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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

88 Buffet

Opti - Topics

June - First Noon Meeting

Fourteen Optimists (including our speaker for today) assembled at the 88 Buffet today for our luncheon meeting. We were pleased to have five guests with us today, as well. Elaine Plank, her sister Jewel, David Plank (son) and Trent Plank (grandson) joined us today to hear our speaker, Sheriff Blake Dorning, who was a great friend of Duane. We also welcomed Meredith Lewis, guest of Al Adams, who is a Social Worker with UAB here in Huntsville. Al said he has been trying to get Meredith to a meeting for 6 months.

We were pleased to see Buddy Beck at today's meeting. Buddy can no longer drive, so it takes some doing for him to arrange transportation to attend a meeting. Thanks for making the effort, Buddy.

Opening

President Al called on Alberto Duarte to bring the opening prayer, and he also led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. I learned it was President Al who is bringing a large (about 3 ft. X 5 ft.) flag to the meeting for our Pledge. Thanks, Al.

Optimist Family News

Elaine Plank reported she and her family members were at today's meeting "to honor Duane," plus she "wanted to get on the good side of the Sheriff." She said she could envision Duane already starting an Optimist Club in heaven.

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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Al Renz reported that **Buddy Beck** had entered his restored 1977 GMC pickup in the Ford's Chapel UMC Antique Car Show, and won first prize for being the best restoration to the original.

Marilyn King-Jordan told me her surgical procedure on her right eye at UAB went well, and the swelling in her eye has been reduced. She said she will be continuing the treatment of a perforated cornea for several more months, however.

Program



President Al Adams said we were grateful and honored to have Sheriff Blake Dorning as speaker today to bring us news about the Madison County Sheriff's Dept., as he does every year.

Al said, "He's a member of our Club, and needs no further introduction. Here's the Sheriff."

Sheriff Dorning began his talk by reviewing his career with the Madison Count Sheriff's Department. He joined the Department in 1983 as a Corrections Officer, and is now in his 33rd year there. He was first elected as Sheriff in 2002, and has been re-elected to that office ever since.

Technology

Technology continues to be in the forefront in the Sheriff's Department. Madison County was the first county in Alabama to utilize Mobile Data Terminals in patrol cars. One of the newest technology tools is Crime Mapping, whereby crime "hot spots" are identified so Sheriff's Deputies can give them closer attention.

Sheriff's Department is now totally paperless—including Pistol Permits. If you want to get a pistol permit, you will need to fill out your application on line. If you lack a computer to do this, you may make an appointment with ladies in the Department who will fill out your application for you. The Sheriff said in a typical month there are 5,000 applications for new or renewed Pistol Permits in the County. He said there is always a spike in permit applications following a terrorist incident, such as the recent one in San Bernardino, CA.

Another new technology being put in place is a Facial Recognition System. The Department is one of the first in the country to employ this technology. With this system, the Sheriff said that even identical twins can be distinguished from each other.

The Sheriff's Department is also up to speed in social media. They use Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat, and have a "very aggressive" web site. Sheriff Dorning reported that people booked into jail are quickly put into a register on the web site. Anyone can go to the web site, click on the jail link, and scroll through to see all the prisoners currently in the jail.

Personnel

The Sheriff's Department has a Cadet Corps. Cadets generally meet once each month, but can meet once a week for training. After they pass their 16th birthday, they are eligible to ride with a Sheriff's Deputy on patrol.

It's getting harder and harder to recruit good men and women to become Sheriff's Deputies, he said. Not many young people in today's culture have "a heart for service. Community service is not high on people's agendas any more.

Keeping a full staff of Deputies is a continual problem. His Department is losing Deputies to private industry, because they have valuable training and can get a raise. They have become, he said "a high commodity." Verison, for example, has recruited several Corrections Officers because of their skill in calming frayed nerves with their voices.

Sheriff Dorning said he makes an effort to improve the quality of his Deputies whenever he can. He said he is "a book man," and he always gives a book to a Deputy when he/she is promoted. He currently gives a book entitled "Cowboy Ethics" which promotes integrity, hard work, and a good image to be striven for. Readers of the book are encouraged to well represent the outfit they work for, or in cowboy talk, "I ride for that brand."

In response to a question by Al Renz, Sheriff Dorning said the disparity in salaries between Madison County Deputies and other local law enforcement agencies has been closed. However, the raise for the Deputies did not apply to Corrections Officers, and the result is that the Jail is currently understaffed. Auburn University has done a study showing that the Madison County Correction Officers' salaries are in the bottom 10 %.

In closing, Sheriff Dorning read a passage from the Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament which emphasizes that in tough times God is always there. All we have to do is "move and not be still." He said Duane Plank was a man that "warmed his heart" whenever they talked. Duane was a bundle of enthusiasm, and was always beating the drum to "Be your best!" He encouraged our Club to follow Duane's example. "Just go! Do it! Make the effort!"

Closing

President Al Adams said the Sheriff was disqualified from drawing for the attendance prize because he was a member. He asked Elaine Plank to do the honor. Sheriff Dorning contributed five Sheriff's Department lapel pins as additional drawing prizes.

Elaine first drew Kathy Anderson's name for the attendance prize; Kathy wasn't present, but the second name drawn, Jim Berry, was. (Jim donated all of his winnings to our Childhood Cancer fund). Alberto Duarte, Clyde Nevins, Marilyn King-Jordan, Al Renz and Trent Plank took home the lapel pins.

Tom Casteel led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"Law enforcement officers are never 'off duty.' They are dedicated public servants who are sworn to protect public safety at any time and place that the peace is threatened. They need all the help that they can get."

~ Barbara Boxer

PHOTOS



Sheriff Blake Dorning, Our Speaker for Today



Meredith Lewis, Guest of Al Adams



Guests Elaine Plank and Her Sister, Jewel



Guests Trent Plank (Duane's Grandson) and David Plank (Duane's Son)

CALENDAR

- 6/16 Thursday **11:45 am**
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 6/23 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
Dr. Beth Cape – Director of Children’s Ministries
Whitesburg Baptist Church
- 6/30 Thursday - **NO MEETING - 5th Thurday**
- 7/5 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 7/7 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet
TBD – Jim Roe
- 7/14 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
TBD – Jim Roe
- 7/21 Thursday **11:45 am**
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)
- 7/28 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
TBD – Jim Roe
- 8/2 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 8/4 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet
TBD – Tom Casteel

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: