



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant

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

Twenty-two Optimists and one guest (in addition to our speaker) attended our Club meeting at Mullins Restaurant today on another cold, raw day. Our guest was Tom Howell of the Huntsville Evening Optimist Club. Tom is the Governor-elect for 2014/2015. President George asked Dr. Sidney Sandridge to give the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance spontaneously followed.

For some reason, none the lunches were served today until those who ordered off the menu (instead of from the lunch specials) were served. This resulted in a long and rather awkward “down time” with nothing to do but chat with your closest neighbor. My lunch wasn’t served until 12:25 p. m., and the program started shortly thereafter. If I miss reporting anything in this bulletin it’s because it was a problem for me to eat and take notes at the same time.

“Optimist Family” News

- ❖ Duane Plank reported that Optimist Chev Kellogg was briefly released from Huntsville Hospital, but had to be readmitted to the ICU. He has lost use of his arms and must be fed. He needs back surgery, but must gain strength first.
- ❖ John Shirey reported that he had visited former member Houston McCullough, who now resides at the Brookdale Retirement Community. John said Houston was still interested in Optimist activities.
- ❖ Duane Plank reported he had played bridge with member Nate Showers recently. Nate told Duane he wouldn’t mind being more active in our Club, but he is currently babysitting his granddaughter.

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Announcements



Past President Tom Casteel attended the recently held District Meeting, at which the major event was the Awards Banquet for last year's honors. Tom reported our Club received the following awards at the banquet, and he felt a little embarrassed going forward to receive an award so many times.

Our Club received the following awards:

- ❖ **Honor Club patch.** Our Club was one of only 6 Honor Clubs in the District, for which we received a patch.
- ❖ **HOBY Patch.** Our Club supported the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program.
- ❖ **365 Patch.** Our Club donated over \$365 to the Optimist International Foundation.
- ❖ **\$30 Patch.** Our Club averaged more than \$30 per member in donating to the Optimist International Foundation.
- ❖ **Friend of Youth Community Service Award** Awarded to our Club for our projects for youth in Huntsville and Madison County
- ❖ **Positive Growth Patch.** Our Club had positive growth in membership in the past year.

We're Number One! Our Club was number one in the District Awards and Achievements Program (A & A) in our category (club size) and number one overall.

In addition, Tom, as last year's Club President Tom received an Honor Club President Certificate and an Honor Club President pin. Governor Lenor Cox also presented Tom with the Governor's Pin and the International President's Pin for his work at the District Level. Congratulations, Tom!

Tom called Club Secretary/Treasurer Al Renz forward. Tom said the awards that he and the Club received could not have been possible without Al's hard work and faithful reporting. He presented Al with a Honor Club Secretary Certificate and a beautiful silver tray engraved with the AL-LA-MS District emblem. Al received a resounding round of applause. Congratulations, Al!



Al Renz reported that the JOOI Club at Columbia High School had been selected by Principal Hicks to be hosts for seven Indonesian students who will be touring the school tomorrow. Al said the JOOI Club at Columbia has a dynamic advisor and an appreciative principal.



Al also reported that the Personal Growth and Involvement Program (PGI), formerly discarded by the District, had been reinstated. The PGI program awards distinctive pins to members who meet specified requirements such as committee activity and new member recruitment. Al said he would be pestering us to get us involved in PGI.



Tom Casteel urged all Club members to participate in the "Dime a Day" drive. For your tax-deductible donation of \$36.50 (a dime a day for all 365 days in a year, if any of you don't get it) you will receive a very nice pin. Everyone should have received an e-mail from Tom about this. By the way, make out your checks to Optimist International Foundation, or simply O.I.F., if you want your donation to meet IRS requirements for deductibility.

Program



February Program Chairman Jim Berry introduced today's speaker, Bill Friday. Bill is a long-time friend of Jim, and was a charter member of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Bailey Cove that Rev. Berry was instrumental in founding. Mr. Friday is a retired U.S. Army physicist with a Master of Science from UAH.

Mr. Friday read a prepared talk to accompany his PowerPoint slides entitled "How Did We Get Here, and Are We Alone?" He began his talk by reading a selection from Genesis, Chapter 1. (He later concluded this passage was borrowed from some ancient Mesopotamian texts). From there he reviewed the theory of evolution using the DNA double helix molecule and its role in what we look like and how we relate to other forms of animal life.

Mr. Friday's has concluded that it all started some 4.5 billion years ago with the Big Bang; in fact, he said there have been an infinite number of Big Bangs. Sometime later, life that was floating around in our solar system when earth's water was formed was fortuitously brought to Earth by a meteorite. This formed the primordial slime from which we all have evolved.

In conclusion, he asked, "Where does God fit in all of this?" He said, "I cannot answer." But he did say that "Creation is evolution done the fun way." In response to a question, Mr. Friday said he believes the universe *is* expanding; the only question is whether the rate of expansion is accelerating or decelerating. I'm sure there were plenty of other questions from those of us who believe in the inerrancy and literal interpretation of the Bible, and I suggest it would be fair and proper to have a speaker give a talk on Biblical creation at a future meeting.

Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, and gave him a coaster with the Optimist Creed on it. Mr. Friday drew for our attendance prize, and Al Renz one on the second drawing (Darrel McColgan missed out).

Dr. Carl Winkler closed the meeting by leading us in the reciting the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"The predominant quality of successful people is optimism.... Your level of optimism is the very best predictor of how happy, healthy, wealthy, and long-lived you will be."

~Brian Tracy

CALENDAR

2/13 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

Speaker – Rick Owens

2/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Berry)

2/27 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

Speaker - Jonathan Shields

3/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

3/6 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

TBD – Tom Casteel

3/13 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

TBD – Tom Casteel

3/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)

3/27 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

TBD – Tom Casteel

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: