



OPTI-TOPICS

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Only 16 showed up for today's first meeting of 2010, but those who stayed home due to the snowy weather, missed one of our best meetings in a while. Even our scheduled speaker had to cancel so she could travel to Monte Sano to pick up her child whose school was dismissed at 11:30. For this same reason my grandson Graham was able to meet with us. He always asks me about the Optimist Club – and how long has it been since I won the money.

Pres. Bob Martin called on Jim Berry for our opening invocation and pledge of allegiance. After eating – a really tender and tasty steak dinner – Al Renz introduced his two sons Dale and Bob who were still in town on their holiday visit. Dale is a Texas A & M alumnus and Bob has degrees from MIT and Stanford. They became our speakers for the luncheon, both describing their current employment experiences. Dale led off, telling about his work at the Russian Sakhalin Islands located at the country's eastern extremity close to Japan. His employment involves developing the abundant oil potential there under an intergovernmental contract. In addition to this he included in his remarks, living in this remote area, and the many adjustments required. It was a fascinating account and many questions from the audience

added more detail. In discussing living expenses he said today's meal would come in at about \$60 at Sakhalin, so, again, if you didn't come out today it was your loss. Then Bob continued our program with a description of his many faceted experiences working for Boeing in Seattle, mostly in management and sales. He remarked that one of things he enjoys about Seattle is that it is not polarized, and is a great place to live. He offered that partisan politics is secondary to solving problems, and that the whole country could benefit from such an outlook and just move forward. It was evident that both sons were proud of their dad and his achievements – as are we.

Next week Patti Walker has arranged for attorney Travis Bartee to explain some ideas he has on estate planning. Maybe you know someone who might benefit from this program. On the 28th someone from Huntsville Hospital's Wellness Center will be our speaker. Bob Martin won the money today. Al Renz reminded us of the upcoming fundraiser for the special needs playground. The date is February 6 and the place is the JayCee building. Al will have tickets and more details next week.

CALENDAR

01/14	Tues.11:45	DHI	Travis Bartee – Estate Planning
01/21	Tues.11:45	ORC	Business Meeting (Patti Walker)
01/28	Tues.11:45	DHI	Hunts. Hosp. Wellness Center Speaker

