



# THE ORACLE

Optimist Club of Plant City  
P.O. Box 1755, Plant City FL 33564-1755

Early April, 2007



## NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 2

Be sure to attend our next meeting at ABC Pizza on Monday, April 2 at 7:00pm. Topics we need to discuss are the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt cook/serve details (see article below), Respect For Law banquet (see article below) and the high school graduate scholarships and awards banquet. We had great attendance at the last meeting and hope to see more members attend this meeting!

## EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY APRIL 7

Reserve the morning of Saturday April 7 to help out at the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt. We will need hot dog grillers (8:30am) and others to man the assembly line and serving line (9:00am to noon). Remember to bring large coolers to store the assembled dogs in! Over 800 youths will search for over 12,000 plastic filled Easter eggs. Other activities such as face painting, inflatables, rock wall and a pre-hunt stage show fill out the morning. Free hot dogs and drinks for all the youths. Event Chairman Mike Williamson (michaellwilliamson@gmail.com or 813-757-6570) reports the following have volunteered: Jeff A, Walt A, Cal C, Terry H, Jeb H, Carl H, Doug H, Jeff K, Scott L, Jeff O, Dave R, Mike W and Paul W. Please contact Mike to add your name to the list!

## RESPECT FOR LAW BANQUET MAY 14

Due to a conflict on the Plant City Police Department schedule, we will hold the Respect For Law banquet on Monday, May 9 at 7:00pm at the Plant City Police Department. This event was previously scheduled for the week prior at another location, but this change is now official. Event Chairman Carl Hinson (preer77@aol.com or 813-752-8406) has coordinated our visit and guest speaker. A tour of the facility will be a part of the evening's activities. The Club will cover the meal, members are requested to bring a dessert. This is a family event and we need a great turnout.

## ORATORICAL CONTESTANTS ADVANCE AT THE ZONE COMPETITION

Our two representatives from the local contest - Amanda Williamson and Bryars Byrd (Trevor Persaud was unable to attend due to family travel plans) - did well at the Zone competition in Lakeland/Mulberry and advanced to the Regional competition in Sanford on March 31. Photos from the Zone competition are on page 2 of this Oracle.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS LATELY

Jack and Cindy Holland were recognized in Washington DC for their volunteer work with the Alliance for Lupus Research *Walk With Us To Cure Lupus* event in Tampa last May. Jeb Hicks and Walt Arnold recently competed in the 5th Annual Berry Boogie 5K run at Mike Sansone Park on a chilly Saturday morning, March 17. Check page 2 and 3 for details.

## LAPTOP DONATED!

A laptop computer has been secured for use in maintaining our financial and membership records. Special thanks go to TECO for their generous donation and also to Jeff Ogden for his efforts to convince TECO to come through with the contribution. We will soon install the Optimist International software program on it to maintain the club accounting and membership records. Thanks Jeff O and TECO!!!

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✓ Monday, April 2 - meeting at ABC Pizza, 7:00pm. Agenda: Easter Egg Hunt, Respect For Law, scholarships.
- ✓ Saturday, April 7 - Easter Egg Hunt: 8:30 grill time, 9:00 assembly line, 10:00 event start, 10:30-11:30 serving line.
- ✓ Monday, April 16 - Steak Night, 7:00pm grill time, Rec & Parks admin patio. Agenda: Respect For Law, scholarships.
- ✓ Monday, May 7 - meeting at ABC Pizza, 7:00pm. Agenda: Respect For Law, scholarships.
- ✓ Monday, May 14 - Respect For Law banquet, 7:00pm, Plant City Police Department conference room.

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### 2006-2007 OFFICERS

Jeff Arnold, President (813-707-8373)  
Jack Holland, 1st Vice President (813-752-2057)  
Jeb Hicks, 2nd Vice President (813-754-8804)  
Paul Woods, Secretary/Treasurer (813-752-0356)  
Walt Arnold, Sergeant at Arms (813-752-1602)



### BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Stottlemeyer, Past President  
2006-2008:  
Dave Robbins - Walt Arnold - Steve Kennedy  
2006-2007:  
Bernie Reynolds - Carl Hinson - Cal Calhoun

**ZONE ORATORICAL CONTEST MARCH 15, 2007**



**BERRY BOOGIE 5K RACE AND 1 MILE FUN RUN/WALK - MARCH 17, 2007**



Thirty four runners participated in the 5K portion of the race. Walt Arnold (left) finished first in his age group with a time of 30:01 (min:sec), beating out several other younger competitors. Jeb Hicks finished second in his age group with a time of 24:31.

**ALLIANCE FOR LUPUS RESEARCH VOLUNTEER MEETING**  
**WASHINGTON DC - MARCH 12, 2007**



Jack Holland and his wife Cindy were invited to attend the 2007 Alliance For Lupus Research (ALR) Annual Volunteer Meeting and Advocacy Day in Washington DC on March 12-13. The ALR is a non-profit research based organization whose mission is to look for a cure, treatment and prevention of lupus. Cindy was diagnosed in late 1998.

The 90 volunteers from across the country were brought up to date on research facts to use in future fundraising efforts and they also shared tips on organizing and running successful walk fundraisers. The group was prepped to go onto Capitol Hill and speak to their elected Members of Congress on ALR's Advocacy Day. Jack and Cindy went to the office of Representative Gus Bilirakis and they also joined the other four Florida volunteers from Sarasota and Boca Raton to visit the offices of Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Mel Martinez. Their purpose was to advocate for continued research funding through the Department Of Defense Health Research Program and the National Institutes of Health.

At the volunteer banquet, Jack and Cindy were recipients of the Founder's Award for their "vision and leadership in establishing the Tampa *Walk With Us To Cure Lupus* event in 2006". The walk had over 300 participants and raised over \$65,000, of which 100% goes to lupus research. Presenting the awards in the photo above was Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson IV, owner of the New York Jets, as well as founder and Chairman of the Board of the ALR. He and his fellow board members underwrite the overhead expenses of the ALR, allowing 100% of all contributions to go to lupus research.

Jack and Cindy are currently helping organize the 2007 Florida Suncoast *Walk with Us To Cure Lupus* event which will be held in Tampa at Al Lopez Park on Saturday, May 12. Those interested in contributing and walking can go to the walk website at [www.lupusresearch.org](http://www.lupusresearch.org) or contact Jack at jackholland@att.net or 813-752-2057.