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Club meets

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

Opti - Topics

Opening

Twenty Optimists, three guests and our speaker turned out for our regular 4th Thursday meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn. In my opinion, our lunch today was outstanding: baked salmon, asparagus, rice and yellow squash, along with salad and cheesecake with raspberry topping. Our former excellent server who now is night manager, Abdel, was back for a rare visit.

Rev. Jim Berry gave the invocation, and Fabiani Duarte led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Tom Casteel was back at the podium, even though he is still recovering from his recent foot surgeries. He said today was the first day he had worn shoes since before the surgeries. The Club gave him a round of applause.

President Tom asked for introduction of our guests. Jim Berry introduced his granddaughter, Kelly Ballard; Jim Roe introduced Don Holder, a prospective member, and Carl Winkler introduced his grandson, Graham Burkett.

Announcements & Reports

Tom announced that he has reprinted the business-card size information cards to give to new and prospective new members. Among other information, the card tells how to access our Club's web site with the current Club roster, newsletters, etc.

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

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Al Renz announced that Milt Williams was at the doctors, as we met, to see if he could replace his knee cart with a walking cast.

Fabiani Duarte thanked all those who have recently participated in giving out the JOOI Club awards, especially the tokens of appreciation to the faculty sponsors at the schools. He also gave a brief report on the activities of our JOOI Club at Morris Elementary School.

Al Renz reported that the OI lists 55 JOOI Clubs established *worldwide* this past year, and our Club established nine of them.

Tim Vander Veer said he has received an attractive job offer at Warner Robins AFB in Georgia. He pleaded with Club members to give him leads on any similar job opportunities here in Huntsville as he does not want to leave our city.

Program



This month's Program Chairman, Al Renz introduced our speaker for the day, Leah Amos. Leah is the current President of the Junior Achievement of North Alabama. She oversees the JA activities of over 8,000 youth in North Alabama plus Lincoln County, TN. Al related how he had bought a product of a Junior Achievement Club over 50 years ago—a kitchen cutting board in the shape of a pig--which inspired him to seek the local JA leader to be our speaker.

Leah gave out either a "NEED" or "WANT" card to each person, and said she would give a quiz she typically gives to first graders. She showed flash cards of various items, asking us to hold up the appropriate card at the count of three.

The flash cards showed: Clothing, Video Games, a Puppy, a House, and a High School Diploma. Many Club members failed the “Are You Smarter than a First Grader” test by not waiting for the count of three before holding up their cards.

Leah described the various programs now being undertaken by JA, reaching children from kindergarten through 12th grade. In contrast to its original programs, with its after-school business enterprises where items were actually made and sold, JA is now primarily going into school classrooms to teach Work Place Readiness, Entrepreneurism, and Finance Basics. JA also recently started a program at the Detention Center with a goal to help detainees learn skills that will keep them from repeating their mistakes.

JA sponsors several activities to acquaint children with what actually goes on in the work place. They provide a one-day Job Shadow where children spend a day observing the “real world” in a particular career field. They also have Summer Internships at Boeing for 14 high-school students. In the summer, JA holds a one-week Entrepreneurship Camp at UAH. In September, JA sponsors a one-day “Adventures in Engineering” tour of various Redstone Arsenal locations.

JA gets its funding mostly from major corporation donations and its annual Bowl-a-thon and Golf tournament. A few private individuals also donate.

Leah said volunteers are always needed. Volunteers will get to actually teach kids in the classroom using professionally produced materials. Interested individuals may contact her through the JA website, www.janaonline.org.

Closing

Our guest speaker drew the names of Connie Gipson and Ralph Caneer before drawing today’s attendance prize winner, Alberto Duarte.

Dr. Carl Winkler led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

The membership committee has approved the membership application of Don Holder. Club members have until May 30th to comment on the application.

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**Speaker Leah Amos and Al Renz
Holding the Jr. Achievement Pig**



Don Holder – Guest of Jim Roe



**Kelly Ballard – Jim Berry's
Granddaughter**



**Graham Burkett – Carl Winkler's
Grandson**

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"Nothing is impossible; the word itself says 'I'm possible!'"

~Audrey Hepburn

CALENDAR

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

Dr. Shirley B. (Gunselman) Garrett - Professional Speaker

6/13 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Tim Vander Veer

6/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

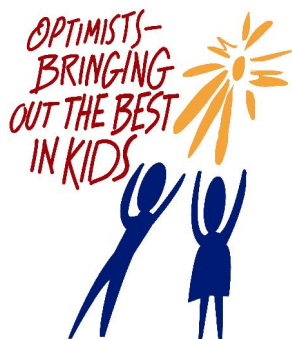
Business Meeting - Food – (Tim Vander Veer)

6/27 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Tim Vander Veer

7/4 Thursday **No Meeting**





Huntsville Optimist Club
710 Versailles Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803-1728



TO:

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