



# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Eighteen Optimists and one guest assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn today. Our guest was Elaine Plank.

## Opening

Al Renz opened the meeting in prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. After our meal, Vice President George McDonough opened the meeting by congratulating our Club on the many things we do for the youth of our area. In particular, he said our recent drive to collect school supplies for Morris Elementary School was a rousing success. Also, he commended the Band Committee as they prepare to lend upwards of 100 band instruments to middle school children who can't afford their own.

## Announcements

George reminded attendees that there are still a number of open slots on important committees that manage the Club's programs. Sponsors for our JOOI Clubs are needed, as are several Monthly Program Chairpersons. We need someone to obtain speakers for October (1 speaker is already arranged). Sign up!

George announced that due to an anticipated high turnout to hear Dr. Casey Wardynski club meeting on September 6 [**NOTE: No meeting on August 30!**], an e-mail survey will be taken to determine if additional meals need to be reserved at the DHI. It would be a great time to invite a guest, since many in our community have read about Dr. Wardynski's dynamic leadership of our school system, and would love to meet him personally. Please respond to the survey!

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Fabiani plans to put together packets describing all of the youth programs our Club provides, and have it available for the September 6 meeting.

Club members who had visited Ralph Caneer in Huntsville Hospital reported that he is doing much better and should be coming home soon.

## **Program**



This month's program chairman, Fabiani Duarte introduced today's speaker Fran Fluhler, Director of Manna House. Ms. Fluhler stated the Manna House is a 501©3

corporation that takes no money from the Government. All funds are provided by 17 local churches and individuals. The basic goal of Manna House is for no family to go hungry, but it provides many more services to people who are going through tough times and are not eligible for Government welfare programs.

Besides providing nutritious food items three times a week, Manna House distributes fresh, organically grown produce one a week, hygiene items (diapers, wipes, etc.), pet food, school supplies, and weekend food packs for school children.

People who are going hungry form a line at Manna House starting around noon, and the food items are distributed as soon as possible (often much earlier than the nominal 4 p. m. start) thereafter, often lasting to past 8 p. m. People in line are also offered PB&J sandwiches to tide them over. The Personal Emergency Resources for Kids in School (P.E.R.K.S.) program is now providing over 800 backpacks filled with canned meat, crackers, granola bars, juicy juice, etc., to children in elementary and middle school children who otherwise would go hungry on Saturday and Sunday.

The One Harvest Monthly Distribution program provides a large box of frozen food for pick-up at local churches. Clients of this program pre-order these boxes and pay for them at a greatly reduced cost.

Ms. Fluhler stated that volunteers are welcome at Manna House! She invited *anyone* to come to see what some in our city are doing for the needy of our city. There is no need to call or sign up—just show up. Anyone older than 4 years of age can be put to work, and it promises to be a rewarding experience. Manna House is located just north of the ROCK Family Worship Center, 2300 So. Memorial Parkway SW.

### **Closing**

Buddy Beck won the attendance prize on the first drawing. Carl Winkler closed the meeting by leading the recitation of the Optimist Creed.

**Don't Forget: WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!**

**Invite someone to our September 6th meeting.**

*Clyde Nevins*

### **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**“Being a man or a woman is a matter of birth. Being a man or a woman who makes a difference is a matter of choice.”**

*~Byron Garrett*



## CALENDAR

- 8/30 **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**
- 9/6 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Dr. Casey Wardynski - Huntsville City Schools**
- 9/11 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 9/13 **PICNIC SATURDAY - NO MEETING**
- 9/15 Saturday 1 pm Everybody Can Play Playground  
**Annual Picnic**
- 9/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food - (Jim Roe)**
- 9/27 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Officer Installation by Governor Helen Howard**

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

**T**o be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

**T**o talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

**T**o make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

**T**o look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

**T**o think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

**T**o be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

**T**o forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

**T**o wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

**T**o give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

**T**o be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International



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**TO:**