

**OPTIMIST CLUB OF FORT SAM HOUSTON
NOON MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2014**

President Rick Coleman called the meeting to order at 11:52 AM

The following members were present:

Bob Hogue	Sarah & "Y" Villarreal	Dean Wilson
Ed & Pam Parnell	Rick Coleman	Jack & Fay Hopkins
Betty Gower		

Absent w/ Leave..... Tres. Russell Shrader

Invocation..... Jack Hopkins led us in prayer

Pledge of Allegiance..... Dean Wilson led us in the Pledge

Speakers of the Day:

Dottie Bartel and Harold Bellamy – "Friends 4 Fischer House"

Future Guest Speaker:

George Taylor, Lawyer – August 21, 2014

August Birthdays:

Fay Hopkins – 15th

Jack Hagans – 25th

Minutes:

Sec. Wilson read the August 07, 2014 Business Meeting Minutes. Pres. Coleman called for and received a motion to approve the minutes from Ed Parnell and with a second by Bob Hogue, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Humor was provided by.....Bob Hogue & Rick Coleman

(At this time Pres. Coleman asked Sec. Wilson to let the record reflect that Betty Gower entered the meeting at 12:08 PM, but because the meeting started at 11:52, MS Gower was actually on time and was not fined for tardiness and/or disruption of these monumental proceedings.)

Fines....were collected by Sgt-at-Arms Bob Hogue

Announcements:

Pres. Coleman asked Foundation Pres. Jack Hopkins to update the Club on The Foundation's activities. Jack related that in an email from Foundation Tres. Ray Holmes it was stated that the Magic Show finances have not been completed. Ray will meet with show producer contact, Liesa Logan before next week's meeting for a finalization of funds. Until that meeting the net income from ticket sales stands at \$2,803.50, bringing the balance in the Foundation account up to \$8,559.15. Pres. Coleman reminded all assembled of the District Conference to be held on August 15-17, 2014 in Austin TX and that he would like to see our Club with the most members in attendance. Fay Hopkins remarked that Jan Oord Graves and Ron Graves will not be able to attend our September 25, 2014 Club Officer Installation Banquet due to necessary executive business at Optimist International Headquarters in St Louis MO.

Guest Speakers:

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At this time Pres. Coleman introduced our "Guest Speakers for the Day" Dottie Bartel and Harold Bellamy. Dottie spoke first, describing how she and husband Terry, longtime friends and clients of Ricks, who are realtors and own three local real estate businesses in the San Antonio area, got together with two friends about seven years ago and came up with the idea of raising funds to support Fischer House activities, thus the name "Four 4 Fischer House". There are sixty-four (64) Fischer Houses round the world, located in the United States; Great Britain and Germany. Four of them are here in San Antonio and are the facilities their organization and others like them support. These Fischer Houses were started to give the families of military personnel, who are patients in military hospitals, a place to stay without charge, during some period of time in that patient's treatment. The average stay at a Fischer House is ten (10) days, but an average stay at a Combat Fischer House, such as those here at bases in San Antonio, is forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days. The Fischer House Foundation is supported solely by donation. In 2013, 22,000 families were served by the Fischer House and 35 million dollars were saved by these families by not having to pay out of pocket for lodging. Since 1990, 5.2 million days of lodging has been donated by the Fischer House. The Fischer House Foundation supports a scholarship program and in the last thirteen years has given out \$11,000,000 in scholarships for military children and spouses, including a "Hero's Legacy" for those children whose parent was lost to or disabled in combat. There are many, many more programs that the Fisher Houses provide, too numerous to list here. To find out all that Fischer Houses do and what we can do to help, please contact:

Friends4fischerhouse@yahoo.com

You can send a donation or drop off auction items at:

*Friends 4 Fischer House
C/O 508 Main St
Schertz, TX 78154*

Harold Bellamy took the floor next and spoke on how the Friends 4 Fischer House came to be and how through the years they have grown in learning the ins and outs of raising thousands in donations for Fischer House and other needy programs. Harold's main theme....reach out to the community and do not be afraid to ask for support for you programs whether it be monetary or physical items that are in need.

This is valuable information our Club can use in furthering our efforts in building our Foundation into a source that can be a moving force in providing aid to those with needs in our community.

Kitty Drawing.....Dottie drew Fay's number for a win of \$10.00.

Certificate of Appreciation:

Pres. Coleman presented Dottie Bartel and Harold Bellamy, each, the Club's Certificate of Appreciation, while thanking them for their work in support of the Fischer House Foundation and on an excellent portrayal of their organization's mission.

Jack Hopkins archived the event with a scrapbook photograph.

Optimist Creed:

At this time, with all said and all done, Ed Parnell was asked to lead the assembly in the Optimist Creed, after which the bell was struck to adjournment at 12:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dean T Wilson
Club Secretary 2013-14

This is a private organization and is not affiliated with the Department of Defense or any of its components.