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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 today at Mullins Restaurant on a bitterly cold day (for early November, anyway) for a regular Club meeting. Nineteen and a half Optimists and our speakers were in attendance. The half was Alberto Duarte who greeted everyone, picked up a take-out lunch and went back to work. It was good to see Vice President John Inman back with us today. No guests as prospective members again, today.

President Al Adams, asked Rev. Jim Berry to open the meeting in prayer, and Richie Myers led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Foundation President Tom Casteel reported that the Foundation had voted to buy \$3,200 worth of band instruments in the **memory of John Shirey**, a long time active member of the Band Instrument Committee. Each case for the band instruments procured will have a brass name plate designating it as a memorial to John. In addition, \$100 will be sent to the OI Foundation for a name badge to go on our banner.

Al Renz reported that he had received a thank-you letter from the OI Foundation in regard to the donation made to them earlier this year in **memory of Zack Thompson**. The Club had sent \$4,600 to the OI Foundation, \$100 for each year that Zack was a member of the Optimist Club of Huntsville. In their letter, the OI Foundation acknowledged our Club's lifetime gift of \$19,936 to them.

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

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Announcements



business meeting. Tom is accepting nominations for these positions either by phone or e-mail. To be nominated for the Foundation, three years of Club membership is required.



President Al reported that he had contacted the **Hazel Green JOOI Club** and had happy news. They are up and running with 28 active members. They are currently on their second project for the year—a canned food drive. They will be holding the club's Officer Installation next Tuesday at 4:00 p. m. Al wants as many of our club members to attend as possible.



All of the pecans ordered for our **fund-raising project** have been distributed to the club members who signed up for them. Jesse Lange missed out, somehow, so Jim Roe volunteered to share half of his order with him. Treasurer Al Renz reported that he had received \$1,796 from Club members for this project, which means we are \$350 in the black.



Christmas party chairperson Gay Pepper again passed around a **sign-up** sheet for the Christmas party on December 9 at the Cooper House. When it came by my chair, there were 17 members and 12 guests signed up. She needs to know soon who is to attend and the number of guests. If you haven't informed her before she needs to inform the caterer, she will try to contact you by telephone.



Jesse Lang, chairman of the **Tri-Star Basketball** tournament announced that he still has **flyers** for the tournament. He asked all Club members to take some to hand out or post as the time for the tournament on January 10 nears.

Program



Program Chairman Bob Martin introduced our two speakers for the day from the Alabama Extension System: Ms. Nikki Cornelison, Regional Extension Agent for Madison and Jackson Counties; and Ms. Ruth Garcia, Administrative Associate for the 4H Clubs in Madison County.

He gave a brief resume for each of these ladies, before presenting the first to speak, Ms. Cornelison, a check for \$1,000 for the 4H Clubs.

Ms. Cornelison's reaction to receiving the check was similar to last week's speaker, "Wow, thank you so much!" She further said that she thanked our Club for all we had done for 4H clubs in the past, financially and as the volunteers we provided to be judges in the 4H Rodeos.

Ms. Cornelison asked, "What do 4H Clubs do?" She informed us that today's 4H Clubs are not tied to agriculture and farming. Also, each club is autonomous and can select the activities that the club members want to do. "There is something for everyone in 4H Clubs," she said. Today's 4H clubs are into technology projects such as robotics and computer-based activities. She then outlined some of the projects currently active in Madison County:

- ❖ Summer Tours. These are one-week tours to some interesting area of our nation, including Orlando; Washington, D. C.; Pennsylvania and Myrtle Beach.
- ❖ Summer Camp. 4H has a beautiful and fully functional camp ground at Columbiana, AL. For 3 days in June, 4H club members
- ❖ Robotics Club. For high-school students who design and fabricate robots to perform a designated task. A Madison County club has won 2 competitions.
- ❖ Educational Tours. High school seniors take a 2-day tour to three college campuses in the state (always including Auburn, a 4H sponsor).
- ❖ Horse Clubs. There is a regional horse show at Ala. A & M in March, in which high-school 4H clubs can compete. There is also a club for elementary school students which teaches basic information about horses in the school.
- ❖ Bee Keeping Club. Clubs have real bee hives in a back yard of a home and learn about honey production.

- ❖ Chicken Raising. (In Jackson County, only) Club members raise chickens and show them at the county fair. One 4H club member sold a pen of 3 chickens for \$90.
- ❖ Shooting Club. Clubs can choose either air rifles or archery, and there is competition at regional, state, and national levels.

Ms. Cornelison said they were very excited about the development of the 491-acre Graham Farm in Paint Rock Valley. Bob and Nita Head donated the farm to the Alabama Extension to be used for 4H activities. Development of the farm is starting with running a water line to the farm. After that, restrooms, shower houses, etc., can be built to host 4H club activities.

Ms. Cornelison closed her talk by reporting that the Extension's funding had been severely cut this year. The Madison County Commission originally cut \$61,000, but then added some back. The funding cuts put more emphasis on getting grants and scholarships, and there will be even more reliance on volunteers. The 4H clubs are constantly looking for volunteers to serve with individual clubs as well as for judges for 4H competitions.

Ms. Ruth Garcia explained her role in the 4H program as expanding the diversity of club members, especially Hispanic youth. Currently, there is very low participation by them. She has been to local schools that have heavy Hispanic attendance (Ridgecrest Elementary and Butler High School) to survey the problems of Hispanic youth to see how 4H clubs can help them be assimilated into our local culture.

Ms. Garcia said her survey revealed two desires of the Hispanic students: (1) They want to learn English better. They are having a tough time with their lessons because they often do not understand their teachers.

(2) They are interested in having a home garden where they can raise their own fresh vegetables.

From her survey, the Extension is creating a program to teach the teachers Spanish so they might better communicate with their students. By attending these lessons they will not only help their students, but will earn a Continuing Education Unit.

Ms. Garcia said they are planning to host a Hispanic Festival next year. The festival will feature guests from different Spanish-speaking countries and display various cultural activities and foods. The festival will be for everyone, not just Hispanic, she emphasized.

After Ms. Garcia spoke, George McDonough stated that our Club was also interested in diversity, and we would be interested in getting additional Hispanic members. Ms. Garcia said she thought this would be a good possibility, and would certainly keep us in mind.

Ms. Cornelison was advised of our Oratorical Contest and Essay Contest, and asked if there were 4H students who might be interested. She said she knew of some who should definitely be interested, particularly when informed of the first prize of \$300 locally, and the \$2,500 prize in the Region. She promised to put the information on their Facebook page when she had it. Tom Casteel will e-mail the information to them.

Closing

President Al Adams gave each of our speakers a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, and asked Ms. Cornelison to draw for our attendance prize. She first drew Kathy Anderson's name (absent, today) and next Jim Berry (present, as usual), and Jim took home the prize.

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity.”

~Albert Einstein

CALENDAR

11/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)

11/27 **NO MEETING**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

12/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting

12/4 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Tiffany Martin of the Hawthorne Conservatory.

12/9 Tuesday **6:00 pm** Cooper House
Christmas Party

12/11 **NO MEETING**
Replaced by Christmas Party

12/18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Bob Martin)

12/25 **NO MEETING**



Merry Christmas

1/1

NO MEETING



Happy New Year

1/6

Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

1/8

Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

TBD - Richie Myers

1/15

Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food - (Richie Myers)

1/22

Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

TBD - Richie Myers

- PHOTOS -



Our Speakers: Nikki Cornelison and Ruth Garcia



Faithful Bob Martin Sets Up the Sound System



See, Albert Really Did Stop by



And John Inman Really Did Attend.

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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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: