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Opti - Topics

**Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 72, Number 20 – August 9, 2018**

August Evening Meeting



A great turnout of 14 Optimists, two guests, and our speaker assembled at the Piccadilly Cafeteria this evening's meeting. The restaurant set up several

tables in a row to accommodate our group. We selected and paid for the food we liked and came to the back area that they had roped off for us.

We had two visitors this evening. Jesse Lang's wife; Pat and Richie Myers guest, Mark Reavis. Mark is a semi-retired engineer and will be joining our club. Welcome Mark.

Opening

President Eureka Thompson opened the meeting by asking Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation, and Eureka led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

This weekend President Eureka, Keaires Roberson, Jeannette Roberson, Al Adams, and Tom Casteel will be going to Sheffield, AL to meet with Michael Abernathy, CEO and Founder of Growing Minds. They will be discussing the process of starting an Optimist Club in Sheffield. The meeting will be at 611 SE 15 ½ ST, Sheffield, AL; Saturday, August 11th at 11:00 am.

**Club meets
2nd Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at
Huntsville Country
Club**

**4th Thursdays
At 11:45 a.m.
Optimist Recreational
Center**

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The Huntsville Optimist Foundation Board voted to change the bylaws of the Foundation to modify the way their Directors are elected.

Previously the Foundation had three Associate Directors that elected their own replacements and the Club elected four Directors. Now the Club will elect all seven Directors for three-year terms in a 3-2-2 staggered pattern. We will need to elect or re-elect three Foundation Directors at this October's business meeting.

Eureka needs all committee chairs to submit their end of year committee reports to her by **August 31st**. Just a short synopsis of the committee's activities this year, any changes we need to do to improve the activity, and budget requirements for next year. Please be prompt in doing this as it will help us serve the youth better next year.

Optimist Family News

Matt and Bill Clarke are in New Orleans. Alberto Duarte is in New Mexico visiting his son Fabiani, several other members had other events they needed to attend.

Program

Our speaker this evening was Rodney A. Smith Jr. Rodney is the founder of **Raising Men Lawn Care Service** a combination of an ordinary yard maintenance service and the commitment to establish an inspiring program to keep our youth (girls & boys) on a positive path while learning and understanding their value in society.

On his way home from his college classes, Rodney saw an elderly man struggling to mow his lawn and decided to finish the job for him. He's since founded Raising Men Lawn Care Service which encourages boys and girls to provide free lawn care to those who are unable to do so.

To publicize his program, Rodney has cut yards for free in all fifty states. All the major networks have covered his efforts. He has a website at <http://weareraisingmen.com/> and a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/iamrodneysmithjr/>

He created the **50 Yard Challenge**, challenging youth to commit to cut fifty yards. He set it up like the karate system. When they join the challenge, they receive a white shirt with the R.M.L.C.S logo on the front. For every 10 lawns cut, they receive a new color shirt. Once they cut 10 lawns, they receive an orange shirt; 20 lawns, a green shirt; 30 lawns, a blue shirt; 40 lawns, a red shirt, and 50 lawns, a black shirt. Once they reach 50, they become a lot like a black belt at mowing lawns.

Once a child reaches 50 lawns Rodney will visit them, cut a few lawns with them, and give them a new lawn mower.

His latest project is helping the homeless with items like sleeping bags, gloves, etc. He also dressed up as Santa last Christmas and plans to expand this program next year. Rodney is an amazing young man with a heart for others.

Closing

Eureka asked our guest, Mark Reavis to draw a name for the attendance prize. Al Adams was the winner. She then led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Bob Hirschbuehler

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Ah, kindness. What a simple way to tell another struggling soul that there is love to be found in the world.” ~ *Alison Malee*

CALENDAR

August 23rd Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Annie Sandusky)

September 11th Tuesday **4:00 pm** 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.

Board Meeting

September 13th Thursday **6:00 pm** Piccadilly Cafeteria

Evening Meeting

Photos



**Annie Sandusky Introduces
Our Speaker.**



Shirt Examples



**Rodney A. Smith Jr Talks
to the Club Members**



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



TO:

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