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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant

Opti - Topics

Today's Meeting Mullins Restaurant

Another decent turnout for today's meeting--fifteen Optimists. The plate lunch menu from Mullins today had a choice of lasagna or fried chicken livers plus the usual sides. I saw that Al Renz had the chicken livers, and they looked good. I had the lasagna, and it had lots of ground meat and pepperoni.

We were all pleased to see Matt Hancock with us today. It's been a while since he's been able to attend, and we've missed him.

Opening

President Al Adams asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer and lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. President Al expressed how happy the Club was to see Matt Hancock with us.

Announcements



Alberto Duarte announced that he, Al Renz, and Clyde Nevins had met with Ms. Mary May and 40 or more students about starting a **JOOI Club at Whitesburg Middle School**. Ms. May is very energetic, and many students expressed interest in starting a club. Ms. May intends to promptly enroll more members for the club and then elect officers. The club should be ready to have an installation ceremony in the next couple of weeks.

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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Alberto also announced that the **JOOI Club at Grace Lutheran School** will be having an installation of officers on October 28. He will send an e-mail to Club members shortly before then to remind us and to give the time and location for the ceremony.



President Al reminded us that the Club will have two convertibles and some marchers in the **Veteran's Day parade** on Nov. 11. We anticipate that the middle school JOOI clubs will be the marchers. We will have another meeting before the parade, so more information will be available by then.



Pecan Sale Chairman George

McDonough has ordered 10 cases of pecans for our fall fund raiser. This is an optimistic amount, but George said the profit on anything less than ten cases is hardly worth the trouble. George passed out flyers/bulletin board announcements about the sale. See him if you can put one up at your workplace or church. A PDF copy is distributed with the Newsletter.

Clyde Nevins displayed two prototype polo shirts (see photo section) that he has proposed be given to participants at the **Oratorical Contest and the Essay Contest** in lieu of, or in addition to, their participation certificates. He stated that the shirts would not only be better received by contestants, but would advertise these contests to their peers.

Program

This month's Program Chairman, Alberto Duarte, said that from time to time he "wants to expose to you our own people," and our speaker today would be one of our own Club's members, **George McDonough**.

George began his talk by saying it was a long shot that he was alive and here talking to us. He related several instances in his childhood in Chicago, IL, that could easily have snuffed out his life. The most amazing episode, I thought, was when he was only 18 months old he jumped out of a second story window with the intent of reaching the neighborhood candy store. Fortunately, he fell into a shrub and was unhurt. Sometime later, after failing in his mission, he wandered back home and entered the front door to the shock and amazement of his mother and aunt who knew he had not left by that route.

His hazardous life did not end at childhood. As a young man he was impressing his girlfriend on his swimming prowess at Virginia Beach. After swimming several hundred yards out to sea, he discovered a rip tide would not let him swim back to the beach, at least not without strenuous effort. Again, he was fortunate in that his Boy Scout training had taught him the “dead man’s float,” and by using that technique to rest periodically he was able to make it to shore. He admitted, however, that he almost gave up.

After dropping out of high school, he joined the U. S. Navy, which he said was the most fun he’d ever had—with fun things like marching and shooting guns (others though him crazy for that). He went to electronics school in the Navy, and was involved with the cutting edge of radar technology for assisting aircraft landings and for aiming guns—again having the time of his life.

After leaving the Navy (temporarily, it turned out because he joined the Naval Reserve), he returned to high school and completed getting his diploma, passing three semesters of work in one semester. He then took several jobs, none of which he liked. One of his high school classmates, a girl, influenced him to go to college, and he enrolled in Marquette University, majoring in mathematics. After two and a half years, he was recalled to the Navy because of the Korean War.

His sea duty in the Korean War again gave him another close call with disaster of another kind. George said he was one of the few men in the Navy who did not get sea sick. He was aboard a Landing Ship Medium Rocket, a relatively small ship (see photo section), as it went through a violent storm. When a roll call was called to see if anyone had been swept overboard, George didn’t answer because he had slept through it all. As a result, he was court marshaled. Fortunately, his trial resulted in the disposition of “specification not proved.”

After this tour in the Navy, George returned to college and got his degree in Civil Engineering. He found his chosen career to be very boring, so he enrolled in

Graduate School at the University of Illinois. There he studied nuclear engineering and met his wife-to-be. He accepted employment in this field with a company in Los Angeles. His work in nuclear engineering enabled him to witness three nuclear bomb explosions, one in Nevada, and two in the Pacific.

While in Los Angeles, NASA came recruiting. They were looking for someone with his background, and offered him a job at Marshall Space Flight Center. Upon arriving in Huntsville, he thought it had everything he loved—mountains, a river, and good schools for his children. He held many jobs at MSFC, beginning as a Section Chief, and ending up as Director of Science and Engineering. Along the way his most interesting job was being Chief Engineer on the Skylab program where he directed the Saturn V Workshop design effort.

Five years ago, George lost his wife. With the help of Jim Berry and Dr. Kahn, he became involved in the Center for Aging and with the Optimist Club of Huntsville. He is passionate about both of these organizations, and said the only complaint he had about the Optimist Club was that “no one asked me sooner.”

Closing

President Al offered George a tile with an Optimist Creed, but he declined. Our speaker then drew for the attendance prize, and yours truly (Clyde), won the pot on the first drawing (it's about time!).

Carl Winkler led the Club in the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you.”

~ Mary Lou Retton

CALENDAR

- 10/29 Thursday
NO MEETING – 5th Thursday
- 11/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 11/5 Thursday 6:00 pm Mullin’s Restaurant
TBD –
- 11/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin’s Restaurant
TBD – Marilyn King-Jordan
- 11/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Marilyn King-Jordan)
- 11/26 Thursday **No Meeting**
Happy Thanksgiving
- 12/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 12/3 Thursday 6:00 pm Mullin’s Restaurant
TBD –
- 12/10 Thursday 6:00 pm **TBD Christmas Party**
TBD –
- 12/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)
- 12/24 Thursday
NO MEETING – CHRISTMAS

- PHOTOS -

Prototype Contests Shirts



Essay Polo Shirt on White



Oratorical Polo Shirt on Silver



Landing Ship Medium Rocket

Like the one George McDonough served on

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
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TO: