



**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

Nineteen Optimists and three guests (in addition to our speaker) attended our Club meeting at Mullins Restaurant today. President George asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation, and Jesse Lang led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Our friendly and efficient waitress, Michelle, was back with us today after being off. Al Renz spoiled us, again, by passing around a basket of muffins.

Alberto Duarte introduced our guests: Dr. Pavica Sheldon, head of the Communication Arts Dept. at UAH, and students Bethany Abbot and Unricka Jenkins, Jr., both juniors in the department. Bethany and Unricka were 2 of the 5 judges for our recent Oratorical Contest. It was rumored that they were being asked to judge the skill of our speaker for today as a homework assignment.

“Optimist Family” News

- ❖ Past President **Tom Casteel** is still recovering nicely from his knee-replacement surgery last Tuesday. He is still undergoing therapy and is improving steadily. He hopes to be back with us at our next meeting.
- ❖ I talked to Martha Pullen after the meeting, and **Joe Pullen** was home from Nashville after surgery last Monday to remove a cancerous lymph node, along with 26 other lymph nodes in his neck. Martha said they had just received the best possible news from Vanderbilt Hospital. The cancer had not spread to any of the other nodes, and Joe will not have to undergo radiation or chemotherapy. Martha thanked us all for praying for Joe.

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❖ Al Renz reported that **Duane Plank** is now home after a harrowing experience resulting from gum surgery. Blood thinners given to him caused severe bleeding, sending him to ICU for blood transfusions and other care which saved him from bleeding to death.

❖ **John Shirey** attended the meeting today with his left thumb tucked into his belt to act as an improvised sling. John broke his left arm about 3 weeks ago. This completes the set, as John had also broken his right arm a year or so ago.

Announcements



Alberto Duarte reported our Club's winners were "promoted" to the **Regional Oratorical Contest** due to lack of contestants from the other Optimist Clubs in our Zone.

Unfortunately, the cancellation of the Zone Oratorical Contest was not known to our contestants or to yours truly, who showed up at the announced time and place to find out the hard way. The Regional Contest will be April 12 in Huntsville, we hope.



Gay Pepper reported that the **Youth Appreciation Banquet** will be held at the St. Paul UM Church at 3250 Dunn Dr. SW in Huntsville at 6:30 p. m. on April 22, 2014. The pastor of the church is the wife of Optimist Al Adams. Gay had visited the site, and said it will do nicely. She passed around a sign-up sheet to get a count of members and their guests who plan to attend. Call Gay to get your name(s) on the list so she can order the right amount of food.



Contest Chairman George McDonough reported on the winners of our **Essay Contest**. First place went to Jennifer Walker from Westminster Christian Academy. George said if she doesn't win at the next levels, it has to be because Ernest Hemingway is illegally competing. Second place was won by Najieré Williams, daughter of Optimist Vastell Williams. Third place went to Tanner Hood, a middle school student. George said if Tanner learns to improve his grammar he will be a formidable contender in future contests.

Program

President George McDonough asked Matt Hancock to introduce our speaker for today's meeting. Matt introduced Barney Heyward, Jr., a Financial Advisor with Raymond James. Mr. Heyward has been a pastor and teacher before moving to the field of finance. He was the founding pastor of Southwood Presbyterian Church in Huntsville. He currently serves on the boards of the Huntsville Hospital Foundation and the Lincoln Village Preservation Corporation.

Mr. Heyward begin his talk by saying he hoped the UAH students would give him a good grade. He said although it was unusual for a minister to move to financial advising, the skills needed in both fields were not that dissimilar. Both are required to dispense wise advice, communicate easily, and engender trust.

Mr. Heyward titled his talk *Red Flags and Caution Lights*. He said there are eight areas about which he cautions people who invest, and each area requires knowing the potential pitfalls. Briefly, these are what to watch for in these eight areas:

- ✓ *Bond Funds* go down when interest rates go up. Now is not a good time to invest in most bond funds, since inflation is certain to increase interest rates not long in the future.
- ✓ *Equity Funds* can have imbedded capital gains that are taxable, and some have expensive redemption fees. Read the fine print.
- ✓ *Hedge Funds* have limited transparency (remember Bernie Madoff?), they typically require an up-front load and must be held for 10 years (no liquidity if you need the money).
- ✓ *Quality* counts. He uses *Value Line* to get reliable data on companies he invests in. Watch for trends—today's good stocks can take a sudden downturn.

- ✓ *Over-orientation in Stocks* can be risky, especially without an exit strategy. He typically holds 30% in cash, and is proactive in getting out of stocks while the getting is good. Remember: markets go up, and markets go down.
- ✓ *Over-orientation in One Stock* is very risky. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. He puts together funds for his investors that have 30 stocks, shown by statistics to have only a 2% higher risk than if 1000 stocks were held.
- ✓ *IRA Beneficiaries Trump Those in Your Will.* Be sure your IRA beneficiaries are consistent with those in your will, and that both are what you want them to be.

In closing, Mr. Heyward said if you choose to go to a professional financial advisor, be sure you are comfortable with his/her capacity and tools to meet your expectations.

In a brief Q & A session, Mr. Heyward answered a question by Alberto on the place of annuities in investing. Mr. Heyward replied that in a very limited number of cases where a guaranteed steady income was required, annuities could be very good. He cautioned, however, that it must be the right situation for annuities to be considered a good investment.

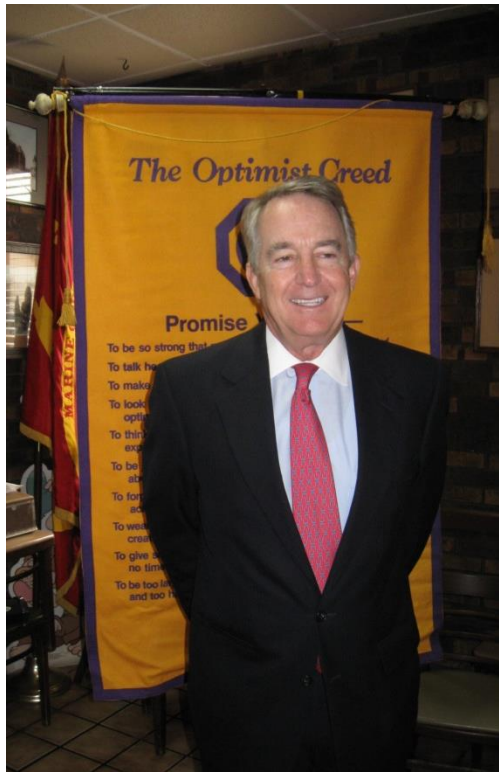
Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, gave him a coaster, also dubbed by George as a "midget trivet," with the Optimist Creed, and asked him to draw the name for today's attendance prize. Mr. Heyward drew 2 names of absentees (Guy Kubic and Tim Vander Veer) before drawing the name to win our attendance prize, Jim Berry. Jim had left the meeting a little early for an appointment, but had put in his 50 cents before leaving. Since neither Guy nor Tim are current members, their names were removed.

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

Clyde Nevins

- PHOTOS -



Our Speaker, Mr. Barnwell Heyward, Jr.



Our Guests: Dr. Pavica Sheldon, Bethany Abbott and Unricka Jenkins, Jr.

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: