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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

**Check Website for
location**

hsvoptimists.org

Opti - Topics

Today's Restaurant

The Optimist Club of Huntsville held a trial meeting at the Sunny Street Café, just outside of the Huntsville City limits in Madison, today. Parking at the restaurant looked to be adequate and was convenient to the café.

We met in a glassed-in meeting room that provided enough seating, but was a little cramped for moving about. Acoustics were fair.

Each Club member ordered his/her lunch off of the Sunny Street Café's lunch menu which is limited to soup, salads and sandwiches. Consequently, it took a while for everyone to be served. Our servers were pleasant, and the service was adequate.

Opening

I counted 18 Optimists in attendance today—a good turnout considering most of us had to brave the University Drive traffic at lunchtime to reach the café.

We had either 5 or 6 guests today, depending how Fabiani is counted. He came to greet everyone but left before lunch to take his mom to Nashville. Our full-time guests were Matt Clarke, son of Dr. Bill Clarke, and several members of Al Renz' family—his wife, Marlene, his daughter, Cheryl and two grandsons, Brandon and Robby. It was good to see Optimists Darrel McColgan and Kathy Anderson with us, and we also welcomed back Carl Winkler who has been missing.

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

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President Al Adams, asked Rev. Jim Berry to open the meeting in prayer, but Jim deferred to Fabiani Duarte. Bill Peters led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Fabiani Duarte addressed the Club for a few minutes, giving some more information on his recent election as Chair-elect of the American Bar Association Law Student Division. He said his main function will be to lead the development of policy for the 205 law schools in the U. S. once he is sworn in at the organization's annual meeting in August. His position will require about 20 trips per year; all the while he will still be in law school and working part time.

Program

April Program Chairman Alberto Duarte announced that this month he will have three Optimists speak on their life experiences. For today, he introduced Al Renz, "an exemplary Optimist who has helped the Club so much."

Al began his PowerPoint presentation by showing a quote from the Bible, Romans 12:6-8, which he said he adopted as his philosophy of life. He said he has always tried to live by these verses, and his 84+ years "have been interesting, not exciting."

Al next showed the logos of five organizations that have been important in his life, and ones that he has performed leadership roles at different levels along the way. The five are: Boy Scouts of America, Tau Kappa Epsilon social fraternity, the Masons, the United Methodist Church, and the Optimist Club. Another memorable organization was the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for which he served as vice chairman for 3 years.

Al was a “depression baby,” born in 1930 and the first in his family to attend college and get a degree. He attended Washington University in St. Louis where he received his BS in Industrial Engineering. Later he received a MS in Engineering Administration. His first employment was with McDonnell Aircraft in St. Louis.

He joined the Coast Guard in 1963 and served two years on a cutter out of Mobile, Alabama, his first association with our state. After leaving the Coast Guard, he returned to Washington University in St. Louis to teach industrial engineering classes. While there, he pioneered the use of computers at the university after they purchased an IBM650 computer. Once he learned to operate the computer, he developed classes and then taught them at the university.

In 1957, he and a fraternity brother started their own business, again based on using computers as a service to other organizations. One of their memorable contracts was doing the engineering calculations for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. This company expanded over the years, entering into the development of training programs which expanded their business by a factor of 10. It later merged with another company and was listed on the American Stock Exchange which resulted in a 15-fold increase in their stock price.

Al next became involved in the oil business in 1972. He was asked by another fraternity brother to join the struggling National Petroleum Company in Houston, TX. He began as Vice President of the company, but was elected President after only one year with them. He was with the company during the years of volatile oil prices in the early 1980s.

In 1985, he left the National Petroleum Company to accept a job as Director of Business Management with the Boeing Company, in their first year of an 8-year contract to manage the Strategic Petroleum Reserves near New Orleans. Al described how huge cavities in underground salt deposits were hollowed out to store oil, and the various sites for the storage areas. When the 8-year period was over, Boeing decided not to compete for a follow-on contract. Al elected to stay with Boeing by being transferred to Huntsville. He retired from Boeing June 1, 1994.

After retirement, Al stayed busy. He worked with H & R Block as a tax consultant for 2 years and taught at UAH for 3 years. He became the Treasurer of the Fords Chapel UMC, a position he retired from in January of this year. He currently keeps the books for the Optimist Club of Huntsville and the Homeowners' Association where he and Marlene live.

Al summarized his life experiences as being involved with computers, with teaching, with petroleum and with numbers. He said he has always had a gift for numbers and at one time could add 10, 3-digit numbers in his head.

Closing

President Al Adams offered our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, but Al declined saying he already had one. Richie Myers won the attendance prize on the first drawing, and he donated it to the Club.

Dr. Carl Winkler led us in the reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting, and we did quite well without a banner to read from.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"You are never given a dream without also being given the power to make it true. You may have to work for it, however."

~Richard Bach



Our meeting room at the Sunny Street Cafe



Guests Marlene Renz and Cheryl McColgan



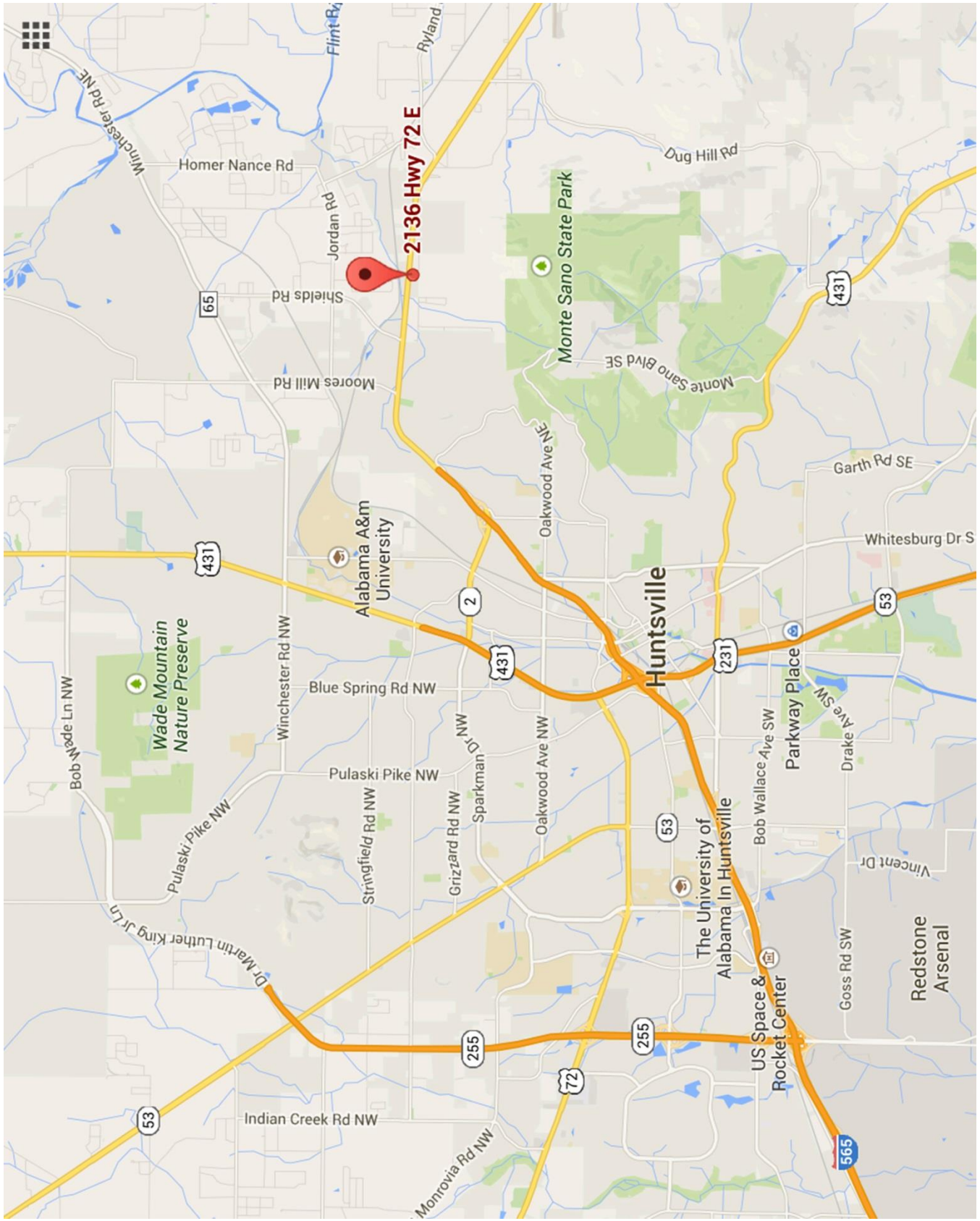
Our speaker, Al Renz, with Fabiani Duarte



Fabiani greeting the Renz family members

CALENDAR

- 4/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 4/9 Thursday 11:45 am **Oh Bryans Family Steak House**
2136 Highway 72 E, Huntsville AL
TBD - Alberto Duarte
- 4/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (Alberto Duarte)
- 4/23 Thursday 11:45 am **TBD**
Tiffany Martin - Director - Hawthorne Conservatory
- 4/30 Thursday 11:45 am **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday
- 5/4 Tuesday 6:30 pm Respect for Law Banquet
Mayfair Church of Christ (Gymnasium)
- 5/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 5/7 Thursday **NO MEETING**
Respect for Law Banquet replaces this meeting
- 5/14 Thursday 11:45 am **TBD**
Bill Kling, Jr., Councilman



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:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE