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Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

Volume 74, Number 1 – October 10, 2019

October Evening Meeting



Fourteen Optimists and three guests assembled at Blue Plate Café for our evening meeting. President Joseph Lee called our meeting to order. He then called on Jim Roe to bless the food and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening

President Joseph Lee welcomed everyone to the Club's first evening meeting of the new Optimist year. He then asked for guest introductions, which were:

- **Pat Lang**, wife of Jesse Lang.
- **Carlos Matthews**, Board of Education, District 5 Representative and our speaker for the evening.
- **Darren Moore**, Guest of Eureka Thompson and the young man that created our entry for the Optimist International "Reel Optimism" contest in 2018. He also took photographs at the Installation Banquet last September.

Guest Speaker Introduction



**HUNTSVILLE CITY
SCHOOLS**

While we were waiting for our meals, Vikki More introduced our guest speaker **Carlos Matthews**

She said, "I met Mr. Carlos Matthews five years ago at a PTA dinner meeting. From that day we formed a friendship and served on PTA Boards and various committees in support of all children in the Huntsville City School System.

Club meets

2nd Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at
Blue Plate Cafe

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Vacant

Carlos is a native to Huntsville Alabama and is a graduate of Huntsville High School. He continued his education at Alabama A&M University earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology. Mr. Mathews has worked for many years in the technology industry and currently owns a small business here in Huntsville Al.

He has served the Huntsville community as a PTA President, a member of the Huntsville City Planning Commission and a member of the Huntsville City Schools Policy Committee. He is committed to ensuring that all students in Huntsville City Schools receive the education needed to prepare them for the real world.

Announcements



It is that time for our annual pecan sales fundraiser. Eureka is taking orders for the pecans to be delivered in early November. Each member is requested to sell 10 bags. The pecans sell for \$12 for a 1 lb. bag. Members that do wish to sell them may donate \$50 in lieu of selling them. Please be prompt in responding to Eureka so we can order the correct amount. Use to flyer in the newsletter to advertise.



The 1st Quarter District Conference will be held in Daphne, AL on October 18-20th. President Joseph Lee, Juanita Lee, Mattie Henderson, and Tom Casteel will be attending. Vice-President Russ Thomas a member of the Sawnee Cumming Optimist Club of Atlanta will be our Optimist International representative.



Tom Casteel has not received any orders for Club shirts from anyone. Six shirts is the minimum order. Please email tom at tom@leetsac.net with the Type of shirt you wish and the size. Types are Dress: short or long sleeve and short sleeve polo. Dress shirts are \$25, and polos are \$15.

Our speaker reported that the Huntsville School Systems financial problems were the result of an error made by the previous Chief Financial Officer (CFO). A pay raise authorized by the State that was supposed to be given incrementally over several years was given all at once. The result was the school system wound up millions in the red. The new CFO managed to get the system back into the black by eliminating unnecessary purchases and establishing budgets that were based upon actual needs rather than just a guess what a department needed. The CFO is leaving to go to another school system with a higher salary.

He stated that the Department of Justice and Judge handling the desegregation issues said that we are making progress. One requirement was that children that needed a class not offered in their school be able to be bussed to a school if they lived over two miles from the school. Our system will provide transportation if the child lives over one mile from the school.

Not all the schools have a single point of entry with security doors. This is being worked on. There were seven threats in the last week of school last spring. There was a lawsuit because the boys' baseball field and girls' softball field were not equal in upkeep. This problem has been corrected. Columbia High School football and track field has large sink holes and are being renovated

Carlos said that the one issue that he is pursuing is one of proficiency. If two children at different schools both receive an A in the same subject, then their level of proficiency in that subject should be the same. That isn't happening in our system and needs to be corrected. Implementing certified teachers will help this problem

When asked what the major issue with the school system is, he said, "Bullying". "A child being bullied cannot learn."

Closing

President Joseph Lee had Carlos draw the name for the 50/50 attendance prize. Eureka Thompson won on the first draw. President Lee led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Jim Roe

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Do not anticipate trouble or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight”

~ Benjamin Franklin

CALENDAR

- October 24th Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting (Food – Vicki Moore)
- November 5th Tuesday **4:00 pm** Synovus Bank – 4650 Whitesburg DR
Board Meeting
- November 14th Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting (Food – Vastell Williams)
- NOTE TIME CHANGE -
- November 28th Thursday - **NO MEETING - Thanksgiving**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

- December 3rd Tuesday **4:00 pm** Synovus Bank – 4650 Whitesburg DR
Board Meeting

- December **TBD**
Christmas Party

- December 12th Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting (Bob Hirschbuehler)
- NOTE TIME CHANGE -

- December 26th Thursday - **NO MEETING - CHRISTMAS**



Photos



Carlos Matthews Talks to the Club Members.



President Joseph Lee Presents Carlos a Creed Coaster.



2019-2020 District Pin

OPTIMIST CLUB OF HUNTSVILLE



SERVING YOUTH SINCE 1947

OPTIMIST CLUB of HUNTSVILLE ANNUAL PECAN SALE

For our annual fundraiser to support our club we are selling 1lb bags of Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves at \$12 a bag.

These are the best the Southland. has to offer! One bite of these Mammoth Pecan Halves and you will be in love with how delicious they are.

Great for your favorite recipe or just by themselves. They also make great gifts! Preorder now for delivery early November.



TO ORDER:

Contact Your Optimist Club Member:
at

*Or email name, address and phone number
to: pecans@hsvoptimists.org*

Club Website: hsvoptimists.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleOptimistClub



Optimist Club of Huntsville
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