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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

88 Buffet

Opti - Topics

June Evening Meeting

Fifteen Optimists, including our newest member, assembled at the 88 Buffet this evening for our first meeting in June. Of the fifteen in attendance, five were ladies, as was our speaker for the meeting. We all overate, as usual, from the too many tempting selections on the buffet tables.

Opening

President Al called on Al Renz to bring the opening prayer, and he also led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Someone (I didn't get who) brought a large (about 3 ft. X 5 ft.) flag to the meeting and mounted it in the front of the room, so that made for an enthusiastic pledge.

Optimist Family News

Marilyn King-Jordan told me she was going back to UAB to undergo another surgical procedure on her right eye. Her eye looked quite puffy tonight.

Charlene Higgins had recovered enough from her recent foot surgery to attend tonight's meeting.



Duane Plank. It was learned after the meeting that Duane passed away at his home shortly before the meeting. Please keep Elaine and her family in your prayers. We will pass on information as we receive it.

**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



Daniel Horton is scheduled to become our newest member. Daniel turned in his membership application form and check this evening. Daniel will lower the Club's average age and increase our energy.



President Al Adams said **volunteers are still needed to help the HOPE Leadership Academy's oratorical contest** coming up next week. You should have received an e-mail about this recently. To repeat: **On Tuesday, June 7**, 5 volunteers are needed to coach speakers in good oratorical practices in the early afternoon. **On Friday morning, June 10**, 3 volunteers are needed to judge the speakers in an oratorical contest. These both take place at Buckhorn Middle School. Please contact Al if you can help in this way.

Program



Al Renz introduced our speaker for the evening, **Ms. Linda Brouwer** from Free 2 Teach. Free 2 Teach is one of the 18 organizations that has submitted a grant request to the Club's Community Service Grants program.

Ms. Brouwer is the Outreach and Development Manager for the non-profit Free 2 Teach organization. She has served extensively in community volunteer positions, including fund raising for public schools, facilitating her church's youth ministry, and co-chair of her church's building committee. She joined Free 2 Teach in September of 2014 and is involved in fund raising, corporate donations and grant writing.

Ms. Brouwer began her program by displaying a chart giving the history of Free 2 Teach. (I took a photo of this chart—see the photo section of this newsletter). Free 2 Teach began as an idea in 2009 when Eula Battle, a retired teacher, decided to help teachers supply school supplies to needy children in their classrooms without digging into their own pocketbooks. At first, it was a loosely organized effort to collect and distribute materials from her garage, but in 2012 it became a 501(c)3 organization. It opened its first “store” in 2013 in the former West Huntsville Middle School, and now occupies a 10,000 square foot facility, housing both the store and a warehouse, on Leman Ferry Road.

Free 2 Teach began by supplying seven core items: #2 pencils, pens, crayons, washable markers, glue sticks, copy paper and loose leaf paper. In the 2014-2015 school year “Healthy Kids” items, such as Kleenex and antibacterial wipes were added, as were math and science resources such as calculators and graph paper. In 2015-2016, art supplies, flash drives and 3-D “molecules of life” were added. There are now also several bookcases of books that cover school subjects that can be taken.

To get free school supplies, a teacher from one of the 79 public schools in Madison County need only to make an appointment by signing up on the Free 2 Teach web site (www.free-2-teach.org). Teachers have some restrictions in quantities of items and number visits (every other month). Most of the shopping is done in the months of July and August. In 2014-2015, about 1500 teachers visited the store and were given over \$640,000 worth of supplies. In 2015-2016, there were more than 1,900 teacher visits with a total of \$905,000 in materials given to them.

Volunteers are made good use of. Free 2 Teach utilizes the help of more than 150 volunteers who donate more than 1,200 hours of work annually. The founder and Executive Director (Eula Battle) is a volunteer. One of the big jobs volunteers do is sorting and stacking incoming materials. Also, volunteers track every teacher who comes to the store and records what they take.

Closing

President Al Adams gave Ms. Brouwer a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, and asked her to draw for today’s attendance prize. Sidney Sandridge missed out, Alberto Duarte’s name was second and he took the prize. As further reward, President Al asked Alberto to lead the Club in the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seed that you plant.”

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

PHOTOS



Ms. Linda Brouwer, our speaker



**Daniel Horton
our newest Club member**

Free2Teach

OUR STORY



May, 2015

For the 2014-2015 school year:

- Hosted over 1,500 teacher visits
- Distributed \$640,000 in supplies to students
- Served all 79 public schools in Madison County!

February, 2016
Launched the STEM Lending Library!

August, 2014
Began operations at current 10,000 sq. ft. shopping/warehouse space.

January, 2013
Opened shopping doors to teachers in the library of the former West Huntsville Elementary School.

2012
Free 2 Teach receives 501(c)(3) status and begins looking for a home.

2011
Began planning to make Free 2 Teach a reality.

2010
Started collecting and storing surplus business and school supplies in Eula Battle's garage.

December 2009
The seed for Free 2 Teach is planted at a holiday gift drive.

CALENDAR

- 6/7 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 6/9 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
Blake Dorning – Sheriff
- 6/16 Thursday **11:45 am**
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 6/23 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
Dr. Beth Cape – Director of Children’s Ministries
Whitesburg Baptist Church
- 6/30 Thursday - **NO MEETING - 5th Thursday**
- 7/5 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 7/7 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet
TBD – Jim Roe
- 7/14 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
TBD – Jim Roe
- 7/21 Thursday **11:45 am**
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)
- 7/28 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
TBD – Jim Roe
- 8/2 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting

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.

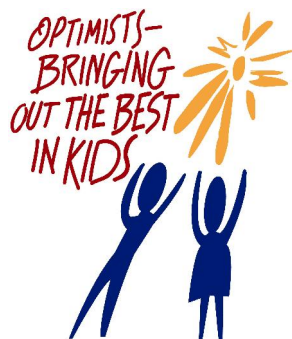
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

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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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: