



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

VOL. 66, No.23, April 5, 2012

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

Opening

The Optimist Club of Huntsville held its regularly scheduled meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Nineteen Optimist members and two guests were present. It was good to have Jane Shinn back, fully recovered from her recent stay in the hospital. Jane said she has been cleared by her doctor to resume her normal activities. Our guests were Megan McFerran (Fabiani) and Cdr. Tim Zane (Jim Berry). This was Megan's second visit. Tim just recently moved to Huntsville to assume his duties as one of the U. S. Navy representatives to the Missile Defense Command on Redstone Arsenal.

President Jim Pepper called on Rev. Jim Berry to open the meeting in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Necessary Business

Jim Pepper announced that Peter Sathi has decided to discontinue his membership in the Club.

Al Renz reported that the Madison County 4-H Club office has contacted him for judges at their upcoming 4-H Roundup. Due to scheduling difficulties, the Roundup will be held on a Tuesday this year instead of the customary Saturday. This makes getting judges for the Roundup competitions more difficult than usual. The 4-H Clubs want (and need) some Optimist judges for the 15 events. The Roundup will be held at Alabama A & M on Tuesday morning, April 24. Contact Al Renz if you will volunteer for this service to youth of our county.

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

Program

Al Renz introduced the speaker for our program, Ms. Amber Snider, a recruiter from Alabama Mentor. Alabama Mentor is a for-profit organization that locates foster parents to provide therapeutic foster care for children needing more personalized care because of their emotional or behavior problems. Nearly all children needing placement have ADHD, autism, bipolar, or similar mental illnesses. Alabama Mentor serves children from ages 6 to 21, and seeks families that can provide them mentoring in life skills, especially those that need help in areas that result in misbehavior. They get their funding from Medicaid, based on the number of children they are able to place in foster homes.

After a background check, fingerprinting, home visit and interview, families who are willing to provide foster care receive 30 hours of training. They are matched with foster children who meet their desires on age range, gender, and types of misbehavior they would be comfortable dealing with. Because of the extra mentoring required, families who accept a foster child receive \$30 per day from the Federal Medicaid program and \$150 per month or more from Madison County. All medical care for the foster child is provided free by Medicaid.

Ms. Snider said her hope was that her talk today would lead to locating foster homes for the many children in our area needing therapeutic care. She asked that Optimists provide her leads to potential foster parents or links to other organizations where she could present this need to the public. Ms. Snider can be reached at her office telephone, 256-774-2934 ext. 22, by e-mail at:

Amber.Snider@thementornetwork.com.

Closing

Sidney Sandridge won the attendance prize on the second drawing (the lady member who missed out was not present nor named). Carl Winkler led reciting of the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward."

~Nelson Mandela

CALENDAR

- 4/12 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn
Cristina Lynn/ Russ Holder
Country Singers/Songwriters
- 4/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 4/26 Thursday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ
Youth Appreciation Banquet

OFFICIAL NOTICE

We will be voting on the 2012-2013 Club Officers at the April 19, 2012 business meeting. The slate is as follows:

PRESIDENT: **Tom Casteel**

1st VICE PRESIDENT: **Jack Fauble**

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: **George McDonough**

DIRECTOR: **Connie Gipson**

DIRECTOR: **Matt Hancock**

DIRECTOR: **Jim Roe**

OFFICIAL NOTICE

We will be voting on the following changes to our Bylaws at the April 19, 2012 business meeting.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Number the four un-numbered paragraphs after Section 2 as Section 3 through Section 6 to match the formatting of the first two paragraphs.

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTION PROCEDURE

FROM:

The election of Club officer(s) and Directors should be completed not later than April 30.

TO:

The election of Club officer(s) and Directors should be completed no later than April 30.

ARTICLE X - REVENUE

FROM:

Section 2: Annual dues shall be \$ 440 per member, payable in advance on a quarterly basis.

TO:

Section 2: Annual dues shall set by the Board of Directors and approved by the Club membership. Dues shall be payable in advance on a quarterly basis.