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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

Christmas Party Edition



Opening

Forty-two Optimists and their guests assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn tonight for our annual Christmas party. The party was held in a parlor, rather than our usual Sun Room, to accommodate the larger crowd. We did have our usual servers, Vern and Jennifer, who had personally decorated the tables and moved a Christmas tree into the room for us.

Past President Tom Casteel welcomed everyone and asked Dr. Sidney Sandridge to bring the invocation, after which we enjoyed salad, baked chicken with roasted vegetables and pecan pie.

Singing



First, we all sang “Happy Birthday” to Ginger Casteel who was celebrating her birthday today. Then, Gay Pepper asked Alberto to pinch hit for Fabiani and lead us in some singing. Jim and Peggy Otto brought a keyboard for the occasion, and

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with Alberto leading, Peggy accompanied us as we sang a dozen or so Christmas carols and songs.

Highlight songs were *The Twelve Days of Christmas* where the attendees were divided into the twelve “gifts,” and rose to sing their part each time it came up in the singing; and *We Three Kings*, where three Optimists, Clyde Nevins, Jim Otto and Bill Peters, were coerced into singing solos representing Gaspard (gold), Melchior (frankincense), and Balthazar (myrrh), the three kings; and *O Holy Night*, led by a duet of Alberto and Pat Lang.



Dirty Santa

All were next surprised by a visit by Santa Claus, who Gay let in through a side door. This was an unusually tall Santa, about the height of Rev. Jim Berry. Twenty-five of the attendees participated in “Dirty Santa,” with Santa helping select gifts for those who chose not to select one for themselves. The gifts seemed to be unusually well-chosen this year, to the extent that only two gifts were stolen twice—a large nutcracker, and a LED flashlight. I know I enjoyed getting my wooden birdhouse in the shape of a rocket.

Thank You!



We had a great party, perhaps a little on the bittersweet side because of it being our last meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn. A big “Thank You!” to Chairperson Gay Pepper, keyboardist Peggy Otto, song leader Alberto Duarte, and our Santa, Rev. Jim Berry, for their efforts in making the party so enjoyable. Also, thanks to Buddy Beck for bringing the poinsettias. These were passed out to those who starred in the singing portion of the program.

Closing

Tom asked Dr. Sidney Sandridge to lead us in our traditional singing of *Sipping Cider*, and departing Club member Tim Vander Veer to lead us in reciting the Optimist Creed. We'll miss you, Tim.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.

~Emma Goldman

CALENDAR

12/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (Jim Roe)



12/26 Thursday No Meeting (Christmas)



1/2/14 Thursday No Meeting (New Years)

- PHOTOS -



Santa Arriving at Our Christmas Party

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: