



# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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## Opening

Seventeen Optimists attended the regular Thursday luncheon meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn. In addition the mother and father of the meeting's speaker, Hema Pingali, and the father of Alyse Hester, an honoree, also attended. Al Renz introduced a prospective member as his guest.

Jim Berry gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fabiani Duarte thanked, individually, those who had attended a performance of his recent play, *Lend Me a Tenor*.

## Business

President Tom Casteel announced that a committee of Gay Pepper, Byrom Goodwin and Connie Gipson is working to set up our annual picnic.

Tom reported that nearly all (Bill Clarke has one remaining) of the Middle School band concerts had now been completed. He asked members of the band committee to place a yellow sticker on the tag attached to the instrument case when the instrument is returned. Also, Tom announced that there will be a band committee work day on June 9<sup>th</sup> to inventory the band closet.

Tom announced that Fabiani Duarte had agreed to fill out the remainder of this year in the open vice president position. Zach Thompson asked if we needed to vote on it, but Tom said it wasn't necessary according to our bylaws.

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## Program

This month's program chairman, Jack Fauble introduced the two young ladies who were presented their awards from the Club's Essay Contest today. The first place award went to Randolph student, Hema Pingali, the third place award went to Alyse Hester, a home-schooled student. The second place winner, Jennifer Walker was in the midst of final exams and could not attend.

Hema was awarded the gold medallion, an Optimist Club certificate of achievement, and a check for \$200. Alyse was awarded the bronze medallion, a certificate, and a check for \$50. Jack noted that Alyse not only won this award, but won first place in the Club's Oratorical Contest. In addition, Jack noted that both of these young ladies had won awards at the District meeting of the Alabama/Louisiana/Mississippi District. Alyse won first place in the District level Oratorical Contest, and Hema's essay won third place at the District level for which she was given a nice plaque.

Jack asked Hema to read her award-winning essay to complete today's program. Hema's essay recounted her experiences in teaching English as a Second Language to Hispanic youth at the Boys and Girls Club, and about her efforts to fight obesity and promote fitness in after-school programs at local elementary schools.

Jack thanked the Club for their support of the Essay Contest and the Oratorical Contest.

## Closing

President Casteel presented coasters with the Optimist Creed to both young ladies, and asked them to draw for our door prize. Alyse drew Connie Gipson's name; who missed out; then Hema drew Fabiani Duarte on the second drawing. Carl Winkler led in the recitation of the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

**Don't Forget: WE NEED MORE MEMBERS! Invite someone to our June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**"Count your blessings. Once you realize how valuable you are and how much you have going for you, the smiles will return, the sun will break out, the music will play, and you will finally be able to move forward the life that God intended for you with grace, strength, courage, and confidence."**

*~Og Mandino*

- 5/31      **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**
- 6/7      Thursday 11:45 am      Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Laura Best - Executive Director**  
**Huntsville -Madison County Library**
- 6/9      Saturday 9:00 am      Optimist Recreation Center  
**Band Instrument Inventory/Cleaning**
- 6/12      Tuesday 4:00 pm      1st Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 6/14      Thursday 11:45 am      Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Sheriff Blake Dorning**
- 6/21      Thursday 11:45 am      Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Duane Plank)**
- 6/28      Thursday 11:45 am      Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBA - Duane Plank**