



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Casteel '10	Buddy Beck '11
Matt Hancock '10	Jim Berry '11
	Patti Walker '11

VOL. 64, No. 33, June 3, 2010

Sidney's prayer today contained a strong element of patriotism, reflecting his inclusion in the recent Honor Flight excursion to Washington, DC. Then he proudly led us in the pledge of allegiance.

We had about 30 in attendance today – many guests. Duane Plank's guest was his wife Elaine (soon to celebrate 50 years together). She said she was a child bride, and the club extended sympathies to her. Jesse Lang's guest was Tony Bryant, his good friend visiting from Detroit. Charlie Jones was Jim Berry's guest. Al's guest was wife Marlene. Their son-in-law and member Darrel McColgan introduced his wife and her sister. I had my grandson Graham as my guest.

Pres. Bob reminded us that next week will be our NOW (New Optimists Wanted) Luncheon, and he hopes that today's meeting was an indication of the beginning of a guest trend, with emphasis on potential new members. Furthermore, Bob announced our annual club picnic is now set for Saturday, July 10, at Sidney's farm, and that we can expect to enjoy outstanding barbecued chicken prepared by Blake Dorning. Volunteers are needed to prepare for this event. Contact Bob or Gay if you can help. We'll be sending around a sign-up sheet next time. Bill Clarke's birthday is in a few days, so we honored him with our harmony.



Duane introduced our speaker, Sheriff Blake Dorning, a recent landslide winner in the Republican Primary. Blake, who is a member of our club, came armed, so we felt a little safer today. It turns out he is related to one of our charter members, Buddy Bryant who was employed by the H. C. Blake Co. I didn't catch the exact relationship. Blake discussed the status of our new jail, and how the boy scouts recently assisted him in testing its readiness for occupancy. Several scouts spent the night there under controlled conditions. They searched for any scraps of material inmates might fabricate into dangerous devices of any kind; they conducted a massive flush to test the plumbing; and they experienced a simulated lock-down till early morning at which time they were all ready to leave. Sheriff Dorning hopes they learned the lesson that jail is a place to be avoided. As the normal conduct of his office was described one gets the feeling that our county law enforcement is in good hands – tough, but fair. With respect to our economy Blake relies on what he calls the pawn shop indicator. When pawn shops are overflowing, times are not good and vice versa. He recently noted pawn shops currently contain an abundance of building tools and supplies.

Jim Berry won the attendance prize. It was a Whopper. Alberto Duarte has the July programs.

CALENDAR

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
07/10	Sat.	Sandridge Farm	Club Picnic

