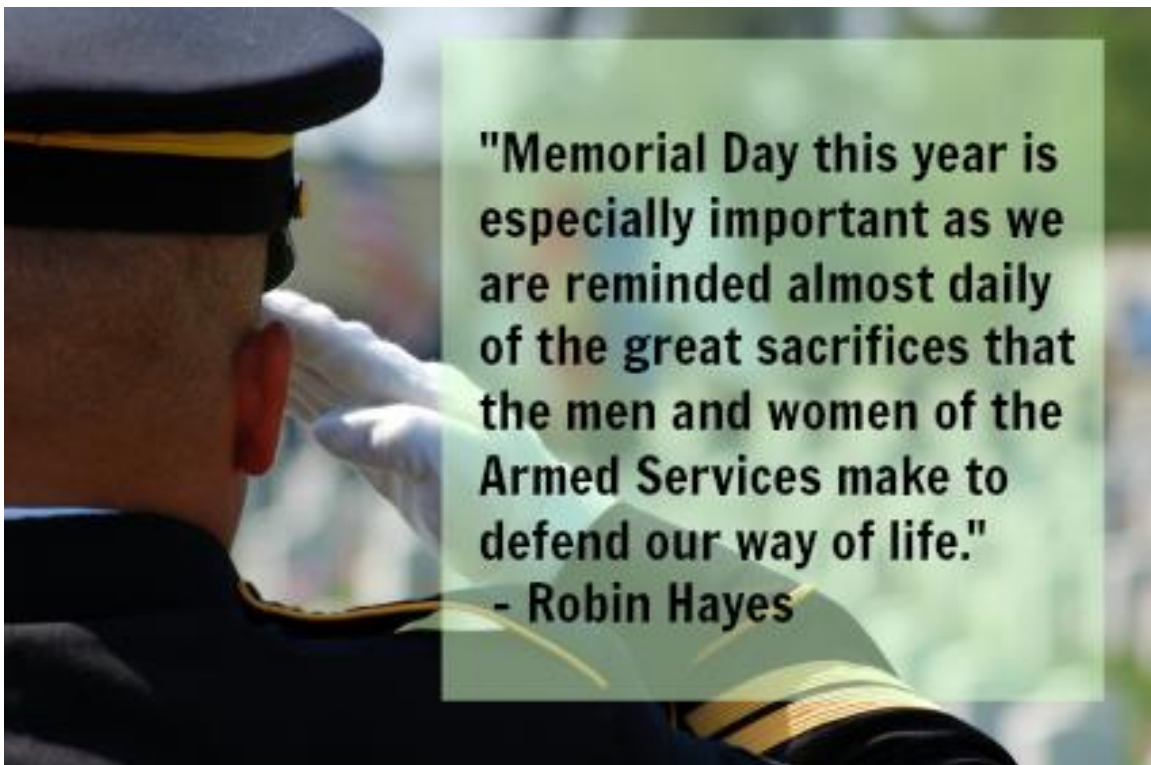
Closing

President George presented the Johnsons a coaster tile with our Optimist Creed, and asked Mr. Johnson to draw a name for our attendance prize. Al Adams was the first name drawn. Al had left a few minutes before, but since he had put his 50 cents into the pot before leaving, he was declared the recipient.

President George asked Bill Peters to lead those present in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week



CALENDAR

- 11/11 Monday 11:00 am Downtown Huntsville
Veterans Day Parade
- 11/14 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Belinda McCormick - Vice President Better Business Bureau
- 11/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)
- 11/28 Thursday **No Meeting (Thanksgiving)**
- 12/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 12/5 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
TBD – Jim Roe

Dates and Times Below are Tentative

- 12/12 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)
- 12/19 Thursday 6:30 pm TBD
Annual Christmas Party
- 12/26 Thursday **No Meeting (Christmas)**

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: