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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

88 Buffet

Opti - Topics

July – Evening Meeting

Thirteen Optimists assembled at the 88 Buffet today for our evening meeting. We were pleased to have Pat Lang with us as a guest tonight.

Opening

President Al called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Al led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements



President Al reminded everyone (you should have received an e-mail on these) about two upcoming events at the end of this month.

Volunteers will be needed for:

- Huntsville Council of **PTAs Summer Leadership Training** on July 23rd. This event will be held at the Academy for Academics and Arts school on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- **Community Awareness For Youth (CAFY)** event at the Jaycees Building on July 30th from 10 a.m. to 3 p. m. Our Club will have a table at the event.

President Al said these events are both well suited to get our Club's name out, and will be used for recruiting new members and promoting our Youth Activities.

**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

Clyde Nevins

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Band Committee Chairman Tom Casteel brought a trumpet for “show and tell” tonight. The trumpet had been forcefully jammed by a student it had been lent to into a wall (or something) causing damage that would cost \$450 to repair (more than a replacement. Tom said three trombones would also have to be scrapped due to “red rot” in the tubes. In addition, the band program will need several new instrument cases to replace those that have exceeded their service life.



Alberto Duarte reported he had received information from Ms. Tiffany Martin at the Hawthorne Conservatory on items they need which might make a suitable **gift in memory of Optimist Duane Plank**. The Conservatory was special to Duane, and the Board of Directors will consider items from this list as a memorial gift from the Club at their upcoming meeting.

Program



In the absence of Program Chairman Jim Roe, President Al Adams introduced our speaker for the evening, Ben Moody, Community Program Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama. Ben graduated from William and Mary University in 2011, after which he spent three years in China teaching English and American History to high school and university students in China. He returned to the U. S. and joined Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2014.

Ben opened by asking if any Optimists had ever been a Big Brother. President Al said he had, and Kathy Anderson related how her brother had been an enthusiastic Big Brother when he was at the University of Alabama.

Ben gave a brief history of Big Brothers Big Sisters, which is now 110 years old. It was begun in New York City by Ernest Coulter, a court clerk who saw it as a way to keep boys and girls from coming back to court. The North Alabama chapter has existed for 35 years. Last year 287 boys and girls were served by the program, and 325 are expected to be served this year. The local chapter serves kids from Limestone, Marshall and Jackson Counties, and even parts of southern Tennessee as well as Huntsville and Madison County.

There is a great need in our area for volunteers to work with at-risk kids. There are 25,000 kids being raised by a single parent (almost entirely moms) and 15,000 kids living below the poverty level. Boys and girls ages 5 to 18 and not graduated from school can apply for a Big Brother or Big Sister. At this time there is a waiting list of about 100 kids, of which 80% are boys, who have asked for a Big Brother or a Big Sister. Ben said they need someone who will show even a little interest in them.

BBBS has two programs: A Community Based program and a School Based program. Children in these programs come from various sources such as school counselors, other non-profit organizations and DHR. After a background check, volunteers are matched with a child who has a common ground. Big Brothers or Sisters must commit to at least a one-year term with a minimum of 4 hours contact per month. Ben said some Big Brothers and Sisters have maintained their relationships with their children far longer, some well into adulthood.

Ben gave two amusing examples of what some kids have asked their Big Brother/Sister to do. One girl wanted to make a grocery list, go shopping with her Big Sister in a supermarket, and then cook a special dish from the ingredients bought. Another child (a boy, I assume) wanted to ride through an automatic car wash when he was with his Big Brother.

You don't have to be a Big Brother or Sister to help this organization. There are needs for volunteers at several of the fund raising events sponsored by BBBS, such as organizing and staffing the annual 5K run. More information about BBBS, including volunteer openings, can be found on their web site: www.bbbsna.org.

Closing

President Al Adams gave our speaker a tile coaster with the Optimist Creed on it, who said, "That's cool" when he received it. Apparently as a surprise, President Al also presented a check for \$2,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters, a grant that had been selected by the Community Service Committee. This elicited a "Wow!" from our speaker.

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“The best feeling in the world is knowing is knowing you actually mean something to someone.”

~ Will Smith



**President Al presents Our speaker, Ben Moody, a \$2000 check for
Big Brothers – Big Sisters of North Alabama**

CALENDAR

- 7/12 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 7/14 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
Tom Borchert – LearningQUEST
- 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
- 8/11 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
Angela Walker – Huntsville Community Drumline
- 8/18 Thursday **11:45 am**
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)
- 8/25 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
Kathy Miller – United Way

Website: hsvoptimists.org

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