



OPTI-TOPICS

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

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

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Pres. Bob Martin called on Chaplain Sidney to offer today's invocatory prayer and to lead the pledge of allegiance. Attending were over 20 members and guests. Bob continued with his hilarious definition of a nightmare. It was good to have Patti back along with her guest, Leslie Sharpe. Joe Collins was Al Renz' guest, and Joe and Laura Connaughton were guests of Jim Berry. Pres. Bob announced that John Shirey plans to be back with us as soon as he feels confident enough to drive. Perhaps someone living near him could offer him a ride.

Volunteers are needed to help plan our December 10 Christmas party. Call Bob if you'd like to participate. Bill Clarke reported we have about 15 band instruments that could be being played by current middle school students. About 100 have been distributed, but there remains a nice mix, including: saxophones, flutes, trombones and cornets. Duane told about recently enjoying an impressive concert at Sparkman with someone who once played one of our instruments at Meridianville conducting – real fruitage.

Jim Berry, one of our own, was speaker today. Jim is a Methodist minister, having a degree from Birmingham Southern College in 1953. He's moved around a lot during his career, as Methodists do, arriving in Huntsville in 1966. Soon after that he joined the Huntsville Optimist Club, and was an active member for some time. Sidney invited him to rejoin us a few years ago. Today Jim traced his involvement, and indeed leadership, that has grown into our current popular senior

center, important to many of us. In addition to being a center for recreation and training, e.g., computer courses, “Meals-on-Wheels” is managed out of the senior center. Jim’s story started during Albert Brewer’s administration, where the Governor supported seeking federal grants for funds that had become available as a result of Great Society and Civil Rights legislation. The Huntsville program became a model for the state. Early on, Jim helped organize commodity distribution of surplus food to the poor and elderly. He gave credit to several individuals who became active in this work, and the evolution of a senior center from meager beginnings at various locations to the rather acceptable quarters at Big Spring Park where the Huntsville Museum of Art is now situated, to the current fine facilities out near Brahan Spring, across the street from our future special needs playground. Thanks, Jim, for your dedicated service to our community. As Grantland Rice once penned: “When the One Great Score comes to mark against your name, He writes – not that you won or lost – but how you played the game.” Duane Plank won the attendance prize.

CALENDAR

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)

