



OPTI-TOPICS

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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When I picked up the Sunday Times I learned that Sidney Sandridge is going to Washington. It reminded me of that Jimmy Stewart movie, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." I recall Smith made a major impact. Let's hope Sidney does, too. Sidney opened today's meeting of about 20 of us with a prayer, and then led us in the pledge of allegiance. We had one guest in addition to the speaker – Marlene Renz. After

an excellent meal, conversation and fellowship around the table; Pres. Bob slammed the gavel down at 12:20 pm. First, he asked Al Renz to give us the status of his ailment. Al will undergo a back operation on June 4 to repair a herniated disk. Please keep Al and Marlene in your solemn thoughts.

Pres. Bob (waiter extraordinaire) reported that the tips flowed generously at the fundraiser held at Logan's Roadhouse last Monday. The playground coffers were enhanced to the tune of \$9,361. Tom Casteel kept track of each waiter's performance tip wise. He noted an abundance of \$20 bills, and that our Bob's take led all the waiters. Bob congratulated the members of the band instrument committee for completing another successful year with the presentation of awards over the last few weeks as school came to a close. Al Renz gave a pitch on the Boston butt sale scheduled for June 26 to benefit the playground. Briefly, the 6 to 8 pound butts go for \$35 – about half the price of a commercial purchase. Plates are \$8. All

sales are in advance. More details next week. Pick up will be June 26 to coincide with a ground-breaking ceremony at the playground site. Pres. Bob asked that everyone make their best effort to invite a guest (prospective member) to our June 10 NOW Luncheon. Our speaker that day will be Dr. Terry Davis, Supt. of County Schools. Finally, getting no volunteers to head up a picnic planning committee, Pres. Bob will take this on, ably assisted by Gay Pepper.



Tom Casteel introduced today's speaker, Joel Mason, band director of Mountain Gap Middle School. Tom said Joel once played in the Grissom band before matriculating to the University of Cincinnati where he earned a degree from that school's prestigious music department. Tom has been our contact with MGMS, and is impressed by the fact that not only do the kids respect Joel, they actually like him, a rarity at some schools nowadays. Joel has served now 8 years at MGMS where he inherited an outstanding band and has enjoyed a 30% growth in members at the same time that the school enrollment dropped 30%. After hearing Joel speak it's easy to feel his contagious enthusiasm and optimism, evidenced by their band shirts emblazoned with, "Band Is Life – Life Is Good." MGMS's players put learning new music and improving playing skills as their primary goals. Any honors or accolades are secondary. Joel said band members have notably better grade-point-averages compared to non players, and he congratulated our club for our band instrument program, adding that what we are doing matters.

There was no winner for the attendance prize again this week, so the pot grows. Bob estimates about \$50 has been carried over.

CALENDAR

06/01	Tues. 4:00pm	1 st Comm. Bank	Board of Directors Meeting
06/03	Thurs.11:45	DHI	Sheriff Blake Dorning
06/10	Thurs.11:45	DHI	County Schools Supt. Terry Davis + NOW Program
06/17	Thurs.11:45	ORC	Business Meeting (Food by Plank)
06/24	Thurs.11:45	DHI	Kathy McCowan – Solving the Puzzle of Autism

