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Club meets

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

Opti - Topics

Opening

Twenty-one Optimists finally made it to our regularly scheduled meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn, after wending their ways through the torturous access lanes caused by Panoply street blockages. Since our meal guarantee with the DTH is now 25, we lost money on the meals today with only 23 people in attendance. It was reported that Jim and Peggy Otto could not make today's meeting because of the serious illness of Jim's sister, now at the UAB hospital.

The DTH provided a very nice lunch for us today with steak and a new dessert—what I think was an applesauce cake (similar to a carrot cake, but no carrots). Rev. Jim Berry opened the meeting with an invocation, and President-elect George McDonough led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Necessary Business

After lunch, President Tom Casteel reported on the District Convention in Southaven, MS. He was very complimentary on the quality of the speeches in the District Oratorical Contest. Four girls and three boys were "all awesome," and Tom said he was glad he wasn't a judge. Photos of the contestants are on the District web site.

Tom said there were some very good training sessions at the convention, one of which was his own on how to set up a club Facebook website.

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

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Tom announced he has created a new membership application, personalized for use only by our club, and an “interest finder” form to get members placed on committees of their liking. Copies of these forms were given out for review to several members.

Al Renz announced that he has a good supply of Club shirts for anyone who wants one. All sizes are available, and the cost is a mere \$15.00.



A sign-up sheet was passed around for Club members to sign up for the Respect for Law banquet on Monday, May 6. Tom suggested this would be a good meeting to invite a potential member. Kent Gibbs of Arab will provide his usual excellent barbeque meal. April 29th is the last day to sign up to attend the banquet, so if you haven't signed up, call Al Renz.



Committee Chairman Fabiani Duarte gave a glowing report on the activities of various JOOI Clubs. He said he had visited with most of the JOOI Clubs in the last 2 weeks, and was very impressed and excited about what they have done and have scheduled to do. Examples:

The Lee High School JOOI Club has developed an anti-bullying campaign with several events throughout the week. Tomorrow, they will host an assembly with several programs, and later will release a “massive amount” of helium-filled balloons with containing anti-bullying messages. They have also produced their first TV video.

The Whitesburg JOOI Club will sponsor a donut sale at the end of the month.

The Columbia High School JOOI Club will host a carnival on May 16. They will raise money by incorporating a pig-kissing event in the carnival.

Students can vote, by donating money, to see which of a half-dozen teachers gets to kiss the pig. The teacher whose donations are the greatest wins the “honor.”

Four JOOI Clubs will participate in this week’s Panoply, helping Fabiani in the Global Village booth.

Finally, Fabiani reminded everyone of the upcoming JOOI Club Zone Convention at Lee High School. The date is Saturday, May 11, and the convention will last from 12 noon to 4:00 p. m. Up to 400 JOOI Club members could attend.



Bill Clarke reported on his attendance at the Meridianville Middle School’s Band concert, where he presented the Optimist Band Awards. He recounted how a mother of a student who used one of our instruments told him how the use of our trumpet had transformed his life. He became first chair in trumpet in the beginning band, and plans to make music his career. Without the loaned instrument this would not have been possible.

President Tom asked Tim Vander Veer and Alberto Duarte to come up front. Tom installed Tim as our newest member, and awarded Alberto the bronze sponsor pin (two more and he gets a gold one).

Program

Rev. Jim Berry introduced our speaker, Nell Berry, his wife of more than 60 years, and his grandson, James Bennett. James works for Earth Fair, the organization that recently provided a healthy living expo for our JOOI Club members.

Nell’s talk was on “Heroes.” Nell said the heroes she would tell about weren’t those who made headlines, necessarily, but those who made something happen during their lifetime that benefited other people, especially those in need. Her heroes were:

- A 9-year old girl who had a dream to bring a water well to a village in Africa. Tragically, she was killed in an auto accident, but memorial gifts in her memory not only funded the well but also a school.
- One of her Teledyne Brown SHARE tutors at Morris Elementary School who not only kept in contact with the student after he left the program, but ensured he obtained a degree from the University of Montevallo.

- James Alexander “Brother” Bryan from Birmingham who dedicated his life to helping the down-and-out in Birmingham. There is a statue of him in Five Points South in Birmingham.
- Judge U. W. Clemon, who couldn’t enroll in Birmingham Southern College because he was Black, but later received an honorary degree and delivered the 2003 commencement address at the college.
- Jimmy and Roselyn Carter for their work in advancing human rights throughout the world. Nell showed three videos describing the work done by the Carter Center. One of these showed the devastating effects of the guinea worm in Africa, and how the Carter Center has sponsored efforts that have eradicated them.
- Kimberly Mitchell, a Viet Nam orphan, who was reunited with the South Korean soldier who found her and saw her safely to an orphanage.

Nell closed her program by saying she feels strongly that the Optimists in the room were the same sort of heroes. Their work with children in many areas is just as impressive as the heroes she talked about.

Closing

Our speaker drew for the attendance prize, and Alberto Duarte won on the first drawing. Dr. Carl Winkler led in reciting the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Nevins

"I have learned that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences."

~ Ash Sweeney

PHOTOS



Guest Speaker Nell Berry and Fabiani Duarte



Jim Roe pins on Dr. Sidney Sandridge's badge.



Zack Thompson and George McDonough



President Tom installs Tim Vander Veer as our newest member.



**Alberto Duarte pins membership pin on
Tim Vander Veer**

CALENDAR

5/2 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Jason Simpson – Chief Meteorologist - Channel 19

5/6 Monday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ

Respect for Law Banquet

5/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

5/9 Thursday **No Meeting**

5/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)

5/23 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Leah Amos –President Junior Achievement of North Alabama

5/30 Thursday **No Meeting (5th Thursday)**

6/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

6/6 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Tim Vander Veer

6/13 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Tim Vander Veer

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

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

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

To 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: