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Opti - Topics

February Evening Meeting



Sixteen Optimists assembled at the Blue-Plate Café this evening for our regular scheduled evening meeting on Groundhog Day this month. The turnout was good considering the cold, damp weather and the rush-hour traffic congestion on South Parkway. Our waitress, Tosha, did her usual prompt and efficient job of getting us fed from the menu items.

Opening

President Vastell Williams gaveled the bell and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and we then recited the Pledge of Allegiance--without a flag tonight.

Induction of New Members



President Vastell announced we would install two new Club members tonight, and they would be installed by two different officials. The two were:

Angela (Ane) Debroy was installed by Zone Vice President Alfred Adams. She was introduced by her sister, Dr. Debbie Hyder, who is a member, in place of her sponsor, Alfred Adams. Ms. Debroy is the General Counsel for Alabama A & M University, and has been a resident of Huntsville for 17 years. She has a son 18, and a daughter 15.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at Blue
Plate Café

3rd & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 a.m.
Optimist Recreational
Center

DIRECTORS

2 YEAR

Tom Casteel
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Richie Myers
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Gay Pepper
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1 YEAR

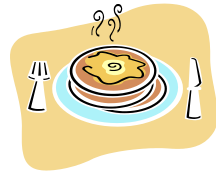
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Robert (Bob) Hirschbuehler was installed by Club President Vastell Williams. Bob was introduced by his sponsor, Tom Casteel. Bob is a retired Budget Analyst (aka a “bean counter” according to Tom), having moved from St. Louis, Mo. About 10 years ago, Tom met Bob through his wife Ginger, who is a friend of Bob’s wife, Linda.

Announcements & Committee Reports



Pancake Breakfast Chairman Albert Duarte reminded us that our annual fund raiser for the Hawthorne Conservatory is this **Saturday, February 4** at the Cooper House. Cooks need to be there in time to have food ready for the 7:30 beginning. Alberto announced, although “hesitant to do it,” that the four recent new members would not be return \$50 for their 10 tickets, but he would accept—from them only—payment for tickets actually sold. All other members are asked to return \$50. Note: You may make your donation of \$50 to the Hawthorne Conservatory and get a tax deduction.

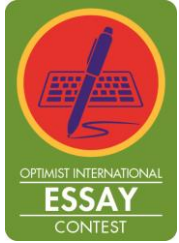


While on the subject of the pancake breakfast, you newer members may want to buy one of the “pancake colored” **aprons** to wear at the event. Tom Casteel has 3 unsold aprons in his inventory. The cost for an apron is \$13.00.

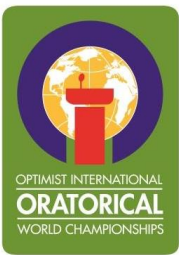


Zone Vice President Alfred Adams reported that the **District Meeting** in Gulfport, MS, last weekend was perhaps the best one he has attended. Our Club received a “whole bunch” of awards at the meeting, including being the No. 1 Club in the District for the year, having the No. 1 newsletter, and being an Honor Club. The Ft. Payne Optimist Club received a Distinguished Club Award (Alfred said he was “kinda jealous”).

Alfred was awarded a **Pace Setter award** at the meeting. This award is given to “club presidents that have distinguished themselves during the year.” Tom Casteel was recognized for being the District Webmaster and maintaining the District website, he also won a 3-foot tall panda bear in a raffle.



Essay Contest Chairman George McDonough said he is now just waiting for the essays to come in. The deadline for submitting essays to George is 6:00 p.m. on February 4. He has talked to a lot of people about the contest, and is expecting a better response than in recent years.



Oratorical Contest Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that the contest will be held at the Cooper House on March 11.

He has received several calls asking about the contest, and is optimistic about having a much better turnout this year, as well. “We’ll see what happens,” he said. He reminded everyone that the winner of the contest is eligible to compete for scholarships totaling

\$22,500 (as did our winning contestant last year).



Pecan Sale Chairman George McDonough reported that the sale wrap-up is now complete, and that he was within \$1.00 of balancing the books. The interesting thing is that he was \$1.00 over and not \$1.00 under.



Besides having aprons in his inventory, Tom Casteel has a few **Club polo shirts**, too. If you want a size not in his stock, he will order one for you. Poplin “dress shirts” are also available, in both men’s and women’s styles, but there is a minimum order of 4 shirts required. **If you are interested in a shirt e-mail Tom.** Tom said that’s the only way he will remember your need.

Program

Richie Myers is our Program Chairman for the month, but he’d forgotten he’d signed up for February, and no one reminded him. I asked him if he read the newsletter, and he said to do that he would have to open his e-mails. So, Richie “winged it” for our program tonight. He told a couple of brief stories about two different activities he had participated in when living in Pennsylvania. The first activity was about going on ‘coon hunts, and the second was about ice fishing.

Closing

President asked our new member, Ane Debro, to draw for the winner of our attendance prize. Our other new member, **Bob Hirschbuehler**, won the pot on the first drawing.

Tom Casteel reminded Bob (and you other new members) that it is now Club policy for the winner of the attendance prize to donate half of his/her winnings to our Childhood Cancer Fund. Last year we collected over \$250 for this fund by this means.

Vastell led us in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

name was missing and no one's name was there more than once.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“All kids need is a little help, a little hope, and someone who believes in them.”

~ Magic Johnson

CALENDAR

- 2/4** Saturday **7:00 am** Cooper House
Annual Pancake Breakfast for Hawthorne Conservatory
- 2/16** Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (Richie Myers)
- 2/23** Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
TBD- Richie Myers
- 3/2** Thursday **6:00 pm** Blue Plate Cafe
TBD - Marilyn King-Jordan
- 3/7** Tuesday **4:00 pm** 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting

PHOTOS



**Past President Al Adams Installs
New Member Angela (Ane) Debro**



**President Vastell Williams Installs
New Member Bob Hirschbuehler**

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
P, O, Box 2230
Huntsville, AL 35804-2230

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: