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SECRETARY TREASURER

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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant

Huntsville, AL

Opti - Topics

Opening

The Optimist Club of Huntsville assembled for a regular meeting at Mullins Restaurant, today. Fifteen Optimists and one guest were in attendance. Our guest was Ms. Jennifer Ingram. Ms. Ingram is the Events Coordinator for Alabama A & M Alumni, and is a potential member.

Our newly installed president, Al Adams, asked Rev. Jim Berry to open the meeting in prayer. Tom Casteel led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Al thanked the Club for the opportunity to serve as president, and he said he very much appreciated the Club's confidence in him. He said after he posted his election on his Facebook page, he had received congratulations from friends all over the country. He also thanked Gay Pepper for her outstanding job on the Installation Banquet last week.

Optimist Family News

It was good to see **Alberto Duarte** at today's meeting. Alberto is still recovering from his surgery to remove part of his colon. He said he is taking it slow, and will not return to work for several more days.

Announcements

President Al announced he would be holding a meeting with chairpersons of all **Optimist Committees** in a week or two to review goals and planning for our projects. He will contact the chairpersons soon.

**Our business meeting
is held on the 3rd
Thursday of the
month at the Optimist
Recreation Center on
Oakwood Avenue**

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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There are still openings for committee members for most of the Club's projects, so Al asked anyone interested in any of the various committees to let him know. The twelve chairpersons needed for monthly programs are now in place.

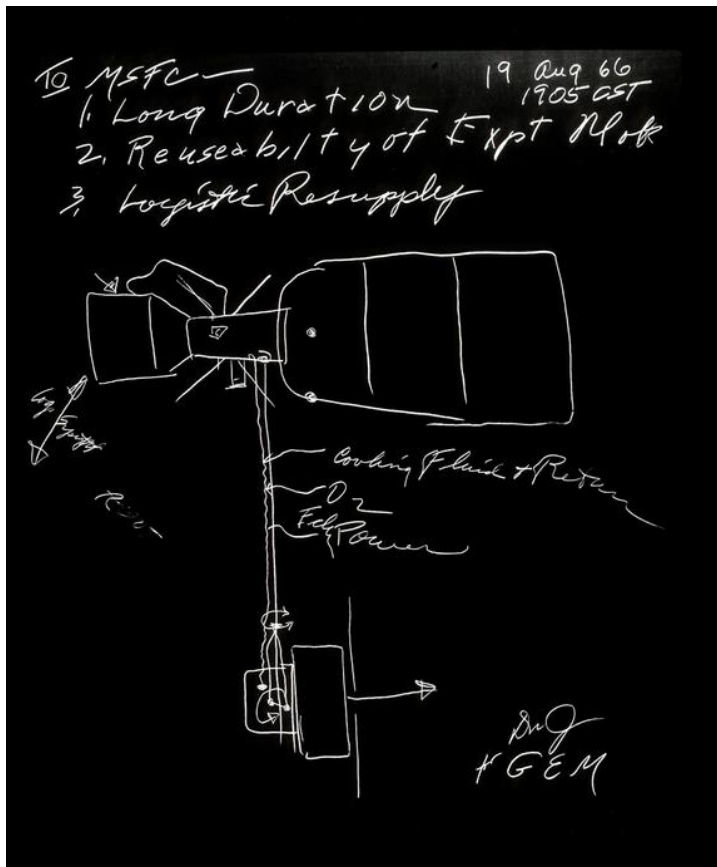
Bob Martin again asked for inputs on where we might hold our **Christmas party** this year. He said someone had suggested holding it at Mullins, but this produced an audible negative reaction. Gay Pepper volunteered to help Bob locate a more suitable place.

Treasurer Al Renz passed out the **dues statements** for this quarter to those in attendance. Paying your dues early will help the Club's cash flow.

Program

President Al Adams said no introduction was needed for today's speaker, our own Optimist George McDonough. George stated that Dr. Zaheer Kahn was slated to speak, but had to cancel due to 14 of his patients being in the hospital. He said his "plan B" was to talk about his role in the developing the configuration for NASA's Skylab. Bill Peter's talks on Skylab last month had stimulated memories that he would like to share with us, even though he was a little embarrassed about talking a lot about himself.

George related that the systems engineering discipline was not a strong point of Marshall Space Flight Center in the early 1960s. Recognizing this, MSFC started an Apollo Applications Program and formed a new Systems Engineering organization. Two new missions were defined by this new organization: A solar observatory called the Apollo Telescope Mount, and a manned Orbital Workshop (space station). The plan was for both of these missions to be launched separately on a Saturn 1B rocket. George was plucked from his job as Deputy Division Chief to head up an effort to combine both of these programs into a single Saturn V launch.



During months of meetings and presentations, George slogged his way through a minefield of jealousy between NASA centers and doubters of technical feasibility to derive an acceptable configuration to be called Skylab. He described how influential Dr. Wernher von Braun was in those days, and how Dr. von Braun's knowledge, charisma and political skills always dictated the outcome of his meetings.

In the end, Dr. George E. Mueller, head of NASA Manned Space Flight missions at NASA Headquarters decided the basic arrangement of Skylab modules. He dictated the final configuration with a sketch on a blackboard, and this sketch was

fortunately captured for posterity by a photograph.

The end of the story, George said, was that he was "fired" once the configuration for Skylab was settled. He opined that he had made too many enemies along the way. His new position was Technical Director of Science and Engineering with a budget of five million dollars for worthy projects. This made him a lot of friends from those who needed money for their ideas.

Closing

President Al Adams asked our guest, Ms. Ingram, to draw a winning name for our attendance prize. She drew Duane Plank's name on the first drawing.

Dr. Carl Winkler led us in the reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Optimistic Quote of the Week

Prepare for joy – speak your truth, care for yourself, expand your knowledge, nurture your friendships, let people love you, take on new adventures, go where your heart leads you.

~Charlotte Davis Kasl



CALENDAR

- 10/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting – 2014-15 Board
- 10/9 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – George McDonough
- 10/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (George McDonough)
- 10/23 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – George McDonough
- 10/30 **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday
- 11/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 11/6 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Gay Pepper
- 11/13 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Gay Pepper

- PHOTOS -



Jesse Lang with our guest, Ms. Jennifer Ingram



President Al Adams opens his first meeting

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: