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### **SECRETARY TREASURER**

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### **Club meets**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**

**At 11:45 am**

**Mullins Restaurant**

**Huntsville, AL**

# Opti - Topics

## **Opening**

The Optimist Club of Huntsville assembled today at Mullins Restaurant for a regular Club meeting on a bitterly cold day. It looked like a sparse attendance at 11:45, but after all the latecomers arrived by noon, 17 Optimists and two guests (in addition to our speaker) were present.

Our two guests, and prospective members, were Jeff Brenner, guest of Richie Myers, and Jack Freedman, guest of George McDonough.

President Al Adams, asked George McDonough to open the meeting in prayer, and Bill Clarke led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Optimist Family News**

Optimist **Jim Berry** was sporting a bandaged nose and two banged-up knees at the meeting after taking a bad fall yesterday at a local restaurant.

**Sara Adams**, wife of President Al, has been in the hospital since Saturday suffering from a severe migraine headache. Al said she is expected to be released tomorrow.

**Fabiani Duarte** thanked those from the Club who hosted a luncheon for him last week. He reported he made the Mock Trial Team of Mercer U., and will be participating in a team competition in March. He is on track to finish his Law degree in July of 2016, and after which he plans to enter Mercer Seminary in Atlanta. His classes at Mercer resume on January 20.

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

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## **Announcements**

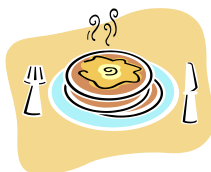


### **Tri-Star Basketball Committee**

Chairman Jesse Lang said everything is “GO” for the **competition this Saturday**. He asked for as many Optimists as possible to be at the ORC **at 9:00 a. m.** to prepare for the event which starts at 9:30 a. m. Al Adams asked those who do attend to **wear their Optimist shirts**.



Treasurer Al Renz passed out the **Dues Statements** for this quarter. Paying your dues early will help the Club’s cash flow.



### **Pancake Breakfast Committee**

Chairman Alberto Duarte reminded everyone that the pancake breakfast will be held at the Cooper House on the **first Saturday in February. At 7:00 a.m.** All Optimists are expected to sell 10 tickets @ \$5.00 each for the event. Alberto will accept only \$50—no return of unsold tickets. If you need more tickets, call Alberto.



### **Membership Committee Chairman Tom**

Casteel passed out a packet of 5 Club brochures to each Optimist present. He encouraged each member to give out a brochure to someone and invite them to a meeting. His committee plans to have a NOW banquet in the future to build up our membership.

## Program



Program Chairman Richie Myers introduced our speaker for today, Steven Roy. Mr. Roy retired two years ago from the Public Affairs Office at Marshall Space Flight Center. He worked for the Army prior to that, including being instructor in the U. S. Army School of Americas where he taught history of some notable battles. In his younger days he was a soldier in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Battalion. His passion is Civil War history.

After his introduction, Mr. Roy congratulated the Club on our work for youth. He said he had gone on line to find out what Optimists did, and was especially impressed with our creed. To supplement his congratulations, he presented a check to President Al Adams to go towards our youth programs. Mr. Roy also brought a print titled *The First Day of the Battle of Gettysburg* (see photo section), and he recounted how he had searched far and wide to get the print, only to find it in England.

Mr. Roy announced his talk would be “Civil War Places Worth Visiting” near Huntsville. He handed out a sheet which diagramed the Civil War sites within 300 miles of Huntsville. He gave a brief overview of the battles at each site and his personal evaluation of visitor amenities at each site. In brief, here are the Civil War sites he covered:

- ❖ Huntsville: Occupied twice by Federal troops; first in 1862 and again in 1864 because of the railroad through the city. The main site here is the railroad depot. There is an annual Civil War re-enactment at the Railroad Museum.
- ❖ Corinth/Shiloh: Fought in 1862. The Shiloh battlefield is in pristine condition. Very good visitor’s center and book store. Definitely worth seeing.
- ❖ Murfreesboro: Fought in 1862/1863. Good book store, visitor’s center and walking tour.
- ❖ Vicksburg: Site of the 1863 siege, and one of the two sites of a mass surrender of a CSA army. It has a “really amazing” driving tour plus a reconstructed Union gunboat, the USS Cairo.
- ❖ Chattanooga: Several battles in fought there in 1863 including Lookout Mt. and Missionary Ridge.
- ❖ Chickamauga: Associated with the battles in Chattanooga, a few miles north, in 1863. Has a great visitor’s center and fire arms collection. He and his wife enjoyed the Captain’s Quarters B & B adjacent to the park.
- ❖ Atlanta: Site of 1864 battles. Two places worth seeing are Kennesaw Mt. battlefield and the Cyclorama in downtown Atlanta.

- ❖ Gulf Coast: Several forts worth seeing here are Spanish Fort, Ft. Blakely, Ft. Massachusetts, Ft. Gaines and Ft. Morgan. Ft. Pickens near Pensacola has been repaired since being damaged by a hurricane.

Mr. Roy closed by saying it would be his pleasure to answer any questions about these sites, or about any of the great Civil War battles. He gave his telephone number, 256-603-3055, for this purpose.

## **Closing**

President Al Adams gave our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, saying he could share it with his wife. Mr. Roy drew for the attendance prize, and Richie Myers (!!!) won on the first draw.

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

*Clyde Nevins*

## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**"You are the sum total of everything you've ever seen, heard, eaten, smelled, been told, forgot - it's all there. Everything influences each of us, and because of that I try to make sure that my experiences are positive."**

*~Maya Angelou*

## **CALENDAR**

1/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food - (Richie Myers)**

1/22 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

**Connie Carnes - HEALS, Inc.**

1/29 Thursday 11:45 am **NO MEETING**

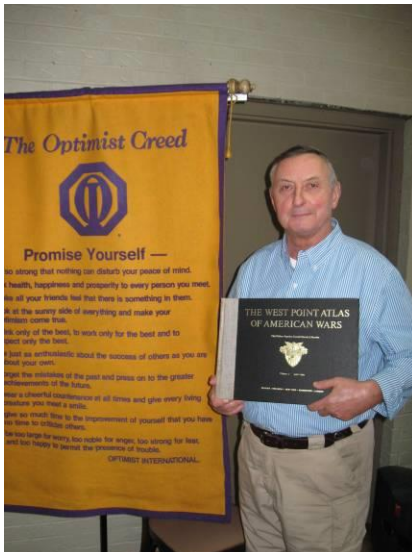
**5<sup>th</sup> Thursday**



Jeff Brenner, guest of Richie Myers



Jack Freedman, guest of George McDonough



Our speaker, Mr. Steven Roy, with one of his books covering Civil War battles.



A print of the painting *The First Day of the Battle of Gettysburg*.

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

**T**o be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

**T**o talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

**T**o make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

**T**o look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

**T**o think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

**T**o be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

**T**o forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

**T**o wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

**T**o give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

**T**o 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:**