

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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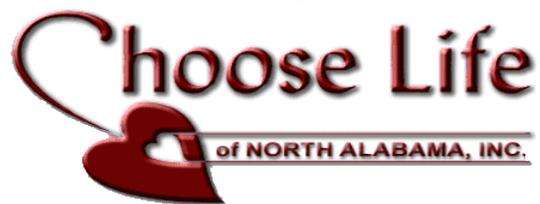
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As I looked around the room at today's Optimist luncheon I was particularly grateful for the group of people of various interests and talents that make up our organization and for the contributions from each as we strive to be "Friend of Youth."

Today Sidney Sandridge led us in prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Pres. Jim Roe had our guests recognized. Al Renz introduced his grandson Robbie. Darrel McColgan introduced his wife Cheryl and his mother-in-law Marlene.

Then Jim called on Al to honor Alberto who recently sponsored a new member, Fabiani. This qualified him for PGI Level V, and Al went on to spell out the requirements to reach Level VI.

Tom Casteel had CDs of his recent Internet Safety presentation for anyone who could use them. A sign-up sheet for the YAW Banquet (see Calendar) was passed around.



Next Al introduced Austin Boyd, CEO of Inergi, Inc. and Director of Choose Life of North Alabama. Austin is

retired from the U.S. Navy, and has authored several space-related technical papers, as well as, a number of novels. He spoke today on the "Huntsville Crisis Pregnancy Center: Choose Life." The center is located on Rands Avenue, just behind Huntsville Hospital's Women and Children facility.

His talk was especially meaningful to me as I observe my 16-year-old granddaughter, a junior at Huntsville High, being socially tempted, and to my way of thinking not always making right choices.

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Some of the statistics Mr. Boyd brought out were indeed alarming, e.g., 43% of all American women will terminate at least one pregnancy, and Huntsville has had mothers as young as 11 years old. Of the 1322 such Crisis Pregnancy Centers across our nation, Huntsville is the 2nd most active. He was quick to add, however, that activity can be credited to a loving and caring city.

More than 50 churches support the Center. More than 100 qualified volunteer counselors regularly make themselves available. Volunteer OB/GYN physicians and nurses conduct more than 120 ultrasounds per month. The current center has a patient level of about 5,000 per year, and could accommodate up to 7,000.

Ultrasound images have led to 96% of clients choosing Life, and the Christian guidance has resulted in over 250 professions of faith per year. Many of Austin's stories were highly emotional as they guide young girls through difficult times and choices and adjustments to events following any crisis pregnancy. He emphasized that all services are free. I think we're all grateful for the work of this Center.

Jim Roe was the recipient of the drawing today.

Carl W.



Optimistic Quote of The Week

" Too often we under estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Leo Buscaglia

CALENDAR

4/16 Saturday 1:00 pm Madison Public Library
130 Plaza Blvd
Madison, AL
Just off Hughes Road

Regional Oratorical Contest

4/21 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food Al Renz

4/26 Tuesday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ

Youth Appreciation Week Banquet

4/28 Thursday **NO MEETING**

5/2 Monday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ

Respect For Law Banquet

5/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

5/5 Thursday **NO MEETING**

5/12 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBA - Jack Fauble

5/19 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food Jack Fauble