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Opti - Topics

June Evening Meeting



Twelve members and two guests assembled at the Blue Plate Café this evening for our regularly scheduled evening meeting on the first Thursday of the month. I learned our regular waitress, Tosha, was no longer with Blue Plate and was now at the nearby Rosie's. Christy, her replacement, did a fine job in serving us.

Our guests this evening were the 6-year old identical twin sons of First Vice President Eureka Battie (see photo section).

Opening

President Vastell Williams called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Jim Roe reported that the "Harvest Mafia" had delivered the Club's check, in memory of Dr. Sidney Sandridge, to Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church last Sunday. The check was designated to the Benevolence Fund of the church.

President Vastell passed around a thank-you note from Gladys Sandridge, Sidney's widow, expressing her heartfelt appreciation to the Club for the support of one of Sidney's favorite charities.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at Blue
Plate Café

3rd & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 a.m.
Optimist Recreational
Center

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Announcements & Committee Reports



President Vastell reminded us that Zone Vice President Alfred Adams will be travelling to Fort Payne for an Optimist Club meeting on **Wednesday, June 7**. This will be a **Club Visitation**. Al has four signed up, but if you'd like to go, let Al know. They will leave from the ORC about 10 o'clock in the morning.



President Vastell reported that the **Outstanding Teachers' Banquet**, sponsored by the South Optimist Club (if I remember correctly), has been tentatively scheduled for September 18 at the St. Thomas Lutheran Church on Bailey Cove Rd. More details on this at this month's Business Meeting.

Program



President Vastell welcomed **Fabiani Duarte** as our speaker for tonight, saying he was one of our own and needed no introduction. Fabiani had returned to Huntsville just yesterday after finishing his Master of Theology degree at Mercer Seminary in Atlanta, GA.

Fabiani opened his talk by recounting the several difficulties he had had in getting a U-Haul to move his "stuff" back to Huntsville, including two flat tires that gummed up the process.

He then gave a brief overview of his immediate future: As of yesterday, he signed his oath of office, and is now a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force—without one day of training, he reminded us. He is to report to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL, on June 26 for basic training. [I asked him if that means marching, shooting, learning the manual of arms, going over obstacle courses, etc., and he wasn't sure about all of those]

He said he needs to buy some good shoes and get a GI haircut before reporting—and he is only allowed to bring \$60 for his food.

After completing basic training (assuming he survives), he is to report to Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, NM, where he is scheduled for two years of duty with the Judge Advocate General Corps. He anticipates an active schedule in trying cases for the JAGs there (he said it must be a high-crime area). He is looking forward to experiencing the culture of New Mexico, especially the various Native American Pueblos. He explained that lawyers are often called “ministers of justice,” so his theology degree will help him be a good minister.

Fabiani then recounted the steps that have led him to this place in his life. He tied in how all of his life experiences, beginning with participating in the Club’s Oratorical Contest and ending with his latest Theology degree. These were the main points that he wanted to leave with us:

- Look for the “story within the story” in many situations. The most obvious is not necessarily the most important thing to find.
- Becoming the “best version of yourself” is a very important lesson.
- God’s will for your life doesn’t mean that you are to be a passive recipient, but His presence allows you to seek your role in life.

In closing, Fabiani said “Thank you” to the Club for being such a big part of his life experiences. He said, “I didn’t just drop from the sky as a 1st Lieutenant--I stand on your shoulders.”

Closing

Vastell offered our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed, but he declined, saying he had plenty of them. Fabiani drew for our attendance prize and Jesse Lang won (again!). I told Fabiani to put Jesse’s name at the bottom.

Vastell led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Optimism is essential to achievement and is also the foundation of courage and true progress.

~ Nicholas Murray Butler

CALENDAR

- 6/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Vastell Williams)
- 6/22 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Thomas Rumph Jr. - Rumph and Associates
- 7/6 Thursday 6:00 pm Blue Plate Cafe
TBD - Charlene Higgins
- 7/11 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting



Website: hsvoptimists.org

Photos



Malik (left) and Michael Battie



Selfie with Alberto, Vastell, Tom, and Fabiani

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.

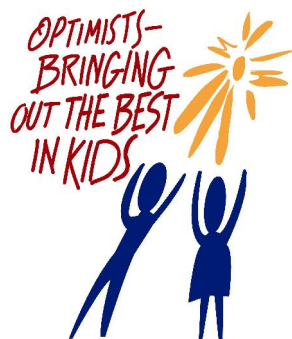
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

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