



PRESIDENT

Tom Casteel
256-882-9380
tom@leetsac.net

VICE PRESIDENTS

George McDonough
256-534-2591
gfmcdonough@yahoo.com

Fabiani Duarte
256-468-9848
fabiani.a.duarte@gmail.com

SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz
256-772-7929
optimist3480@aol.com

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

Opti - Topics

Special Picnic Edition



Between thirty and forty Optimists, wives and guests assembled at the Ford's Chapel Pavilion on Saturday afternoon for our annual picnic. Despite dire predictions by weather forecasters of either: (1) 95 degree heat, or (2) rain, it turned out to be an ideal afternoon for a picnic. The newly finished pavilion at Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church was the perfect size for our group. Several of us admired the use of hand-hewn timbers salvaged from the original church structure destroyed by the tornado. These were used as the main support pillars for the pavilion's roof.

Picnic Chairman Bob Martin had a CD player playing country and popular music suitable for our generation throughout the picnic which added to our enjoyment.

First, a reminder:



Don't forget to bring your school supplies for Morris Elementary School to Thursday's meeting. The first day of school for students in Huntsville is August 19, two weeks from this Monday.

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

DIRECTORS

Connie Gipson
256-534-1384
cfigipson@yahoo.com

Matt Hancock
256-990-0077
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

Jim Roe
256-883-8950
j_m_roe@yahoo.com

Alfred G. Adams
502-541-6469
alfredg.adams@gmail.com

Byrom Goodwin
256-881-3113

Bob Martin
bmartin12@bellsouth.net
256-722-8062

Newsletter Editor

Clyde Nevins
256-881-8215
clyde.nevins@Juno.com

Now, back to the picnic:

To begin the festivities, Gay distributed bingo cards to everyone. The “prize” to the first bingo was to be first in line for the food. Jim Pepper called out the numbers while Gay prepared the food table. Bill Peters finally shouted “BINGO!” and after Sydney Sandridge gave the invocation we all lined up behind Bill and his wife Nita to partake of all the goodies.

We had about as many guests at the picnic as we had Club members. Besides spouses, here are the other guests who joined our happy throng today:

The Planks brought Daniel Dickson (one of Elaine’s students)

The Peters brought Deborah Conner (their daughter) and her friend Tommy Marshall

Fabiani brought Libby Morris (the lady who spoiled him in Nashville while he attended Vanderbilt University)

The Martins brought their son Chris, his wife Jackie, and their granddaughter Mary Katherine. If I got this right, they also brought Charlotte (whose last name I failed to record)

As usual, the food for our picnic was superb, and enough for about three times the number who attended. The menu included barbequed pork and chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni salad, and Mexican corn salad and potato chips, plus a variety of soft drinks and iced teas followed by an array of tempting desserts. My favorite was the pineapple upside down cake which was one of my favorites as a boy.

Fabiani Duarte was our game master again this year, and soon after everyone had finished eating he organized competitions in both Bocce Ball and Bean Bag Toss. I noticed Al Renz had worked up a sweat, so the competition must have been fierce in Bocce Ball.

The picnic ended with Sydney Sandridge leading us in singing "Sippin' Cider"

A picture is worth a thousand words, as they say, so I took a bunch to save writing time. The good ones are posted at the end of this newsletter.



To Gay & Jim Pepper for getting the Club's part of the food there. To Bob Martin for getting the pavilion set up for the picnic. Also, to former member Jack Fauble and his wife for moving the tables and chairs from the church to the pavilion. A special thanks to Sheriff Blake Dorning for the barbequed chickens, and to Elaine Plank for picking them up.

Clyde Nevins

**Don't Forget: WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!
Invite someone to our August 8th Meeting.**

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"So what does it mean to be an optimist?

Perhaps the most important thing is to understand what it doesn't mean: that we believe that the world is perfect, that whatever happens is perfect, and that evil, ignorance, human error and sheer stupidity don't exist. Nor does optimism require holding fantasies about the future.

Positive thinking means trying to see the full range of possibilities and making the conscious decision to pursue the best possible choices available. It's really that simple."

~ Sean Meshorer

- PHOTOS -



Ginger and Tom Casteel



Gladys and Sidney Sandridge



Bill Peters with Winning Bingo Card



Fabiani's Friend - Libby Morris



Tim Vander Veer and Jim Pepper Play Bean Bag Toss



**Jim Otto, Duane Plank, Al Renz, Daniel Dickson,
Bob Martin and Fabiani Duarte Play Bocce Ball**



The Pavilion at Ford's Chapel



Bob Martin and Family

CALENDAR

8/8 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**Deborah Thomas – Senior Systems Engineer
Raytheon Missile Systems**

8/13 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

8/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Bill Peters)

8/22 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

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

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

9/5 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – George McDonough

9/12 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – George McDonough

9/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (George McDonough)

Supplies Needed For Morris Elementary

If you watch the ads you will find Back to School Bargains. Those of you that wish to make a cash donation toward this project, Tom will be making a bulk purchase from Amazon on August 9th.

Sharpened #2 pencils - regular size (yellow)

Crayola Crayons - regular size (24)

Crayola Washable Markers

Crayola Colored Pencils

Dry Erase Markers (Fine Point)

Blunt Fiskar Scissors

Glue sticks

Roll Scotch Tape (No Dispenser)

Box of Kleenex

Reams of White Printer Paper

70-sheet spiral notebook (wide-ruled)

Composition Notebooks (Black & White)

Package of Pencil Erasers (House Top)

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



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



TO: