

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Opening

Nineteen Optimists eventually found their way to the banquet room where the Downtown Holiday Inn had moved our meeting. Our new President Tom Casteel opened the meeting and asked Club Chaplain Dr. Sidney Sandridge to open the meeting with prayer and to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was announced at the meeting that Pepper resigned as President of the Club at the meeting of the Board of Directors on May 1, 2012, due to a change in his job and work schedule. His new work schedule will preclude his attending meetings.

District Meeting Results

Tom Casteel reported that he attended a very good District meeting at Starkville, MS, last Saturday. Our Club did quite well in garnering awards.

- Our Oratorical Contest winner, Alyce Hester, won **FIRST PLACE**
- Our Essay Contest winner, Hema Pingali, won **THIRD PLACE**
- Our Club won a District HOBY leadership award
- Our Club won a patch from Optimist International for donating more than \$400 to the Optimist Foundation on the 40th anniversary.

Tom also commented on the excellence of the oratorical contestants and the entertainment provided by a youth string orchestra from Starkville. A very talented young lady in the

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orchestra who played a cello solo became very interested in starting the first JOOI Club in Mississippi (at Tom's suggestion).

The next District Meeting will be in Tuskegee, AL, in August, and some of the Tuskegee Airmen from WWII are expected to attend.

Program

Jack Fauble introduced the program speaker for the meeting, Mr. Curtis Hunt, Director of the Madison County Boy Scout Council. Mr. Hunt briefly reviewed the history, programs and mission of the Boy Scouts of America, and listed the highlights of the Madison County Council in 2011. Among the notable highlights were:

- 600 new youth were recruited for the Scouting Program
- Over 400 boys attended summer camps
- 77 Eagle Scout Awards were earned. This is 18% of the total for the Alabama council.
- 11 tons of food was raised for the Salvation Army
- 11,000 hours were given to community service

In response to a question, Mr. Hunt said there is a need for adult (over 18) volunteers at the summer Day Camp, and also for membership in the District Committee.

Band Awards

Tom Casteel asked for two volunteers needed to fill in and give awards at the upcoming middle school band concerts. Two schools were not covered due to conflicts or illness. Gay Pepper and Fabiani Duarte stepped up to the task. Al Renz distributed the checks for \$100 to each Band Committee member for them to award at the concerts this month.

Announcements

Next Monday night is the **Respect for Law banquet** at Mayfair Church of Christ, 6:30 p. m. It's too late to sign up

for attending, but Al Renz said he didn't think walk-ins would be turned away.

Duane Plank is in the hospital to have testing performed for an irregular heartbeat. He was reported to be doing well and is expected home soon.

John Shirey is recovering nicely from a fractured hip, according to Alberto Duarte, who visited him recently.

Fabiani Duarte announced that he is the lead in a Theatre (sic) Huntsville production of *Lend Me a Tenor*, a very funny comedy. Opening night is May 11, and the cost is \$15 for those of us over 65. You can reserve your tickets by telephone at 256-536-0807 and take care of payment at the "Will Call" window on the night you attend. The play is at the Von Braun Center Playhouse.

Closing

Joe Pullen and Duane Plank missed out on the drawing for the attendance prize. George McDonough won it on the third drawing.

Carl Winkler led the recitation of the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Merino

Optimistic Quote of the Week

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair."

~Douglas MacArthur

5/7 Monday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ

Respect for Law Banquet

5/10 Thursday **NO MEETING**

5/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food - (Jack Fauble)

5/31 **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**