



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Opening

The business meeting of the Optimist Club of Huntsville was called to order by President Tom Casteel at 12:45 p. m. in the club room of the Optimist Recreation Center. He called on Clyde Nevins to give the opening prayer and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Eighteen Optimists sat down to a great lunch catered by Jack Fauble, consisting of home-grilled hamburgers and turkey sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, pickles, cookies and assorted drinks. To add to our dining enjoyment, Jack brought his electric roaster to keep the food piping hot when it was served. Jack received a round of applause for his efforts. It was good to see Connie Gipson in attendance.

Our new Club President, Tom Casteel, reiterated the reasons for the change in Club leadership, citing Jim Pepper's new job situation that prevented his attendance at meetings. Jim is still a member, however. Tom said he was working on filling the office of Second Vice President, to be needed after the resignation of Jack Fauble at the end of May.

Ailing Members Report

It was good to see Jim Roe and Duane Plank, both recently hospitalized with heart conditions, at the meeting. Jim had a new stent inserted, and Duane is taking medication to control his irregular heart beat. John Shirey has been discharged from rehab and is recuperating at home from his broken hip.

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Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Al Renz reviewed the monthly financial statement which summarized the first 7 months of our fiscal year. A few old members still owe dues for this quarter. As of the end of April, the Club has spent \$6,924.53 on Youth and Community Service Awards, of which \$2,856.38 is still to be reimbursed by the Foundation.

All of the Optimist Club shirts have now been sold with a profit of almost \$40. Dallas Clark, one of our Reserve Members, bought the 3 remaining unsold shirts and donated them to the Club for use as awards.

Al reported that the bankruptcy court will meet next Monday to consider the new Chapter 13 bankruptcy filing by Jeff Klimek. This meeting is a routine presentation of the numbers required because Jeff failed to meet the requirements of his previous bankruptcy. Al reported Jeff has a new job working for a mortgage agency in New Market, so there is still hope we will eventually get some money. Al will try to attend the meeting.

Committee Reports

Various members of the Band Instrument Committee reported on their experiences in attending the concerts of some of the 13 middle schools where we have loaned band instruments. All of them raved about the quality of the music played by the bands at their concerts. Highlights: Tom Casteel reported that at Mountain Gap, the Optimist award is considered the top award. Al Adams reported that Liberty MS has over 125 members in its beginning band. Al Renz reported that he touted our Essay and Oratorical Contests at Huntsville Middle School when giving their award, and received audible OOOOHs when he told of our winner, Alyce Hester winning a \$2,500 scholarship. Bill Clarke said Riverton Intermediate School has a band of only 4th and 5th graders which did amazingly well.

Alberto Duarte reported on the JOOI Clubs in the absence of Fabiani, who missed today to attend a leadership conference. Alberto reported that Fabiani will present a plan wherein the JOOI Clubs will be presented to schools during the first week or two of the school year in the fall. From feedback he has received from school administrators, this

would be the optimum time for them to consider starting a JOOI club.

Al Renz reported that the Community Service Award checks have been mailed to their respective recipients, and one thank-you letter has already been received.

Gay Pepper reported on the Youth Appreciation Banquet. She said that there is still a problem of getting good attendance, and targeting JOOI Club officers did not help much. She suggested next year's committee consider an earlier banquet date, say in February, when the school calendar is fairly sparse.

Jack Fauble reported that two of the three Essay Contest winners are planning to attend next week's meeting, and they will be reading their winning essays.

Foundation Report

Foundation President Bill Clarke, reported that the Fund's value at the end of April was \$772,364, off about \$5,000 for the month, but nearly \$50,000 above the invested amount. IRS Form 990 had been mailed to the IRS, and the Foundation received confirmation of receipt.

In response to an inquiry from the last business meeting, Bill said he had contacted the State of Alabama, and the state requires neither an annual report nor a financial report from non-profit corporations.

New Business

Tom Casteel asked for volunteers to be on the Club Picnic Committee. Connie Gipson, Gay Pepper and Byrom Goodwin responded. Tom suggested the committee consider holding the picnic at the new Everybody Can Play playground pavilion. This would give all club members an opportunity to see the playground that many of our members have helped to bring about.

Announcements

Alberto Duarte announced that this coming weekend is the last opportunity to see Fabiani star in the hilarious comedy "Lend Me a Tenor." Several club members have already been, and more have bought tickets for upcoming

performances. Fabiani has been on radio and television to promote the play.

Tom Casteel urged Club members to contact friends and acquaintances about membership in our Club. Our ranks are thinning, and with new JOOI clubs coming aboard, new members will be needed for working with them.

In short: **WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!**

Closing

Carl Winkler led the recitation of the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Merins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Life is pretty simple: You do some stuff. Most fails. Some works. You do more of what works. If it works big, others quickly copy it. Then you do something else. The trick is the doing something else.”

~Leonardo da Vinci

5/24 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Essay Contest Winners

Oratorical Contest Winner - Alyce Hester

5/31

5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING

6/7

Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBA - Duane Plank

6/12

Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

6/14

Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBA - Duane Plank

6/21

Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food - (Duane Plank)