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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. Our guest today was Marlene Renz, wife of Treasurer Al Renz. President George asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation, and Jim also led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

We met in the “front room” of Mullins today, and the consensus was that it was a *big* improvement over the “back room.” Acoustics, space to move, and lighting were all improved. From where I sat, I could detect no distraction from regular Mullins diners as they passed by the curtains that closed off this room for our meeting. The food service was also timely today.

“Optimist Family” News



Past President Tom Casteel will be having the first of two planned knee-replacement surgeries on March 11 (next Tuesday). He will be in Huntsville Hospital for 3 days, and then home for rehab. Due to some peculiarities of Tom’s immune system, he is susceptible to picking up infections, and the doctors are requiring him be in isolation (away from you germ-carrying Optimists and others) for three weeks while his surgery heals. That means don’t visit Tom, either in the hospital or at home.

Announcements



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Our Club's Oratorical Contest will be held this coming Saturday, March 8, at the Cooper House. Contest chairman Alberto Duarte has things well in hand. The contest will officially start at 9 o'clock a. m., so please plan to be there no later than 8:45. It's a great opportunity to interact with the parents of the contestants, and this has been a source of a number of Club members in past years.

Program



President George McDonough asked Tom Casteel to introduce our program, today. The speaker Tom introduced is no stranger to our Club, Tom Howell. Tom has visited us several times in his capacity as an Officer in Optimist International, and he is currently the Governor-elect of our Optimist District. However, Tom's talk today had nothing directly to do with Optimist Clubs. Instead his topic was "Childhood Toys."

Mr. Howell began his talk with a quiz. He asked those present to call out the name of the childhood game associated with names he would read as soon as he/she could identify it from these names. He began with "cork screw," then "ox blood," then "taw," at which Bill Clarke called out "Marbles!" the correct answer. Tom read out a few more names, like "pearls, oily, onion skin, cat's-eye, snake and tiger," all of which are names of other colorful and collectible marbles.

At that point, Tom uncovered a display of his extensive collection of marbles, and gave the Club a history of the marble industry, how they used-to-be and how they are now manufactured. He described the several types of games kids once played with them.

. He showed us some of his valuable marbles, and then passed them around so we could get a close-up view. Collectors will pay up to \$2,000 for an “onion skin” marble in mint condition; he had one with a fairly rough surface worth, but still worth about \$50. He also passed a cup of marbles from which each attendee could choose one for his very own.

Tom also talked about some other uses of marbles, such as in other games like Chinese checkers, in voting (where the term “black ball” comes from” and to support flowers in a vase.

In the Q & A period, we learned some interesting things about marbles from some of the Club members.

- Al Renz told us that Pee Wee Reese, the Hall-of-Fame Dodger shortstop got his nickname from being a national marbles champion as a boy.
- Duane Plank said there was once a store on the square in Fayetteville, TN, that was called The Marble Store, and it specialized in selling marbles.
- Bill Peters said he had been to a Cub Scout meeting this week at which the game of marbles was taught to the Cubs (Bravo!).
- Gay Pepper asked for equal time for the Club’s ladies, and wanted a future program on Barbie Dolls.

Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, and asked him to draw the name for our attendance prize. The first name Tom Howell drew was Tom Casteel (the one who introduced him). It looked a little suspicious to many of the Club members, but Tom took home the money.

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

Play energizes us and enlivens us. It eases our burdens. It renews our natural sense of optimism and opens us up to new possibilities.

~Stuart Brown, MD

CALENDAR

- 3/13 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker – Rick Owens
- 3/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 3/27 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Barney Heyward – Financial Advisor
- 4/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 4/3 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker – TBD – Alberto Duarte
- 4/10 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Speaker – TBD – Alberto Duarte
- 4/17 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)
- 4/24 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Speaker – TBD – Alberto Duarte

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: