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Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
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June Evening Meeting



**HUNTSVILLE
COUNTRY CLUB**

Our meeting was in the small room at the Country Club tonight, and we ate at a nicely laid large table. Fifteen members attended our meeting, along with our speaker and his associate. We had a filling meal with a choice of a hamburger or a grilled chicken sandwich, French fries, pasta salad and baked beans. There was also a dessert of key lime pie, but the wait staff forgot to serve it until after we said the Creed to end the meeting. I think most stayed to eat it, but I don't need the calories and I left

Opening

Immediate Past President Vastell Williams presided tonight in the absence of President Eureka Battie. Eureka, I was told, was out of town getting her daughter Alexis enrolled in college. Vastell welcomed everyone to our June evening meeting and called on Clyde Nevins to bring the opening prayer and lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements



President Eureka is asking all Committee Chairpersons to prepare and deliver a year-end report of your Committee activities and submit it to her by August 31, 2018. These reports can be a big help to next year's chairperson, especially to new members who are stepping up to take a leadership role in our Club activities.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at
Huntsville Country
Club

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

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Program



to the Big Brother program that was begun in Sheffield, AL, to steer kids in the right direction. Mr. Booker is his right-hand man and faithful supporter.

Mr. Abernathy grew up in Sheffield and was a three-sports athlete in football, basketball and track. As a kid he always wished for an older mentor he could confide in and go to for personal problems, especially those problems he was not comfortable going to his parents with. He had the idea for *Growing Minds* soon after leaving high school but was only able to begin the program last year with the help of his sister and some friends. They raised funds by selling fish plates, from which they had a “fun day” with games and refreshments attended by over 150 kids. Last September they received their 501(c)3 status and began helping kids in their after-school programs.

Growing Minds' aim is to keep kids off the streets where they are exposed to bad influences. They provide games, activities, tutoring, workshops and an open ear for sharing problems. They currently have seven adults working with about 30 kids in the program with the oldest being 13 years of age. They currently do not have a web site but use a Facebook page to promote the program. Mr. Abernathy said they are currently funding these activities out of their own pockets.

Growing Minds is planning another fun day this summer. It will be held from 4 p. m to 8 p. m. in Avalon Park in Sheffield on July 22. They would welcome any Optimists who would like to help. Contact Keaires Roberson for information on carpooling to Sheffield. She plans to go.

Keaires Roberson introduced our speaker for tonight's meeting: Michael Abernathy, and his associate Marquis Booker. Mr. Abernathy is CEO and Founder of *Growing Minds*, a program similar

Closing



Vastell presented Mr. Abernathy with an Optimist Creed tile and asked him to draw a name for our attendance prize. Eureka Battie, Daniel Horton, Matt Hancock and Jeannette Jones missed out. Jim Roe's name was drawn next, and Jim took half the pot (the other half goes to fight childhood cancer, as you know).

Vastell led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to end the meeting at the unheard-of time of 7 o'clock.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”

~ Nelson Mandela

CALENDAR

JUNE 28 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Bob Hirschbuehler)

JULY 3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.

Board Meeting

JULY 12 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club

JULY 26 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Vastell Williams)

Photos



Our Speaker, Michael Abernathy



Our Group Enjoying Fellowship



Huntsville Optimist Club
P.O. Box 2230
Huntsville, AL 35801-2230



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