



**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 our speaker attended our Club meeting at Mullins Restaurant today. It was good to see Milt Williams back from his winter in Florida, and Tom Casteel took time out from his knee-replacement therapy to join us also.

President George McDonough asked John Inman to give the invocation and Zach Thompson to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

“Optimist Family” News

❖ Al Renz reported that he had spoken to Elaine, and learned that **Duane Plank** is home and has recovered from his brush with bleeding to death. His doctor wanted Duane to take a couple of weeks rest before resuming his typically busy schedule.

❖ Al also informed the Club that **Sidney Sandridge** is currently in Huntsville Hospital suffering from pneumonia.

❖ **Tom Casteel** thanked the Club for their prayers, calls and e-mails while he has been undergoing therapy on his new knee joint.

Announcements



Al Renz passed out this quarter's dues statements. **Reminder**, please pay your dues promptly as we don't have the margin to cover folks that wait till the last minute to pay their dues.

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Committee Chair Gay Pepper reported that everything is ready for the **Youth Appreciation Banquet** except for completing the slate of youth to be recognized. Her committee is personally contacting the usual sources, such as schools, JOOI Clubs, and Boys and Girls Clubs to identify outstanding youth in our community, and she expects the awardees to be similar in number to last year's.



Women's Philanthropy Council

Tom Casteel has received a letter from Janet Smith, past Governor of our Optimist District. She is now associated with the **Women's Philanthropy Council**, an arm of the OI Foundation that supplies up to four \$2,500 scholarships in each OI District in oratorical, essay, and the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Membership in the Council is \$100 (tax deductible), and Tom encouraged Club members to join. There are only two members currently in our District, and this is a worthy cause.



George McDonough reported that our local **Essay Contest** winner, Jennifer Walker, placed third in the District judging. George said she had been invited to read her essay, and was thrilled at her high finish.



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte reminded everyone that the **Regional Oratorical Contest** will be held April 14 (Saturday) at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 12200 Bailey Cove Rd. SE, at 9:00 a. m. Put this on your calendar and plan to support our two Club winners at this contest.

New Member Installation



President George asked Milt Williams and Richie Myers to come up front for Richie's installation ceremony. He asked Milt Williams to give a few words about Richie, and then administered the oath of membership. Richie was also given his membership pin and a new-member packet.

Program

President George McDonough asked Alberto Duarte to introduce our guest speaker for today. Alberto announced that the advertised speaker, Mark Bray, had a late-arising conflict in his schedule. He was attending a test firing on Redstone Arsenal this afternoon, and had to postpone his talk to a later date. Standing in for Mr. Bray was John Chapman.

Mr. Chapman began his talk by relating some of his 36 years experience on the Space Shuttle Program. During his time on the program, he worked on all of the major projects: Solid Rocket Motor, Solid Rocket Booster, Main Engine, External Tank, and the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor.

He said it was ironic for him to be closely associated with Mark Bray, as their first association was when Mark was the Lead Engineer for the United Space Alliance Thermal Protection System (TPS) at the time of the Columbia tragedy. John was then manager of the External Tank, determined to be the source of the debris that doomed the Orbiter and its crew by impacting its TPS.

He described the test that Mark was involved in today the first of several firings of a subscale motor designed to evaluate the internal insulation that protects the steel case. Mark currently works for Jacob Engineering in support of MSFC's Materials Laboratory, and is directly involved with evaluating a new formulation of the insulation. A new formulation is required because of the elimination of the asbestos content used in the Shuttle's SRM.

Currently, John's association with Mark is as his Campaign Manager for Mark's drive to get on the ballot as an Independent in the upcoming election for the 5th District seat in the House of Representatives (currently held by Mo Brooks). They are attempting to get the approximately 7,000 signatures needed on a petition for putting his name on the ballot. He said he did not want to give a political talk, and suggested Club members could Google Mark Bray to determine his platform and why he was running as an Independent.

He concluded his talk by saying he had petitions available should anyone care to sign one. He said a signature only indicated the person's desire to get Mark on the ballot, and it did not obligate the signer to vote for him.

Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, and asked him to draw the name for our attendance prize. The first name drawn was Don Holder, and Don was present today to take 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

Optimism is normal, but some fortunate people are more optimistic than the rest of us. If you are genetically endowed with an optimistic bias, you hardly need to be told that you are a lucky person - you already feel fortunate.
~Daniel Kahneman

- PHOTOS -



President George McDonough [right] Installs New Member Richie Myers [center] as Sponsor Milt Williams [left] looks on.



Tom Casteel Chats with Al Renz



Alberto Duarte with our Speaker John Chapman

CALENDAR

- 4/10 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker – Jerry Burfitt – Dyslexia Foundation
- 4/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)
- 4/22 Tuesday 06:30 pm Saint Paul United Methodist Church
3250 Dunn DR SW
Youth Appreciation Banquet
- 4/24 **NO MEETING**
Tuesday's meeting replaced this meeting
- 5/1 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker – Pam Clagens of Heals, Inc.
- 5/5 Monday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ
Respect for Law Banquet
- 5/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 5/8 **NO MEETING**
Respect for Law Banquet replaced this meeting
- 5/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 5/22 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Dana Hill from Regency Retirement Village
- 5/29 **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday

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: