



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

VOL. 66, No.5, October 27, 2011

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Pepper
256-655-9659
jpepper777@msn.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Casteel
256-882-9380
tom@leetsac.net

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Jack Fauble
256-771-1092
poorfarm2006@aol.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Al Renz
256-772-7929
optimist3480@aol.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Jim Roe
256-883-8950
j_m_roe@yahoo.com

Pres. Jim Pepper called on Chaplain Sidney Sandridge to get today's luncheon underway with a prayer of thanks. Then Sidney led us in the pledge of allegiance. Guests today included Charlie Ross, guest of Zack; and Jim Berry's wife. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

Pres. Jim noted that since Zack would reach a major milestone prior to our next meeting it would be proper to recognize his 80th a little in advance with a song. Congratulations!

Tom Casteel told us about a touring basketball group (both male and female stars) similar to the Harlem Globetrotters, who will be in our neck of the woods next February. Tom would like to see us try this fundraiser. It would require finding a competitive opponent, a place for the game, and selling tickets. He added that the group routinely goes into the schools to inspire students to achieve their fullest potential – completely in line with Optimist objectives. After some discussion it was decided to defer this till our next business meeting.



CENTER FOR AGING

October program chairman Jim Berry introduced our speaker, Dr. George McDonough, a member of our club. George was once Director of MSFC's Science & Engineering Office, but retired in 1995 in order to devote his full time to caring for his wife who had been diagnosed with cancer. She suffered for 13 years. Today, George is CEO of Center for Aging located on Memorial Parkway just south of Drake Avenue adjacent to Ethan Allen Furniture.

DIRECTORS

2 YR

Alfred G. Adams
502-541-6469
alfredg.adams@gmail.com

Byrom Goodwin
256-881-3113

Bob Martin
256-722-8062
bmartin12@bellsouth.net

1 YR

Jim Berry
256-539-2101
jberryn@bellsouth.net

Connie Gipson
256-534-1384
cfgipson@yahoo.com

Matt Hancock
256-990-0077
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

George said he has been a lifelong optimist, and was delighted to learn there was an organization devoted to Optimism. He joined our club several months ago. George said only someone dealing with caring for a loved one in need of care over a long period of time could understand what he has experienced.

He discussed the high level of professionalism offered by Hospital Emergency Rooms through their dedicated staff and state-of-the-art equipment, but he also noted how expensive this was. In some cases the Center for Aging, founded by Dr. Khan, is an alternative to the ER. As George put it "Nothing is as strong as an idea whose time has come."

George sees skyrocketing health care costs as one of the major concerns of our country. At Center for Aging a patient can simply walk in and be treated to a primary evaluation, and be referred to a specialist familiar with and sympathetic to problems unique to the elderly.

Jesse Lang gave a testimony of how he had been helped by the Center for Aging, and the part Jim Berry played in arranging for an appointment with Dr. Khan – cost free.

Alberto took home the money today.



Optimistic Quote of the Week

"Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push. A smile. A world of optimism and hope. A "you can do it" when things are tough."

Richard M. DeVos

CALENDAR

11/3 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Nancy Colin – ALS Association

11/8 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

11/10 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Sheila McFerran – Still Serving Veterans

11/17 Thursday 11:45 Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Jim & Gay Pepper)

11/24 Thursday **NO MEETING**

Thanksgiving