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

Opti - Topics

Twenty Optimists (which also includes our speaker for the day) and one guest assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn, today. Our meal of grilled turkey over spaghetti Alfredo with English peas seemed particularly tasty to me. Pecan pie for dessert.

Opening

President Tom Casteel asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation, and this month's program chairman, Duane Plank, to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rev. Jim Berry said he was "most proud" to introduce his wife and caregiver, Nell Berry. Nell revealed that today was Jim's 83rd birthday, and the Club subsequently sang Happy Birthday to him. Jim disclosed that at the time of his birth his mother had the mumps. Zach Thompson said that explained a lot of things, but didn't elaborate.

New Member Installation

President Tom asked new member Don Holder and sponsoring member Jim Roe to come to the front. Tom administered the oath of membership to Don and gave a bronze membership pin to Jim. Tom reminded Jim that if he gets two more new members he gets a gold membership pin. He also reminded the Club that **we need new members**, especially to lead our expanded JOOI Club project and our Band Instrument project.

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

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Announcements



Bob Martin announced that our annual Club Picnic is now firm at the pavilion at Fords Chapel United Methodist Church in Harvest. The picnic will begin at 2:00 p.m. on August 3, the first Saturday in August. REMINDER: Because of the picnic, there will be no Club meeting on Thursday, August 1. Gay Pepper passed around a sign-up sheet for the picnic, and she will call anyone who has not responded with a firm yes or no.

As for food at the picnic, the Club will provide the meat and the drinks for the picnic. Attendees are to bring a covered side dish to complete the menu. Bob said he would need some early help on the day of the picnic to bring chairs and tables from the church to the pavilion.

Program



Program Chairman Duane Plank introduced our speaker, and fellow Optimist member, Sheriff Blake Dorning. Sheriff Dorning is a member of our Club. He has been with the Sheriff's department since 1983, and was elected Sheriff for the first time in 2002. In his introduction, Duane also recounted how our honoree for the Respect for Law banquet this year had been instrumental in solving a multi-state theft and embezzlement ring headquartered in Chicago.

Sheriff Dorning said his talk today would emphasize some aspects of the Sheriff's Department that were not generally known. He said the Madison County Sheriff's Department was a "full service" department, i. e., it deals with civil process, security, jail management, 24-hour patrols, K-9, narcotics, case investigation and prisoner transport. Many departments across the U. S. have only a select few of these. He said, "We take good people and empower them to do a good job."

Sheriff Dorning said he is very pleased with the new state-of-the-art communication system that has been functioning since last September. He can now reliably contact his deputies and other law enforcement personnel anywhere in the county, and in fact anywhere along I-65. These things were not possible with the more than 50-year old system that was replaced.

Another thing he is very proud of is the Homeland Security Group that is functioning in his Department. He has received several calls from Spencer Collier, Director of Homeland Security, to see if his group could assist in weather-related disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy and the recent tornados in Oklahoma. His group has the best response of those anywhere in the U. S. and has been copied by many other departments. The group has self-sustaining vehicles that can supply food and water for 3 days and travel as far as Colorado without refueling.

A final area described by Sheriff Dorning was the Chaplaincy Program. The cadre of Chaplains is made up of ministers and lay people who love the Lord. They travel 3 times each week with deputies on their patrols. They minister quickly to those who have experienced a traumatic loss, such as death. Another focus of the chaplains is to minister to the deputies themselves. The deputies are usually away from their homes and families during disasters, and this often weighs heavy upon them.

In answer to some questions raised in the Q & A time, Sheriff Dorning made these points:

- Crimes in today's world are 95% related to drug or substance abuse. Thefts, burglaries and scams undertaken to feed a habit.
- The budget for the Madison Count Metro Jail is \$16 million. It is by far the biggest expense in the County's overall budget.
- School boards should decide who should resist an armed intruder into local schools, albeit a police officer or a trained teacher. He said that the only way to stop such an intruder is for a good guy with a gun to take down the bad guy with a gun. The intent of the intruder is to kill, and no negotiation with them is possible.
- All of the Sheriffs in the State were against the recent "gun bill" that permitted people to have weapons concealed in their vehicles in parking lots on private property. He considers this a violation of the 5th Amendment. He said legislatures should never turn a "right" into a "law."
- Since 2005 many of the Department's patrol cars carry AEDs (automatic external defibrillators). Since the first life was saved that year, the AEDs have been warmly accepted by the Deputies.

Closing

Sheriff Dorning drew Tim Vander Veer's name first; Tim was absent so Tom Casteel won the attendance prize on the second drawing. Dr. Carl Winkler led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Don't Forget: WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!
Invite someone to our July 22nd meeting.

Optimistic Quote of the Week

No man in the wrong can stand up to a man in the right who just a keeps on a coming.

Motto of the Texas Rangers.

PHOTOS



Nell & Jim Berry Celebrate Jim's 83rd Birthday



Jim Roe Pins on Don Holder's Membership Pin



Our Speaker Sherriff Dorning

CALENDAR

7/18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Duane Plank)

7/25 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Dr. David Copeland – Madison County School Superintendent

8/1 Thursday **No Meeting (Annual Picnic Saturday)**

8/3 Saturday 2:00 pm Ford's Chapel Pavilion

Annual Picnic

8/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

8/8 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**Chris Crumbly – Manager, Advanced Development Office
Space Launch System, NASA**

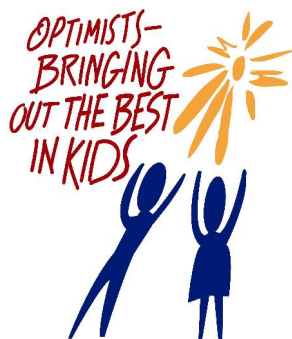
8/15 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

8/22 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Bill Peters

8/29 Thursday **No Meeting (5th Thursday)**



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