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Opti - Topics

September Evening Meeting



A rather small turnout of 11 Optimists assembled at the Blue Plate Café for our regular Club meeting this evening. Our three guests were Esther Stubbs,

Tourishevo Stubbs, and Indali Robinson. Esther belonged to the Springfield, VA Optimist Club, and has recently relocated to Huntsville. She and her daughter, Tourishevo, are prospective members. Indali is the 8-year old daughter of Tourishevo.

Opening

Lame-duck President Vastell Williams welcomed our members and guests, and called on Alberto Duarte to bring the opening prayer. Alberto also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Committee Reports



Band Committee Chairman Tom Casteel announced that the last shipment of the 50 band instruments had arrived at his house today (Thursday). After being checked by Southeast Music, they will be put on the shelf in our storage room. Band Committee members who need additional band instruments for their schools should be able to sign them out early next week.

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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Chairman Tom Casteel announced that **the Club's 70th anniversary/installation banquet** will be held at the Huntsville Country Club on Thursday, Sept. 28. The cost to members and their guests will be \$20, and diners will have a choice of chicken, beef or vegan meals. The Mayor of Huntsville will issue a proclamation honoring the Club's 70 years of service, and the Director of Multicultural Affairs in the Mayor's Office, Kenny Anderson, will be at the banquet. Other dignitaries to be invited are past Optimist District Governors and past Club Presidents or their widows.



There were several **sign-up sheets** circulated at the meeting, and if you weren't there, you need to get your name on some of them. Here they are:

- **Installation Banquet** - Committee chair Tom Casteel passed around a sign-up sheet for the September 28th Installation Banquet. The deadline for turning in meal requirements is September 22nd.
- **Monthly Program Chairman** for October (all other months are taken). Contact Eureka Battie to sign up for this vacancy.
- **Pecan Sale** Chairman Alfred Adams needs you to sign up for your 10 bags (or more, if possible) of pecans. Other types of nuts are available if you can order a full case. Call or e-mail Alfred.
- **Next Year's Committees** President Elect Eureka Battie needs every member to sign up on the committees of his/her choice. Committee Chairmen are also needed in a few committees. This sheet will be available at the next Club meeting.
- **October 5 Evening Meeting** An attendance count for the is needed by the Club by October 4. We will be meeting at the Huntsville Country Club that evening on a trial basis. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at upcoming meetings.

New Member Installation

Past District Governor, Tom Casteel installed our newest member tonight, **Annie Sandusky**. Tom is also Annie's sponsor. Mrs. Sandusky is an underwriter with Platinum Mortgage in Huntsville, and has lived in Huntsville for nine years. She and her husband Rick live in Five Points and have a 5-month old baby. She promised to bring her husband to the Installation Banquet so we could meet him.

Program



Vastell Williams introduced our speaker (and his boss) for tonight's program, Tom Rumph, Jr., by saying "Tom needs no introduction because he is a member of our Club." Vastell first met Tom when he served as a consultant to Alabama A & M University. Tom is the founder and managing partner of Rumph and Associates, P. C. Tom had just returned yesterday from a training session in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Tom began his talk by giving a few vital statistics on Rumph and Associates. The company's annual revenue is \$7.3 million. The company's growth over the last 3 years has averaged 200% annually. There are currently 102 people on the payroll. On a personal level, Tom said he is an avid golfer, and he has learned that playing golf with a person is a good way to learn about the person's character.

Rumph and Associates is primarily an accounting firm whose main customer is CDC, the U. S. Government's Center for Disease Control headquartered in Atlanta, GA. The company has offices in Alpharetta, GA, Huntsville, AL, and Johannesburg, South Africa. Rumph and Associates provide a number of services for the CDC in Africa, Central America, and South America. Among these are:

- Business & Financial Services
- Governance, Risks and Compliance
- Health Services
- Information Technology
- Logistical Support
- Management Consulting
- Small Business Operational Support
- Training and Technical Assistance

Tom's company has supported programs in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Ethiopia, Guinea and Sierra Leone in Africa, and in Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Guatemala in the Western Hemisphere.

Tom concluded his program by showing a number of photos from his world travels in support of his contracts. Among his cherished memories is being in South Africa at the time of Nelson Mandela's funeral, where he saw all the U. S. Presidents who attended, plus Hillary Clinton.

Closing

President Vastell asked our speaker to draw for our attendance prize, tonight. Tom said he hoped he didn't draw his own name, and his hope was fulfilled: Tom Casteel was the first name drawn. Vastell led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Photos = Photos - Photos



**Tom Casteel with new member
Annie Sandusky**



**Tonight's Speaker
Tom Rumph, Jr.**

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“If your plan is for one year, plant rice.

If your plan is for ten years, plant trees.

If your plan is for one hundred years, educate children.”

~ Confucius

CALENDAR

- 9/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)
- 9/28 Thursday 6:30 pm Huntsville Country Club
Officer Installation and 70th Anniversary Celebration
- 10/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 10/5 Thursday 6:00 pm Huntsville Country Club
TBD - TBD
- 10/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)
- 10/26 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
TBD - TBD



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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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: