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Opti - Topics

**Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 74, Number 7 -February 27, 2020**

February Business Meeting

Fifteen Optimists and one guest assembled at the Optimist Recreational Center for our February business meeting. President Joseph Lee called our meeting to order. He then asked Jim King to give the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening

President Lee then introduced our guest; Mike Sparks. Mike is a computer systems consultant. President Joseph has been consulting with him about having our meetings transmitted over the internet using "Go To Meeting".

Lunch



Demetria Braudaway provided lunch today. The meal was prepared by 'Catered by Gracie's'. We had two pasta dishes, one was Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo and the other was a Baked Spaghetti dish. They were both delicious. There was also a spinach salad with the choice of Ranch or Raspberry Vinaigrette salad dressings. A homemade pound cake finished off the meal. Well done Demetria.

Treasurer's Report

Al Renz presented the Treasurer's report. We ended the month with a bank balance of \$17,200.22.

Club meets

2nd Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at
Blue Plate Cafe

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

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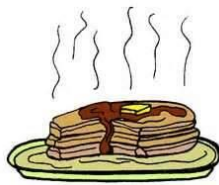
Tom Casteel
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Tri-Star Basketball Contest



This year we have joined with The City of Huntsville Parks and Recreation Department to add a session with the special-needs kids. After our three age categories we are adding an Adaptive Athletes program. The contest will be held Saturday, February 29th. The Gymnasium is reserved from 9 am to 12 am. Join us for lots of fun with the kids.

Pancake Breakfast



Our annual Pancake Breakfast in support of the Hawthorne Conservatory on Saturday was an overwhelming success. This year over 250 people attended to enjoy pancakes, sausage, bacon and a variety of beverages.

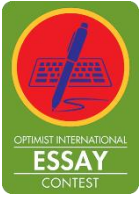
The Hazel Green Junior Optimist Club, the young ladies from the Pearls Organization, and members from Central Presbyterian Church, joined our Optimist members to make this a successful event.

We want to thank Alberto Duarte for his leadership in this project. Also, our thanks go out to Michelle Bauer, Director of the Hawthorne Conservatory, for arranging the entertainment by the Hawthorne students. The music and dance were delightful. It was good to see the positive results of their mission.

A special thanks goes out to the members of the Central Presbyterian Church for their support in selling tickets and assistance in cooking and serving the attendees.

If you haven't turned in your ticket sales money (or your \$50 donation) please do so quickly as we wish to present the final check to the Hawthorne Conservatory.

Essay Contest



We received eleven essays this year. The judging is complete, and our winner's essay has been forwarded to the District competition. Thanks to Danielle Barnes and Tom Rumph for their excellent work with this project. The winners will be announced at our next meeting.

Youth Appreciation Banquet

Mark your calendars, Eureka Thompson reported that our Youth Appreciation Banquet will be held at the Optimist Recreational Center on April 30th at 6:30 pm. Selections of young people to be recognized is currently underway.

Kite Festival

The annual Kite Festival will be held on March 7th, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Our Club will have a table in the Jaycee Exhibit Hall. We will be giving out balsa wood flyers to the children and talking to attendees about the Club and its activities. Come by and help for an hour if you can. We are able to talk to folks about our club plus make some youngsters happy with the airplanes. The oratorical contest is the same day, so pick one event and enjoy. A media event is being held on Thursday, March 5th where our Club will donate sixty-five kites to the Seminole Boys & Girls Club. President Joseph Lee will make the presentation.



Huntsville Optimist Foundation



Alberto reported that as of February 27, the balances of the Foundation's investments were: Regions Bank: \$878,672 and Synovus Bank: \$192,060, for a total of \$1,070,732. We are doing quite well considering the market at the present time.

Band Program

It is that time of the year when we need to contact the band directors to have them to select a student for us to recognize and to determine when their concert will be held. If you wish to help with this contact Tom Casteel (tom@leetsac.net)

Closing

President Lee had Mike Sparks draw for the attendance prize. He drew Connie Gipson first who wasn't present then drew our new member, Jim King. President Lee led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Tom Casteel

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"An Optimist is the human personification of Spring."

~ Susan J. Bissonnette

CALENDAR

- March 7th Saturday **9:00 am** Union Chapel Academy, 315 Winchester Rd NE
Oratorical Contest
- March 7th Saturday **11:00 am – 3:00 pm** John Hunt Park Festival Grounds
Annual Community Kite Festival
- March 12th Thursday **6:00 pm** Blue Plate Café, 7540 Memorial Pkwy SW
Evening Meeting
- March 26th Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting (Tom Casteel)
- April 7th Tuesday **4:00 pm** Synovus Bank – 4650 Whitesburg DR
Board Meeting
- April 9th Thursday **6:00 pm** Blue Plate Café, 7540 Memorial Pkwy SW
Evening Meeting
- April 23rd Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting (Matt Clarke)
- April 30th Thursday **6:30 pm** Optimist Recreation Center
Youth Appreciation Banquet



Optimist Club of Huntsville
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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

