



# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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## Opening

President Tom Casteel, fresh from his trip to Austin, TX, to visit some of his grandchildren, called the meeting to order at the Downtown Holiday Inn. For those of you who remember our great table server, Abdel, you will be pleased to learn that he has been promoted to shift manager. He is now in charge of managing our servers, but promised he will see that we continue to get the same quality service he has given us over the years.

A rather sparse attendance of 13 Optimists and two guests attended the meeting. Jim Berry introduced his guest and granddaughter, Kelly Bullard, who recently graduated from Hazel Green High School and was president of our JOOI club there. Zone 3 Lieutenant Governor Tom Howell also attended our meeting as one of his routine visits.

President Tom read a letter to our Club from the Mountain Gap Middle School band director thanking us for providing band instruments for his band. Tom reminded the band committee members that Saturday, June 12, is scheduled for making an inventory and cleaning the band instruments at the ORC. Non-committee members who are interested in the band program are also invited to learn and participate.

## Program



This month's program chairman, Duane Plank,

introduced Ms. Laura Best from the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. Ms. Best began the program by announcing that our library is No. 1 in the entire state of Alabama. We have the most items in circulation (two million

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per year), more answers to questions, most programs, most people attending programs, and most volunteer hours worked compared to all other libraries in the state. The library has done this in spite of having only the fourth highest budget (just one third of that for Birmingham's library).

Ms. Best then promoted the Summer Reading Program at the Library. She cited a study which showed that in grades 1 through 6, children can experience a "summer slide" in reading, essentially losing all the reading gain made in the prior school term, if they do not read. Only 6 books need to be read to prevent the slide.



Ms. Best next introduced Dr. Deane Dayton who is developing the Huntsville History Collection at the Library. Dr. Dayton gave a very interesting overview using the Collection's web site: [HuntsvilleHistoryCollection.org](http://HuntsvilleHistoryCollection.org). The site provides access to over 8,000 items on people, places, and stories about Huntsville and its history. He showed examples from the web site showing photos and reconstructed plans of one of the 1,300 historical homes and buildings. Photos on the site include old and new photos, interior and exterior photos, and seasonal views. In the People category, Dr. Dayton showed an example of one of the 350 historic Huntsville natives, Tallulah Bankhead, covered in the site.

The site also contains links to stories on Huntsville's history contained in the periodicals put out by the Huntsville Historical Society. Another feature of the site is identifying local artists and showing their works.

## Closing

Fabiani Duarte, fresh from a live appearance on Channel 19's News at Noon, reported on the upcoming returning Veteran's recognition day. One of the events sponsored by his organization: Still Serving Veterans, is sponsoring a free showing of an award-winning movie, *Hell and Back Again*, at the Monaco Pictures at Bridge Street on June 14. To register to see the free movie, go to [www.stillservingveterans.org](http://www.stillservingveterans.org).

Bill Clarke missed out on the attendance prize, but Fabiani won it 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 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Clyde Merins*

## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in your way of doing it. The time will pass anyway; we might just as well put that passing time to the best possible use.**

*~Earl Nightingale*

## **CALENDAR**

- |      |                   |  |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 6/12 | Tuesday 4:00 pm   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank<br><b>Board Meeting</b>                      |
| 6/14 | Thursday 11:45 am | Downtown Holiday Inn<br><b>Sheriff Blake Dorning</b>                         |
| 6/16 | Saturday 9:00 am  | Optimist Recreation Center<br><b>Band Instrument Inventory/Cleaning</b>      |
| 6/21 | Thursday 11:45 am | Optimist Recreation Center<br><b>Business Meeting - Food – (Duane Plank)</b> |
| 6/28 | Thursday 11:45 am | Downtown Holiday Inn<br><b>TBA - Duane Plank</b>                             |