

Directors

2006-2007

President -
Sandy Hightower
1st VP -
Joe Ramon
2nd VP -
Rose Johnson
Sec/Treasurer -
Janet Jackson

Club Meetings -

2nd & 4th Thursday
of each month

Location -

Mom's Amish Res-
taurant

1247 Beneva Rd

SE Corner of Be-
neva & Bahia Vista.

 Mom's Amish
Country Cooking



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the web for more
info and coupons

And the Guest Speaker was ...YOU!

But only if you were there! At the last Club meeting, everyone that attended had two minutes to tell about anything they wanted. Without a Sergeant at Arms, the two minute time limit wasn't enforced. It was a lot of fun and enlightening. **Harry Neal** told a story from his youth that included a duck, dog and a rabbit. **Howard Boxley** told about some of his past clubs that he's been a member. **Russ Hightower** told us how golf brought him together with Optimism. **Chris and Deb Piner** told a story about a bus ride in Mexico. I, myself told about how, as a 9 year old, playing Little League Baseball introduced me to the Optimism. There were plenty of more stories and everyone seemed to enjoy telling and listening.

Introducing our Newest Member

I want to introduce you to our newest member. She is **Sandra Voss**. Sandra was invited to join our club by **President Sandy** and **Russ Hightower**. Sandra works for Michael Saunders & Company as a Licensed Real Estate Broker.

Sandra started her own foundation in 2006, **The South West Educational Foundation, Inc.** Their goal is "...help during the transition from childhood to adulthood...and the whole family helping to keep kids in school by having their involvement in supervised group sporting programs." Please visit her website <http://theSWEF.org> for more information. Sandra is a real "go getter". The Suncoast Optimist Club sponsors the Palmetto High School Wrestling Team. On May 10, Head Coach **Bryan Wilkes** was a guest at the Club's meeting. Bryan told about how Wrestling changes kids lives, but Wrestling doesn't always get the funding needed. Sandra heard Bryan's words and immediately, through her foundation, organized "The Palmetto Youth Challenge. This event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am** at Palmetto High School. Bring out the kids, grandkids, friends and family for this event. There will be walking, bike riding and running events. So, please mark your calendar and show your support. Sandra says the event shouldn't last past **9:30-10:00 am**. So you'll have a whole day for other activities. If none of those events are to your liking, volunteers will be needed. The Club is planning on selling Breakfast Burritos. For additional information please visit <http://theSWEF.org> website. Look for additional in future bulletins.



President Sandy Hightower, left, "pinning" Sandra Voss, making her Club membership official.

Upcoming Meetings -

July 26

Aug 11 & Aug 23

BOD - Aug 2

Optimist International Junior Golf Championship

As this issue of the bulletin is going to press, **President Sandy** and **Russ Hightower** are attending The 2007 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships being held at PGA National Resort & Spa located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The Tournament is taking place **July 20-29**. I'm sure they'll have a great report for us when they return.

Governor Geoff??

I've been informed that member **Geoff Proffitt** has been asked to run for North Florida District Governor for 2008-2009. Elections are scheduled for **Aug 11** at the next North Florida District Conference to be held in Jacksonville, **Aug 10-12**. It should be easier on your wallet than running for Judge! Good luck Geoff, we'll look forward to a report.

Next Meeting July 26

Harry Neal will give a report from the Optimist International Convention, which he and **Craig Blethen** attended. The Convention was held the first week of July in Montreal, Canada.

G.Wiz on Aug 11

Make a note that the **Aug 9** meeting has been moved to **Saturday, Aug 11**. We'll be meeting at **G.Wiz**, located in the old Selby Library on the Boulevard of the Arts, across from the Hyatt. We'll be meeting between **3:30-4:00 pm**. Admission is adults 19 & up \$9, Seniors 65 and older \$8, children 3-18 \$6. For more information visit <http://www.gwiz.org/>

Upcoming Programs

Aug 23 - Donna Heath from People to People

Sep 13 - Donna Cowen from Gulf Central Early Steps

Sep 27 - Lynne Anast with Elderhostel

Oct 11 - Pauline Tracy & Dennis Stelver with Volunteer Task Force

**All programs a subject to change