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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant
Huntsville, AL

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

Opti - Topics

Opening

A good turnout of twenty-one Optimists, four guests and our speaker attended our Club meeting at Mullins Restaurant today. President George McDonough recognized Duane Plank, now recovered from surgery, and Milt Williams, attending his last meeting before moving to Florida. He asked, and received, a round of applause for both of them.

Our guests today were the three young people from Randolph School who placed in our recent Oratorical Contest: Carla Becker (1st place), Ryan Murphy (2nd place) and Roman Hawrych (3rd place). They were accompanied by Dr. Deborah Ormand, our JOOI Club sponsor at Randolph.

President George asked Milt to bring the opening prayer, and Alberto Duarte to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

“Optimist Family” News

- ❖ As reported above, **Duane Plank** is now fully recovered from his brush with bleeding to death.
- ❖ **Sidney Sandridge** has been released from Huntsville Hospital after his treatment for pneumonia. And is now home.

Announcements



Committee Chair Gay Pepper reported that there is the usual difficulty in getting nominees to attend our annual **Youth Appreciation Banquet**. So far, three young people have been nominated, but several more organizations are still to be heard from.



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte asked for a good turnout at the **Regional Oratorical Contest** on April 14 (Saturday) at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 12200 Bailey Cove Rd. SE, at 9:00 a. m.

Unfortunately our girl winners will not be able to participate due to conflict with the State Science Olympiad on the same day. The Randolph Science team is competing to represent Alabama in the national Science Olympiad for the fifth consecutive year.

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Band Committee Chairman Al

Adams asked all Band Committee members to contact their respective schools to get their schedules of Spring band concerts. Also, ask them to begin thinking of their "Outstanding Band Student" and the schedule for picking up the loaned instruments at the end of the school year.



Nominating Committee Chairman Tom Casteel announce the slate of officers for the 2014-2015 year. The **Election of Officers will be held at the upcoming business meeting on April 17.** The positions to be filled are:

President: Alfred Adams

1st Vice President: John Inman

2nd Vice President: TBD

2 YR Directors:

Tom Casteel

Richie Myers

Vastell Williams

Nominations may be made from the floor, however please check with the individual to determine if they are willing to serve.

Program



President George McDonough asked Al Renz to introduce our speaker for today, Jerry Burfitt. Al and Jerry share the responsibility for handling the money at Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church in Harvest.

Jerry is retired from the 3M Corporation where he was a plant engineer. He is active in the Masonic community in Huntsville and across Alabama, where he has held many leadership positions and has received many honors. However, he considers his highest honor is leading the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation's efforts to help dyslexic children learn to read.

Jerry opened his talk by asking us if we could imagine how it would be to not be able to read. Besides the pleasures of reading, in this day and age reading is required in almost every endeavor. When we had a largely rural workforce, reading was not nearly as important; now it's essential.

It is estimated that 10% to 20% of the population have dyslexia to some degree, ranging from mild to severe. There is help in learning to read for those who have a milder form of dyslexia, but those with the severe form will never learn to read. Their brains are "just wired differently", to the extent that they "can't spell a lick" and can't write. Some have difficulty in even holding a pencil. They must be taught strategies to cope, such as learning the rules of language structure, word origins, and the science of language.

The Alabama Scottish Rite has made helping dyslexic children, grades 1 through 8, their top priority. Jerry related the difficulties they overcame in getting their reading programs approved by the Alabama Dept. of Education and introduced into public schools in Alabama. Providing tools to handle the teaching and educating both parents and teachers to use the tools took several years of effort. After providing the scientific evidence of their teaching methods, these tools are now in general use in the state.

He closed his talk by telling us that if we know of any child, albeit in a public school, private school, or home schooled, there is free help available. Home-schooled children can make use of DVD-based instruction with parents giving the necessary help.

Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, presented him a coaster with our Optimist Creed, and asked him to draw the name for our attendance prize. The first name drawn was Carl Winkler, and Carl, as usual, was present today to take home the money.

Carl also closed the meeting by leading us in the reciting the Optimist Creed.

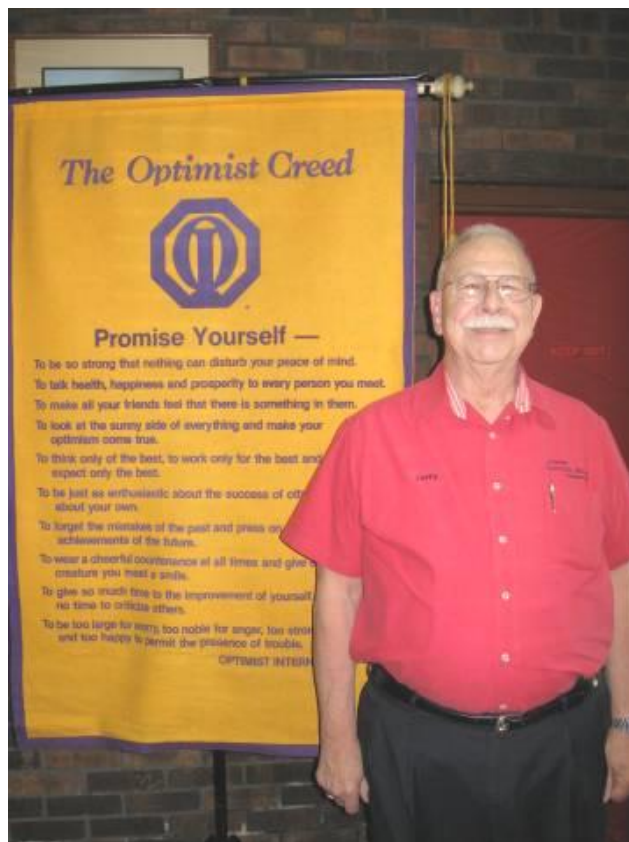
Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative."

~ W. Clement Stone

- PHOTOS -



Our Speaker - Jerry Burfitt



Dr. Ormand, Alberto Duarte



Duane Plank



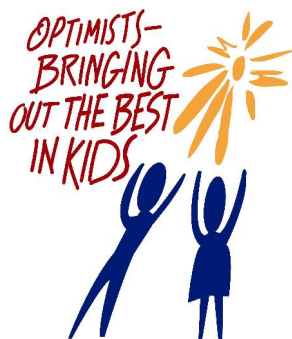
Ryan Murphy, Carla Becker, Roman Hawrych



Goodbye, Milt!

CALENDAR

- 4/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)
- 4/22 Tuesday 06:30 pm Saint Paul United Methodist Church
3250 Dunn DR SW
Youth Appreciation Banquet
- 4/24 **NO MEETING**
Tuesday's meeting replaced this meeting
- 5/1 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker – Pam Clasgens of Heals, Inc.
- 5/5 Monday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ
Respect for Law Banquet
- 5/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 5/8 **NO MEETING**
Respect for Law Banquet replaced this meeting
- 5/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 5/22 Thursday 11:45 am Regency Retirement Village
Dana Hill from Regency Retirement Village
- 5/29 **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