



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

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

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

A rather slim attendance of 16 Optimists and one guest (in addition to our speaker) attended our Club meeting at Mullins Restaurant today. Our guest today was Justin Robinson, grandson of Bob Martin. Justin is a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati, and is currently seeking employment in the field of computer engineering. It was good to see Alberto Duarte with us today.

President George asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation, and Bill Peters led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Al Renz delighted us all by distributing to each attendee a chocolate cupcake decorated with green and white frosting in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Each cupcake also had a plastic St. Patrick's Day ring to wear on March 17.

“Optimist Family” News

❖ Past President **Tom Casteel** is recovering nicely from his knee-replacement surgery last Tuesday. He is now walking and undergoing therapy in Huntsville Hospital. He will go home to sleep in his own bed with his knee-bending machine on Friday.

❖ **Buddy Beck's wife** was to go in for cataract surgery today, so Buddy missed today's meeting.

❖ Clyde Nevins learned at the Oratorical Contest that **Joe Pullen** was to have undergone cancer surgery on his neck at Vanderbilt Hospital this past Tuesday. No word on the results as yet.

❖ Club Treasurer **Al Renz** became a great grandfather for the second and third time a week ago. His granddaughter gave birth to twin girls weighing 4 and 4 ½ pounds; she has another daughter under 2 years old.

Announcements

DIRECTORS

Don Holder
256-881-4655
don_holder@comcast.net

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

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



Alberto Duarte gave a brief rundown on the Oratorical Contest results for those who missed the special edition of Opti-Topics. He reported that the contest judges from UAH have been invited to have lunch with us at the March 27 meeting.

Also, he is trying to schedule a date when both of our contest winners can join us for lunch and give their speeches. The Zone Oratorical Contest is Saturday, March 22. He will send out the details on time and location by e-mail to the membership, and he encouraged us to attend and to support our Club's winners.

Duane Plank asked for, and received, a round of applause for our Opt-topics editor in appreciation for the special addition covering the contest.



Gay Pepper reported that the Youth Appreciation Banquet is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, at the Cooper House. She passed around a sign-up sheet to register attendance of members and their guests. Gay will firm up the details on this event later.

Alberto Duarte gave a “commercial” about the upcoming concert by the Aeolians of Oakwood University. The concert will be held in the First Baptist Church this Sunday, March 15, at 5:00 p. m., and he said it promises to be an outstanding event. President George McDonough agreed, saying he had heard them, and was much impressed with their performance.

Program



President George McDonough asked Rev. Jim Berry to introduce our speaker for today's meeting. Jim introduced Dr. Rick Owen, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in Huntsville. Dr. Owen received his Dr. of Ministry from Samford University in Birmingham, and has been the pastor of churches with memberships ranging from 15 to 4,500. He is active in UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR provides emergency relief to victims of disasters and to refugees.

Dr. Owen gave us a very entertaining talk on how people should relate to each other. He said that although we are more connected (via cell phones) than ever before, we have lost the joy of being "in community." "Our uniqueness is made up of both our individual stories and commonality that binds us."

Being from the South, he said one thing that binds us is *food*. In this region of our Country, we eat either before, after, or during just about any event, and "If we can fry it, we can eat it." He said he has even seen someone in the South fry a squash blossom, although he's not sure why they didn't let it grow into a complete squash first. He said his mother was not a good cook, "bless her heart," and he ate a lot of Spam as a boy.

Dr. Owen's ancestors for seven generations have been in the ministry. He said when he decided to follow his father, et al, he wasn't sure it was going into the ministry or into the "family business." He kept us laughing as he related a story about officiating at his first baptism ceremony in Waterloo, AL, at the age of 19. He, being only about 5 foot 6 inches tall, baptized a man 6 foot 7 inches tall in "Blue Water Creek" named thusly because it was fed from a live spring and was so cold one turned blue upon entering it. As he completed the ritual, the man slipped from his grasp and floated downstream. He had to swim after him to rescue him, and the man thus became "the only man to be saved twice in the same day."

In conclusion, he said God's love keeps us from hating each other. His favorite definition of love is: "To love someone is to know the song in their heart and sing it to them when they have forgotten it."

Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, gave him an Optimist Creed coaster with the Optimist Creed, and asked him to draw the name for our attendance prize. Dr. Owen drew 4 names of absentees (Guy Kubic, Fabiani Duarte,

Byrom Goodwin, and Matt Hancock) before drawing the name to win our attendance prize, Jeff Sandridge.

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

The two best physicians of them all – Dr. Laughter and Dr. Sleep.

~Gregory Dean Jr

CALENDAR

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 Mullins Restaurant

Speaker – TBD – Alberto Duarte

4/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)

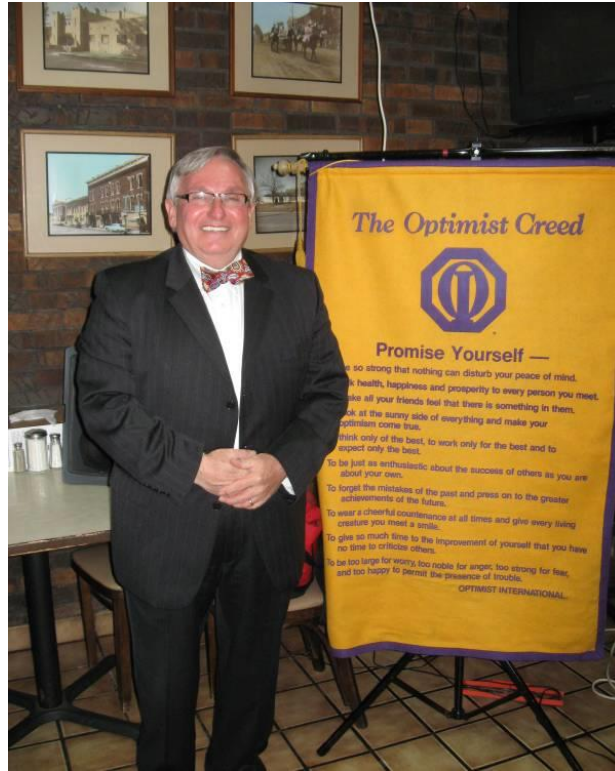
4/22 Tuesday Time TBD Cooper House

Youth Appreciation Banquet

4/24 **NO MEETING**

Tuesday's meeting replaced this meeting

- PHOTOS -



Dr. Rick Owen, our speaker



Alberto Duarte



Justin Robinson, Bob Martin's grandson



Old Timers Row



Al Renz passing out St. Patrick's Day cupcakes

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: