



Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 72, Number 4 - NOV 2, 2017

November Evening Meeting

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A slim turnout of 13 Optimists enjoyed a fine meal at our monthly evening meeting at the Huntsville Country Club tonight. In contrast to last month's meal at the HCC, the food was both recognizable and quite tasty. Tonight's menu was: a tossed salad, baked chicken, vegetable rice, roasted squash & peppers and a dinner roll with tea or coffee. Key lime pie for dessert. It reminded me very much of the meals we had at the Downtown Holiday Inn a few years ago. We also met in a much larger room (see photo section), and the service was more efficient. It was apparent that President Eureka's talks with HCC managers had brought the desired results.

Oh yes, each plate had an individual favor of bite-sized candy bars in a tiny woven basket. These were the gifts to the Club members from President Eureka's twin sons Michael and Malik.

President Eureka asked me to encourage Club members to make an effort to be prompt in attending meetings, particularly those at the HCC. It will help the food service and the program to move along and get the meeting over at a decent hour.

Optimist Family News

President Eureka reported that **Jesse Lang** has a sinus infection, so was unable to come to the meeting.

Al Renz has been suffering from back pain for some weeks, now. I asked him how he was doing, and he said it was still very painful when he got up in the morning but got better during the day. The earliest he could get an appointment with his doctor is November 14.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at
Huntsville Country
Club

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

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Opening

Four guests were present tonight. They were Moriah and Legend Martin, children of our speaker, Ashlyn Jones, and Michelle Bauer, staff members at the Hawthorne Conservatory.

President Eureka called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer and lead the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. We actually had the prayer before eating tonight, a welcome change from recent meetings.

Announcements



Alfred Adams, Chairman of the **Pecan Sale** Committee, reported a number of Optimists had picked up their pecans, but several had not. Alfred said he would meet anyone who does not yet have their pecans at the ORC for their pick up. Call or e-mail him to make an appointment. Remember: **Your payment for the pecans is due no later than this month's business meeting on November 16.**



Kathy Anderson provided information on the Club's participation in the **Veterans' Day Parade** on November 11, such as where and when to assemble. It's attached to this newsletter. Tom Casteel will provide a new banner to lead our entry. A sign-up sheet is being circulated for you to sign up to ride in our convertible (Provided by new member Danielle Hartung).



Gay Pepper, who chairs our annual **Christmas Party**, said she has scheduled the party at the Huntsville Country Club, replacing our evening meeting there on December 7th. She has asked the Hawthorne Conservatory if they would be willing to provide some entertainment.

Dirty Santa and carol singing are the traditional activities at our Christmas party, but call or e-mail Gay if you have some other ideas.



Tom Casteel needs 10 Optimists to sign up for the **Dime-A-Day Program** sponsored by the Optimist International Foundation. The OIF is the non-profit arm of OI which provides the funds for the scholarships and other prizes for contests sponsored by OI. Your check for \$36.50, made out to “OIF” with “Dime-A-Day” in the memo line, is tax deductible. Besides the satisfaction of helping the OI Foundation, you will get a handsome lapel pin.

Program



President Eureka asked Clyde Nevins to introduce our speaker for this evening’s program, Mrs. Tiffany Martin, Director of the **Hawthorne Conservatory** in Huntsville. Mrs. Martin has been Director at the Conservatory since 2014. Before becoming Director, Mrs. Martin was a senior manager at BellSouth and had a dual career as a professional recording artist and songwriter.

Mrs. Martin opened her talk by thanking the Optimist Club for their generous support to the Hawthorne Conservatory for many years. Through our support, new programs have been undertaken by the Conservatory, and there are more new programs in work which she will describe. She remarked that she had recently seen a quote that addressed being grateful: “If you can’t thank the Lord for anything He’s given you, then thank Him for the things you have been protected from.” She said she is grateful and excited to be shaping hearts as well as shaping skills through the several programs at the Conservatory.

Mrs. Martin next briefly reported on the status of the Masters Music Program, the original music instructional programs sponsored by the Conservatory. In the past two years, instruction in drums, saxophone, and trombone have been added, and just this year clarinet instruction was also added. There are 40 students enrolled in this program.

She next reported on the Integrated Arts Program. This program features instruction in such arts as dance, theater, choir, photography, and painting. The Conservatory acquired a special building for this instruction, but the program has mostly blossomed in the Conservatory’s outreach programs which are held in remote locations to reach people who cannot travel to downtown Huntsville.

This year's big growth has been in the outreach programs. Both children and adults, are now enrolled in the outreach programs. The Conservatory teaches arts programs at Lincoln School and in low-income communities such as Butler Terrace, Lincoln Village, and Sparkman Homes. This outreach growth has been the focal point at the Conservatory this year, and new staff members have been added for this purpose.

Mrs. Martin introduced Ms. Michelle Bauer, Outreach Coordinator, who described a new initiative at the Downtown Rescue Mission. She described how the original intent at the DTR was to teach music and arts to children. The DTR provided a room to the Conservatory which was refurbished for the program. Curiosity by some women resulted in the program being offered to 19 adult ladies who are in the recovery program there, and now adult men at the DTR have pressed to be included in the program.

In conclusion, Mrs. Martin gave a few statistics. Enrollment in the ministry's programs totals 146, compared with 140 last year. There are more students enrolled in dance than in music. Eighty-two students are on full scholarship (no tuition); this is 56% of the students and is an 8% increase over last year.

Closing

President Eureka gave Mrs. Martin one of our Optimist Creed tiles as well as a hug, and thanked her for her presentation. She asked Legend Martin to draw for the attendance prize. Jim Roe missed out, but Al Renz won the pot on the second draw. Al said, "It's the first time I've won in 4 years."

Just before we were to recite the Optimist Creed, President Eureka spied the new food manager of the Huntsville Country Club, Terrence Brewer, passing by, and collared him so she could introduce him to the Club. Terrence said he has only been with HCC for three weeks and is still cleaning up some rough spots in the HCC food service, but pledged to do his best to bring excellent food and service our Club and other organizations. (Tonight's meal was a giant leap in that direction in the opinion of your newsletter editor)

President Eureka Battie led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Youth must skip about and leap, or at least do something that affords pleasure, . . . ought we not to furnish schools in which we could teach youth such art? We should always make it a point to habituate youth to enjoy the art of music, for it produces fine and skillful people.”

~ Martin Luther

CALENDAR

11/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.

Board Meeting

11/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)

11/24 Thursday **NO MEETING**



THANKSGIVING

12/7 Thursday 6:00 pm Huntsville Country Club

Annual Christmas Party



12/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)

12/28 Thursday **NO MEETING CHRISTMAS**



Website: hsvoptimists.org

PHOTOS



Ashlyn Jones, Tiffany Martin (our speaker), and Michelle Bauer



Guests Moriah and Legend Martin, Children of our Speaker



Our Meeting Room

EVENT

1. This event is dubbed the “Huntsville / Madison County Veterans Day Parade”, hereafter the “Veterans Day Parade” or simply the “Parade”.
2. This event has been an annual event in the Valley for almost 20 years.
3. In 2017, the Parade will be held on Veterans Day: Saturday, Nov 11, 2017.
4. Pre-Parade activities will take place in Veterans Memorial Park between 10 and 11 a.m.. Opening ceremonies will take place at 11 a.m. in front of the Park. The cannon will fire at approx. 11:11 a.m. to start the Parade.
5. For Spectators, the Parade will begin at the Veterans Memorial Park on Monroe Street in Huntsville. The route is shown on the map below.
6. Spectators may line up anywhere along the Parade Route, however, the majority of the activities will be conducted in Veterans Memorial Park.
7. For floats, bands, and other Parade participants, the Parade will be mustered in “Lot K”, the vacant lot across from the Post Office on Clinton Ave between 8:30 am and 10:15 am.
8. Late entries or un-registered entries will be placed at the rear of the Parade.



Figure 1. Parade Route

Parade Participants:

- Arrive with your Entry (Float / Band / Marching Unit / Vehicle(s) between 8:30 and 10:15 at Lot K “Parade Check In”.
- You must enter the city on Clinton Avenue headed East toward the Post Office (see map below). Parade marshals will be on-hand to direct you to check-in.
- You will stay in Lot K until approximately 10:30 when the Parade Marshals will start leading the “Lead Elements” out of Lot K and onto Holmes Ave.
- The driver must stay with the vehicle at all times... simply follow the Parade Entry that is in front of you! Parade Marshals are checking placement at all times.



Parade Lineup

1. Please get in line where the Parade Marshals (Warrant Officers) tell you to go.
2. Parade Marshals will line up displays according to a list generated by the Parade Planning Committee prior to the day of the Parade.
3. Parade line-up is not first-come, first served! Many factors affect positioning. Some of these factors (but not all) include:
 - a. The Honor/Color Guard is always placed up front.
 - b. The military units, police, and fire departments are dispersed throughout the Parade in case they are needed.
 - c. Bands are not placed next to military units so the military units can keep a marching cadence.
 - d. Small children's organizations (Brownies, Cub Scouts) are not placed behind Large Military Vehicles.
 - e. People having suggestions regarding Parade lineups may forward their comments and suggestions to the Parade Chairman, Max Bennett, at maxbennett64@gmail.com for consideration in next years' Parade.
 - f. These guidelines are not hard and fast... the Parade Marshals will make adjustments as needed to account for gaps, missing entries, oversized entries, etc. Safety is always a first consideration.
4. Special accommodations will always be made for the Floyd E. 'Tut' Fann Veterans Home. Have the driver get in line during normal line-up times. Veterans riding on the float may show up together later and will be escorted to their float by Parade Marshals.

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: