



OPTI-TOPICS

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

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1st Vice President.....Jim Roe
2nd Vice President.....Jim Pepper
Secretary Treasurer.....Al Renz

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Tom Casteel '10 Buddy Beck '11
Matt Hancock '10 Jim Berry '11
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Starting next week the 20 listed will receive this newsletter via e-mail. Ill e-mail a copy to Tom Casteel on Friday and he will do the forwarding. Today we had a reasonable turnout, and the buffet line was temporarily resurrected for this meeting. Sidney expressed thanks and led us in the pledge of allegiance. It was good to have Jerry Shoemaker in attendance. Jerry retains his membership, but spends most of his time at Orange Beach. Elaine Plank was Duane's guest, and Zack said he would be happy to sponsor her into membership. Fabiani made a surprise visit, and distributed copies of a Vanderbilt newspaper featuring his front page picture for his recent award as the school's outstanding senior (looks presidential to me). Jim Berry announced that Jesse Lang, his recent guest, has become our newest member. Jesse is a retired police officer, and we welcome him into our organization. The

ROC (Randolph Jr. Optimist Club) had their installation of officers this week. This outstanding JOOI Club has 59 members. Al Renz commented that our 3 JOOI Clubs boast a membership in excess of 100. Hats off to those who made this happen!

Tom Casteel is accepting \$36.50 checks from anyone desiring to support the District's dime-a-day scholarship program. Remember, you could win a flat-screen

TV. Pres. Bob Martin reported that John Shirey is recovering from his fall 9 weeks ago. His arm and leg are still in braces, but he continues to be optimistic that healing is progressing. He looks forward to that day when he will be able to rejoin us.

Al Renz introduced Jerry Burfitt, retired 3M manager. Jerry now administers a Masonic program focused on helping kids experiencing dyslexia, a disturbance of the ability to read - a problem with hearing vowels and employing phonics. They have initiated several pilot programs in Alabama schools, since good reading skills are vital to any field of study. As "Friend of Youth," support to the 10% to 20% of our children identified as suffering from this malady would be well directed. Inability to read effectively is a major reason for school dropouts, and, furthermore, Jerry said that 80% of those incarcerated are illiterate. George Ferrell won the \$\$\$.

CALENDAR

10/29	Thurs.	11:45 am	DHI	Jim Berry - Senior Center History
11/03	Tues.	4:00pm	1 st Comm Bank	Board Meeting
11/05	Thurs.	11:45 am	DHI	Tom Diles – Children’s Museum
11/12	Thurs.	11:45 am	DHI	Junior Achievement Program
11/19	Thurs.	11:45 am	ORC	Business Meeting
11/26	Thanksgiving – No Meeting			
12/03	Thurs.	11:45 am	DHI	Christmas Charities, Violet Edwards
12/10	Thurs.	6:00 pm	DHI	Christmas Party (guests \$15)

