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# Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville  
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## March Evening Meeting



**HUNTSVILLE  
COUNTRY CLUB**

Our meeting was in the large room at the Country Club tonight, and it was a good thing. The 17 members, 3 guests and our speaker that attended our meeting filled all the available spaces at the tables. Our meal included a tossed green salad, backed chicken breast, roll, veggies, and a variety of cheesecakes for dessert.

## Opening

President Eureka welcomed everyone and asked for introductions of our guests.

- Tom Casteel's guest was **Trey Pope**. Trey is a financial advisor here in Huntsville and is interested in joining our club.
- Eureka Battie's guest was **Vikki Moore**. Vikki works in finance and accounting at CSRA. She is the coordinator for PEARLS and is also interested in becoming a member of our club.
- Becky Harris brought her son **Jacob Harris** to the meeting. Jacob is a member of the Hazel Green JOI Club, and he will be attending the District JOI Club convention this weekend.

## Project Roll Goal

Several Club members brought bundles of toilet paper tonight in response to **President Eureka's Roll Goal challenge**. The bundles will be presented to the Hazel Green JOI Club at their meeting on March 15. Becky Harris invited anyone from our Club to attend. Call or e-mail her for more details.



**Club meets**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**  
**At 6:00 p.m. at**  
**Huntsville Country**  
**Club**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**  
**At 11:45 a.m.**  
**Optimist Recreational**  
**Center**

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**Announcements**



**Pancake Breakfast** Chairman Alberto Duarte asked everyone to get their \$50 for the benefit of the Hawthorne Conservatory to Al Renz by the Business Meeting this month. He needs a final accounting of the amount that has been raised from the pancake breakfast so the donation to the Conservatory can be made.



The **Oratorical Contest** is this **Saturday!** It will be held at the Cooper House on beginning at **9:00 a. m.** Chairman Alberto Duarte said he has 4 entries and expects more to register at the event. Please plan to attend and interact with the contestants and their parents. We've recruited several new members from this project in the past.

**Tri-Star Basketball** Chairman Jesse Lang reminded Club members of the Tri-Star basketball competition to be held **March 17** at the Optimist Recreation Center. He needs several Optimists, both male and female, to help score the events. Flyers for the event are available to promote the contest to boys and girls from age 8 through age 13. The contest will begin at **9:30 a. m.**



President Battie announced that the Club's **Youth Appreciation Banquet** will take the place of next month's evening meeting on **April 12**. Chairperson Gay Pepper is soliciting nominees from schools and youth organizations to be honored at the banquet. You can help her by providing names of worthy honorees.



## Program



This month's program chairman Tom Casteel introduced our speaker for the evening, **Ms. Sharon Langford of the Huntsville Fire Department**. Ms. Langford is one of the seven Assistant Fire Marshals in the department.

Ms. Langford gave an interesting and informative talk on how to prevent fires in one's home. She began by giving the common sources of fires: kitchen grease fires and electrical fires.



Grease fires are best snuffed out by simply putting a lid on the flame in the pan. If that doesn't do the job, use a fire extinguisher and accept the clean-up mess to follow. First, of course, is knowing where your fire extinguisher is and that it is in good working order. Then, to extinguish the fire, remember the acronym PASS:

**P**ull the pin on the fire extinguisher

**A**im the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire

**S**queeze the handle of the extinguisher

**S**weep the nozzle back and forth.

If your fire extinguisher is old, it may need recharging (there are several companies in Huntsville that do that) or replacement (if it was made before 1989). Ms. Langford strongly recommends getting an ABC rated fire extinguisher that is effective in all sorts of fires.



Another common source of fires is the improper use of extension cords. A single extension cord is meant to be a temporary way to get power to a device. If the cord is used as a permanent solution or is piggy backed onto yet another extension cord or power strip, or if it's covered with a rug or mat, you are asking for trouble.

Daylight Saving Time is a traditional time to check and/or replace the battery on your smoke detector and is this coming Sunday. A properly placed smoke detector with a good battery can save your life.

## Closing

President Eureka gave our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed and asked her to draw a name for our attendance prize. Byrom Goodwin's name was drawn first, and he missed out for the umpteenth time. Jim Roe was the next name drawn, and Jim shared his winnings with the Club's childhood cancer fund.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

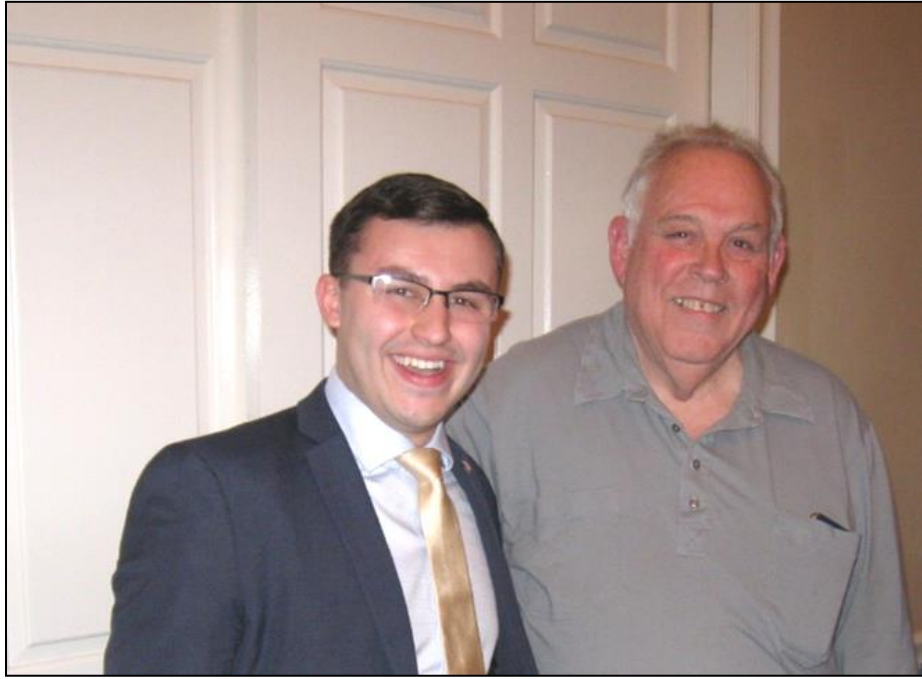
**“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire”**

*~William Butler Yeats*

# PHOTOS



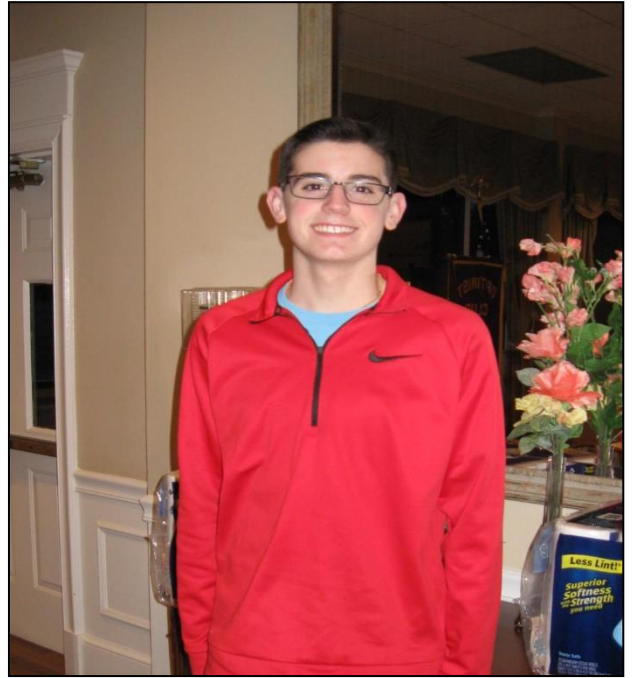
**Our Speaker, Assistant Fire Marshal Sharon Langford**



**Tom Casteel with His Guest Trey Pope**



**Eureka's guest, Vikki Moore**



**Guest Jacob Harris, son of  
Becky Harris**

## CALENDAR

- MAR 8 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club  
**Fire Forensics – Huntsville Fire Department**
- MAR 10 Saturday 9.00 am **Cooper House**  
**Oratorical Contest**
- MAR 10 Saturday 10.00 am **Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport**  
**District Junior Optimist (JOI) Convention**
- MAR 17 Saturday 9.00 am to 11:00 am **Optimist Recreation Center**  
**TRI – Star Basketball**
- MAR 22 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)**
- APR 2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- APR 12 Thursday **6:00 pm** **Brahan Spring Recreation Center**  
3770 Ivy Avenue SW, Huntsville, AL  
**Youth Appreciation Banquet**
- APR 26 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Charlene Higgins)**
- MAY 1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**

Website: [hsvoptimists.org](http://hsvoptimists.org)





**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
P.O. Box 2230  
Huntsville, AL 35801-2230

**TO:**



## THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

**T**o be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
**T**o talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
**T**o make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
**T**o look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
**T**o think only the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.  
**T**o be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
**T**o forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
**T**o wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
**T**o give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
**T**o be, and stay, happy for the presence of trouble for fear, and also happy for the absence of trouble.

Optimist International