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SECRETARY TREASURER

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Club meets
1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 am
Downtown Holiday Inn
Huntsville, AL

Opti - Topics

Twenty-two Optimists and 3 guests attended our regular luncheon meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn on Valentines Day. Our guests were Daniel Tait (guest of Fabiani Duarte), a prospective member who works at Nexus Energy Center, Marlene Renz, wife of Al, and Betty Zoller, wife of our speaker for the day. As was the case last week, late comers had to order their meals from the DTH menu, as we exceeded the guarantee of 22 meals.

Opening

President Tom Casteel called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the invocation, and Jim Otto to lead our recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements



Essay Contest Chairman Al Renz reported [to your editor] that 19 essays were received for our contest, and are in the hands of the judges. Judging to name the three prize winners is to be completed by the end of February.



Oratorical Contest Chairman Alberto Duarte has set March 9 as the date for the contest. The contest will be held at the Cooper House (where we had our recent pancake breakfast for the Hawthorne Conservatory. Mark this on your calendar.

**Our business meeting
is held on the 3rd
Thursday of the
month at the Optimist
Recreation Center on
Oakwood Avenue**

DIRECTORS

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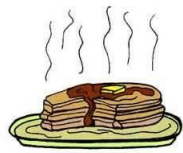
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President Tom announced that the JOOI Club District Meeting is to be held in Meridian Mississippi on the same weekend as our oratorical contest. Optimist JOOI Club Points of Contact need to contact the school sponsors for each club to see who's planning on attending.

It was also announced that Al Adams is to have heart bypass surgery on Friday, February 22. Keep Al in your prayers.



Alberto again reminded Optimists to turn in their money from the pancake breakfast ticket sales.

New Member Installation

President Tom Casteel called for Jim and Peggy Otto to come forward for a special event. Someone told Peggy she would have to close her eyes and recite the Optimist Creed, but it turned out to be an installation ceremony for her and Jim. After taking the oath of membership, their sponsor, Jim Berry, pinned on Jim's pin and Jim pinned on Peggy's pin. Tom then presented Jim Berry a bronze 2012-13 sponsor pin. He reminded Jim that all he needs to do is bring in one more member and he would receive the gold sponsor pin.

Program

Jim Berry introduced our speaker Lowell Zoller and his wife, Betty. Lowell worked directly for Optimist George McDonough in NASA/MSFC's Science and Engineering Directorate just prior to his retirement. He is now the President of the Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society and an avid "rock hound." As for Betty, she is a former cheerleader at the University of Alabama.



Lowell's topic for today was "Restless Alabama," which expounded at length on the theories of how Alabama's diverse and beautiful geological formations were formed over the last 650 million years. His talk covered in detail how tectonic plates, continental drift and collision, volcanoes, earthquakes and an asteroid impact formed Alabama's geological features.

Huntsville and Madison County are in what's known as the "Ridge and Valley Region" which can readily be experienced in driving east from Huntsville up and down the various valleys in the Cumberland Plateau. We are also in the heart of great limestone country, which accounts for why quarries want to locate in this area (especially Gurley).

Lowell Zoller

Some interesting facts brought out in Lowell's talk were:

- ❖ There is only one true mountain in Alabama—Mount Cheaha in northern Clay County. It is also the highest point in Alabama.
- ❖ There were 109 major volcano eruptions in the world yesterday (February 13, 2013)
- ❖ Last week, there were 295 earthquakes in the world with a magnitude greater than 2.5
- ❖ Northern Alabama is in a high earthquake-prone region; however, since the fault lines in this area are many and minor, the earthquakes tend to be very mild.
- ❖ This week, February 12, 2013, there was an earthquake in Mentone, AL with a magnitude of 4.9. It caused only very minor damage.
- ❖ There are 14 nineteenth century pig-iron furnaces still in Alabama. Pig iron was produced in Alabama in Civil War times due to the ready availability of iron ore, limestone, water and trees (for wood).
- ❖ There are 4,000 caves in North Alabama; about 1,000 of them are in Madison County and 240 within the city limits of Huntsville. Our courthouse is built over a cave, and it had to be reinforced for foundation.
- ❖ There is an asteroid impact crater near Wetumpka, AL. It is 4.7 miles in diameter, and is the only confirmed impact crater in the state.

At the conclusion of Mr. Zoller's lengthy talk, Jim Berry asked his opinion on global warming. Mr. Zoller responded by saying that through history there have always been cycles of cooling and warming, and we are in one of the normal warming cycles at this time. However, there is evidence that since the industrial revolution, the rate of warming has been greater than what would be predicted from past warming cycles, and he believes the increased rate is caused by man.

Closing

President Tom asked Mr. Zoller to draw for the winner of our attendance prize. Jim Rowe's name was drawn first, but he was absent. Jack Fauble's name was drawn second, but he is no longer a Club member. Finally, on the third drawing, Bob Martin won the prize. Carl Winkler led us in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Photos



President Tom Installs New Members Peggy and Jim Otto



**Jim Berry Pins Member Pin
on Jim Otto**



**Jim Otto Pins Member Pin
on His Wife Peggy**





President Tom Casteel Pins the Bronze Member Sponsor Pin on Jim Berry

Optimistic Quote of the Week

Love is like a friendship caught on fire. In the beginning a flame, very pretty, often hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. As love grows older, our hearts mature and our love becomes as coals, deep-burning and unquenchable.

~ Erich Segal

CALENDAR

2/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Berry)

2/28 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Lee Marshall – Journalist, WHNT News 19 Team

3/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

3/7 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Gay Pepper

3/9 Saturday 9:00 am Cooper House

Club Oratorical Contest

3/9 – 3/10 Saturday-Sunday Meridian, Mississippi

JOOI District Convention

3/14 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Gay Pepper

3/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)

3/28 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Gay Pepper

PROPOSED POLICY MANUAL CHANGES

6.1.1 Application

FROM:

An Optimist International membership application form that bears the endorsement of a member in good standing shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

TO:

An Optimist International membership application form that bears the endorsement of a member in good standing along with an application fee of \$30.00 (\$10.00 for college students) shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

6.1.2 Membership Committee

NO CHANGE:

The Secretary-Treasurer shall immediately refer all such applications to the Membership Committee for review. The Membership Committee shall review the application within seven days and recommend the applicant's election or rejection.

6.1.3 Club Approval

FROM:

If approved by the Membership Committee, the Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the membership of the identity of the proposed member at the next meeting of the Club for vote by the club.

TO:

If approved by the Membership Committee, the Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the membership of the identity of the proposed member at the next meeting of the Club. Club members then have 6 days to oppose membership for the applicant by calling or emailing the President, Secretary/Treasurer or a Board member. If no objection to the applicant is received during this time the Secretary-Treasurer shall submit the applicant's information with registration payment to Optimist International, and mail a pro-rated dues invoice for the current quarter to the new member.

6.1.4 Post Processing

FROM:

If the application is approved by the club, the Secretary-Treasurer shall collect an application fee of \$30.00 from the applicant (\$10.00 for college members), submit the new member's information with registration payment to Optimist International, and mail a pro-rated invoice for the current quarter dues to the new member.

TO:

DELETED (Contents combined with Paragraph 6.1.3)