



Opti - Topics

August – 1st Noon Meeting

A fairly good turnout of 12 Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center today for our regularly scheduled luncheon meeting. We had two guests, Jim Berry's granddaughter Kelly Bullard and a prospective member L. C. Nickerson. L. C. was a guest of Jim Roe, and is a prospective member of the "Harvest Mafia." We also welcomed Fabiani Duarte, today.

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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm at 88 Buffet

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

At the

**Optimist Recreational
Center**



Gay Pepper was our caterer today, and she supplied an assortment of delicious sandwiches, with all the

trimmings, drinks and desert, from Steak-Out. She brought 15 servings, which by some miracle exactly matched the number of attendees today.

Opening

President Al Adams called on Kelly Bullard to bring the opening prayer, and then Al led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There's still time to bring your donation of **school**



supplies for Morris

Elementary School today.

School has already started, and more school supplies are needed. Try to bring them at

next week's meeting. **George McDonough** will collect them and will deliver them to Morris Elementary

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

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The date for the **Club's annual picnic** has been set for **September 10**. As in the past couple of years, the picnic will be held at the pavilion of the Fords Chapel UMC in Harvest. The picnic will start at 2 p. m. and be over around 5 p. m. The picnic will have a "pot luck" menu with the Club furnishing the meat and drinks, and Club members furnishing sides and deserts. **Get your name on a sign-up sheet that Al Renz is passing around.**



Band Committee chairman, Tom Casteel, reported that **all but a few of the Club's instruments have been issued** to schools; there are only a half dozen flutes left in our storage room. Usually, instruments are not given out until the second week of school, but this year many band directors called early, some before school started, to be sure they got their instruments. As a result, some of the schools that normally take instruments in this program, such as Madison County MS, Liberty MS, Riverton MS and McNair Junior High, cannot be issued them. Tom said the committee needs more instruments (see New Business, below).



Membership Committee Chairman Tom Casteel urged everyone to **invite prospective new members** to our Club soon. Our Club is down by 4 members for the year, and we need to be at least even to be an Honor Club. We need these 4 new members by September 30. There is currently a one-half price special on membership for new members that are teachers.



President Al Adams announced that the **Alabama-Mississippi District Meeting** will be at the Birmingham Hilton on **August 26 to August 28**. Al is to be installed as the Lieutenant Governor for our Zone at this meeting, and the Club should try to support this meeting for that, if for no other reason.

New Business

As a result of some Middle School band programs not being able to get instruments, Tom Casteel reported that he had gone on line to seek an economical source of **additional band instruments** to fill this gap. He said he found a music store in New Jersey that could supply 23 completely refurbished instruments at the low cost of a little over \$6,900 (which includes shipping). He said he would like the Club to ask the Foundation for \$7,000 to buy them.

Motion: Jesse Lang moved that the Club request \$7,000 from the Foundation to buy instruments for the Band Program. Al Renz seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed without dissent.

This request will be brought to the Foundation at its next meeting, which Alberto Duarte said would be immediately after the Club's Business Meeting next Thursday.

Program

Tom Casteel introduced our speaker for the day, **Ms. Angela Walker**, CEO and Founder of **Huntsville Drumline**. Ms. Walker is a retired teacher from Chaffee Elementary School, having served 30 years in the teaching profession. She said that "Children are definitely my area of expertise." She related how one of her adopted sons had been the recipient of one of the Club's band instruments when he attended Whitesburg Middle School, and how thankful she was. "It was a huge blessing" not to have to buy a trumpet for him, she said.

Ms. Walker began her talk by telling how she came to start Huntsville Drumline. Some years ago she read a story about a young man, Martin Lee Anderson, a troubled African-American youth who had died while in the custody at a Sheriff's "Boot Camp." Thousands of people protested about the treatment that resulted in his death. She thought, "Why hadn't some of these protestors done something to prevent Martin Lee from being in the camp in the first place?" Then, she looked in the mirror, and asked herself, "Why aren't you doing something?"

Music, especially drums, has always been a big part of the Walker family, so she thought, “Teaching drums to youth is something *I* can do.” She cashed in her son’s (unused) college tuition fund, cashed in her retirement account and took a second mortgage on her house in order to buy a building that was for sale on Jordan Lane. This building became the home of Huntsville Drumline.

Huntsville Drumline takes any child who is interested in learning drums. There is no tuition; however, students who are in the program must buy their own uniforms at a cost of about \$180 (some paid by sponsors). Huntsville Drumline provides all the instruments, mallets, etc. There are currently 70 students, including five young ladies. Students are taught snare, quads, tenor and bass drum plus cymbals. They attend 4 hours per week, two hours each on Tuesday and Thursday. Spectators are always welcome to attend the instruction and practice sessions.

Huntsville Drumline has two major goals:

- (1) Every child will learn to play all five instruments well so they may be in a high school band.
- (2) Every child will eventually qualify for college scholarships. Ms. Walker said many of their students are being snapped up by high school bands before they even finish their training.

In response to a question, Ms. Walker said that Huntsville Drumline’s annual budget is about \$75,000 plus they get about \$20,000 in in-kind donations. There are a number of donors and sponsors, and they apply for grants to make their budget. For more information, go to www.huntsvilledrumline.com, and like them on Facebook.

Closing

President Al gave Ms. Walker a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, and asked her to draw for today’s attendance prize. Charlene Higgins was the first name drawn, and she took home the pot.

Jim Roe led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

. Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Music is the beat of a drum that keeps time with our emotions.”

~ Shannon L. Alder



Our speaker, Ms. Angela Walker



Website – hsvoptimists.org

CALENDAR

- 8/18 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (Tom Casteel)
- 8/25 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Kathy Miller - United Way
- 9/1 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet
George McDonough- TBD
- 9/6 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank - Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 9/8 Thursday
No Meeting - Replaced by Club Picnic
- 9/10 **Saturday 2:00 to 5:00 pm**
Ford's Chapel Pavilion
Annual Club Picnic
- 9/15 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (George McDonough)
- 9/23 **Friday 6:00 pm** Optimist Recreation Center
Officer Installation Banquet - Governor Pam Black
- 9/29 Thursday
No Meeting - 5th Thursday

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: