

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
January 2, 2014

President Lynch convened the January meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-five members were present. Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. We have \$2186.78 in the bank.

Excuses for previous absences were given by William Turner, Whitney Westerfield, James Coursey, Terry Fuqua, and Mitchell Kaye.

Two prospective members that were nominated in December were voted on. Both votes were affirmative.

Papers were presented by Dr. John H. Freer., a member since 1995 and #13 in seniority and Duncan Cavanah, a member since 2006 and #25 in seniority.

In "Advertising and Marketing Propaganda," Dr. Freer demonstrates both the beneficial and the dangerous aspects of propaganda. One of the definitions of propaganda presented is "the presentation of ideas designed to persuade a group of people to think a certain way." This persuasion can be as harmless as a jingle promoting a headache remedy or as sinister as the Nazi Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda which Hitler used to control the thoughts of his soldiers and citizens.

Duncan Cavanah presented "Fear and Loathing with the Athenaeum Society: An Evening with Hunter S. Thompson." Thompson, who was born in Louisville, is well known for his books Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, The Rum Diary, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, and Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail. He gained even more notoriety from his article printed in Scanlan's Monthly and titled "The Kentucky Derby is Decadent and Depraved." This article was the start of "Gonzo Journalism" and Thompson was the trailblazer – a trailblazer who by his own admission never wrote anything sober. Thompson summed up his life when he wrote, "I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me."

Comments were made by James Coursey, Terry Fuqua, Mitchell Kaye, Marvin Denison, Robert Sivley, Mitchell Kaye again, and Wendell Lynch.

Presenters for the February meeting will be Robert Cope and Matt Frerichs.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
February 6, 2014

President Lynch convened the February meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-eight members were present. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. We have \$2044.13 in the bank.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Bob Ison, Wayne Goolsby, David Griffith, James Adams III, Bill Engler, Jason Powell, and Russ Guffey.

President Lynch led a discussion about a site for the Open Meeting. Oakland Manor was again the choice.

The membership voted to offer Honorary Memberships to Howard Willen and Hal King.

President Lynch welcomed new member Jeremy Easley.

James Coursey, representing the Committee on Membership, nominated Bill Nichol and Carter Hendricks for membership in the Society. They will be voted on in March.

Papers were presented by Robert Cope, a member since 2000 and #15 in seniority and Matt Frerichs, a member since 2013 and #33 in seniority.

In "Does Your Chewing Lose Its Flavor (on the Bedpost overnight)?," Bob Cope posed the musical question and then answered it by presenting the history of chewing gum which dates back over 5000 years. Ancient Greeks and Mayans chewed tree resin. Early twentieth century Americans got into the act by chewing gum invented by Thomas Adams. In 1893, William Wrigley, Jr. introduced Wrigley Spearmint Gum. Many other gums followed. Among those are Doublemint, Double Bubble, and Bazooka. Gum is available in squares, barrel shapes, sticks, shredded, gels and rolls, and yes, they all lose their flavor.

Matt Frerichs is a beekeeper, and he tells of his experiences in "Beekeeping: A Personal Account." Matt told about planning for, building, and purchasing his first hives. He even told about convincing his wife that beekeeping was a good idea. He also told how important bees are to mankind because they pollinate most of our fruit and vegetables. His personal loss of hives also exemplifies the danger that bees are in. Hive loss rose dramatically in 2006, and in 2013 the rate of loss was fifty percent. Bees are being killed by mites, fungi, beetles, mice, skunks, and pesticides. Our author intends to continue to raise bees, but already recognizes that we must address environmental issues.

Comments were made by James Coursey, William Turner, Robert Harper, Terry Fuqua, William Rowlett, Robert Sivley, Chris Gilkey, Russ Guffey, Wynn Radford, Robert Ison, John Freer, and Wendell Lynch.

Presenters for the March meeting will be James Adams, III and John Atkins.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
March 6, 2014

President Lynch convened the March meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-three members were present. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. We have \$2043.59 in the bank.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Peter Nicolos, John Soyars, Marvin Denison, Steve DeMoss, Jim Adams, and Duncan Cavanah.

President Lynch announced that Open Meeting would be held at Oakland Manor on May 1st at 6:30 p.m. He also explained details of Open Meeting for the benefit of new members.

The society voted on two prospective members. The vote was affirmative on both.

Papers were presented by James Adams, a member since 2009 and #27 in seniority and John Atkins, a member since 2013 and #34 in seniority.

James Adams told us about Louisiana history, culture, people and food in "Cajun or Creole: The Fascinating People and Culture of French Louisiana." A Creole is any person of non-American ancestry, whether African or European, who was born in America. The Cajuns are descendants of working class French immigrants. Both groups inspired our author with tasty dishes like jambalaya, shrimp creole, red beans and rice, and gumbo.

Three-dimensional printers are already being used extensively in manufacturing of many products around the world. John Atkins pointed to innovations by the Ford Motor company. But since the first commercially available 3-D printer appeared in 1986, perhaps the most fascinating products produced are those produced by bio-printers. Already kidneys, windpipes, and bladders are being produced. A liver may be very close, and a heart could be a reality in the next ten years. Many problems will be encountered, but the future looks bright.

Comments were made by Jim Coursey, Wynn Radford, and Russ Guffey.

Presenters for the April meeting will be Chris Gilkey and Steve DeMoss.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

April 3, 2014

President Lynch convened the April meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-eight members were present. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. We have \$1840.29 in the bank.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Frank Nash, Robert Harper, George Byars, Ken Dougherty, and Robert Sivley.

President Lynch welcomed new members Bill Nichol and Carter Hendricks.

President Lynch reminded members that the Open Meeting will be at Oakland Manor on May 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Russ Guffey (chairman of the Nominating Committee) nominated Peter Nicolos, Ken Dougherty and Dave Cavanah for president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer for the 2014-2015 Athenaeum year. The slate was accepted by acclamation.

Papers were presented by Chris Gilkey, a member since 2010 and #31 in seniority and Steve DeMoss, a member since 2013 and #37 in seniority.

Chris Gilkey delved into popular toys of the 1940s through the 1980s. In "Toy Stories: Nostalgic Attempts at your Inner Child," he took us back to the era of Scrabble, model planes, Slinkies, Frisbees, Hot Wheels, and super balls. Atari kicked us into video-gaming systems. Rubik's Cubes challenged our minds, dexterity and patience. Trivial Pursuit made lots of us feel really bad about ourselves.

In his presentation "In Search of the Real Fifth Beatle," Steve DeMoss allowed a glimpse at his love of music and his love of the Beatles in particular. His mission here was to determine if any one individual truly deserved the title of Fifth Beatle. Several were mentioned, but only one filled the bill because of his influence and contributions. George Martin contributed from beginning to end. He signed the group to their record contract in 1962 and produced all but one of their albums. Martin's input helped turn good songs into great songs and very good songs into classics.

Comments were made by Robert Harper, Mitchell Kaye, James Coursey, Wayne Goolsby, William Turner, Marvin Denison, William Rowlett, Wynn Radford, and Peter Nicolos.

Presenters for the Open Meeting will be Wynn L. Radford, III and Mitchell D. Kaye.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
May 1, 2014

President Lynch convened the Open Meeting of the Athenaeum Society at Oakland Manor, Hopkinsville.

Thirty-four members and forty-seven guests were present. President Lynch welcomed all and explained that both members and guests were invited to comment on papers. He then asked members to introduce themselves and their guests.

Papers were presented by Wynn L. Radford, III, a member since 1984 and #9 in seniority and Dr. Mitchell D. Kaye, a member since 2004 and #22 in seniority.

In "When Atticus Came to Hopkinsville," Wynn Radford told us that his favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Perhaps what he likes most about the book is the courage displayed by Atticus Finch, the attorney who was asked to defend Tom Robinson. Mr. Robinson was a black man who was accused of raping a white woman in a small southern town. Wynn saw a connection between this case and one that occurred in Christian County in 1954. In that case, a black man, Ed Milan, was accused of murdering a white man. The court appointed attorney Pollard White and W. O. Soyars who presented their best defense for Mr. Milan. They carried their appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court. Both trials ended with convictions, but in both the attorneys showed the courage to do the right thing although their predominately white communities perhaps would have preferred that they not do so. Wynn conclude his paper with a quote from Atticus: "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand."

Mitchell Kaye presented his paper "Happiness" and acknowledged the complexity of the search for happiness, but affirmed the value of the challenge. Mitch told us that happiness is not found through beauty, youth, intelligence, wealth, or the search for perfection. In fact, all of these can be barriers in our attainment of happiness. Instead, a happy life is a meaningful life – a life with positive purpose. Happy people are also able to live in the present. Lists and plans can obscure the now that we should be enjoying. A happy person needs a moral compass. We need rules and boundaries. We must also demonstrate tolerance and be willing to forgive. A happy life requires joy. Joy is the pleasure we have in the life we choose to live.

President Lynch then presented the Hal King Twinkie Award to Wynn Radford, David Cavanah, Danny Gilkey, and John Atkins and adjourned the meeting.

Presenters for the September meeting will be George W. Engler and J. Terry Fuqua.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
September 4, 2014

President Nicolos convened the September Meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-seven members were present. Minutes of the April and May meetings were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2793.65.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Bill Engler, James Adams III, and Jason Powell.

President Nicolos appointed members to two committees. The Nominating Committee will be made up of Robert Harper, James Adams III, and Chris Gilkey. Robert Harper will serve as chairman. The Membership Committee will be Edward Higgins, Marvin Denison, and Duncan Cavanah. Edward Higgins is chairman.

The first Thursday of January 2015 is New Years Day, so that meeting was changed to January 8th.

Papers were presented by George W. Engler, a member since 1983 and #7 in seniority and J. Terry Fuqua, a member since 2002 and #21 in seniority.

In Bill Engler's "The Cuban Missile Crisis," we get a chance to relive one of the truly scary events in our country's history. During a thirteen day period during October 1962, President Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev took turns threatening each other, a naval blockade was set up around Cuba, an American plane was shot down over Cuba, and finally the threat subsided as both sides gave a little to prevent complete mutual assured destruction.

Servers, browsers, search engines and packets are all explained in Terry Fuqua's paper "The World Wide Web." We are able to follow the progression from a tin can and a string to ability to work with electricity and finally to "The Cloud." Each step is dependent on all previous steps and yet is only a portion of the next by advancement.

Comments were made by Robert Ison, Robert Sivley, Wendell Lynch, William Rowlett, John Atkins, Wayne Goolsby, Hollis White, Wynn Radford, and Peter Nicolos.

Presenters for the October meeting will be George H. Byars and Hollis N. White III.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

October 2, 2014

Vice-president Ken Dougherty convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and thirty members were present. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2924.55.

Robert Harper introduced one guest.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Ken Dougherty, Lindsey Adams, James Coursey, Chris Gilkey, Jim Adams, Frank Nash and Matt Frerichs.

Edward Higgins, chairman of the Membership Committee, nominated one prospective member. That nominee will be voted on in November.

Papers were presented by George A. Byars, a member since 1987 and #12 in seniority and Hollis White, a member since 1999 and #14 in seniority.

In "100 Plus Years of Coca Cola," George Byars described the invention, rise to popularity, contribution to our war effort, and current status of Coca Cola. The product was initially formulated by pharmacist John Pemberton in the late 1800's and initially contained both wine and cocaine. Modifications were made in 1886, and the product was introduced under its current name and with essentially its current formula except it still contained a small amount of cocaine. In the early 1900's, that small amount was removed but the drink and the company continued to soar. During the Second World War, Coke pledge to assure that every man in uniform be able to get a bottle of Coca Cola for five cents. This pledge would pay dividends for the company since their sugar allotments were not cut, and soldiers came back from the war as committed Coke fans. Today Coke is the most popular soft drink not only in the United States but world-wide.

Hollis White introduced us to Sidney Rittenberg, who grew up in Charleston, South Carolina, and graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in philosophy. After graduation, he joined the American Community Party, but gave that up when he was drafted. His skill as a linguist led to training in Mandarin and his eventual shipment to China. During the next 36 years, he met Mao Zedong, became a member of the Chinese Communist Party, advised Mao, was twice imprisoned by Mao, and saw the good and the bad in Communist rule there. In 1980, he returned to the United States and currently runs a consulting firm that assist U.S. corporations that work in China.

Comments were made by Robert Ison, James Coursey, Robert Harper, Robert Sivley, Duncan Cavanah, Wendell Lynch, William Rowlett, Marvin Denison, Russ Guffy, and Wynn Radford.

Presenters for the November meeting will be William T. Turner and Wendell Lynch.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 6, 2014

President Nicolos convened the November Meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-six members were present. Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2939.66.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Peter Nicolos, Whitney Westerfield, William Turner, Jason Powell, John Soyars, Mitchell Kaye, and Terry Fuqua.

A vote was taken on a prospective member. The vote was affirmative.

Papers were presented by William T. Turner, a member since 1964 and #2 in seniority and Wendell Lynch, a member since 2001 and #18 in seniority.

William Turner wrote "Who Was This Man?" The answer is store operator, congressman, U.S. Senator, war hero, farmer, attorney, and President of the United States. Andrew Jackson was all these things, but his accomplishments are even more impressive when you realize that this man of the people rose from poverty to two-term President without ever visiting Hopkinsville.

To an oil man, there is nothing better than "oil in the ground" If you have that, nothing else matters. That's what Wendell Lynch told us in "Trouble in Paradise – Battle for Betty Oil." The battle pitted Pennzoil against Texaco, and the prize was Getty Oil and its massive oil reserves. Pennzoil had the home court advantage and won an eleven billion dollar settlement.

Comments were made by Whitney Westerfield, Terry Fuqua, James Coursey, Robert Sivley, Robert Ison, Peter Nicolos, William Rowlett, Hollis White, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the December meeting will be Robert E. Ison and David Griffith.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 4, 2014

President Nicolas convened the December meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and thirty-five members were present. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2857.01.

Excuses for previous absences were given by David Griffith, Matt Frerichs, Russ Guffey, Wynn Radford, James Adams, Edward Higgins, Jim Adams, Bill Nichol, and John Freer.

President Nicolos introduced and welcomed new member Robert Martin.

Papers were presented by Robert E. Ison, a member since 2000 and #16 in seniority and David Griffith, a member since 2013 and #36 in seniority.

Robert Ison presented "The NSA, the National Security Agency or Nothing's Secret Anymore?" In his presentation, Robert presented both good and bad aspects of the NSA. The good is exemplified by the safety that we hope the NSA offers us. U.S. District Judge William Pauley ruled that the NSA's collection of telephone is legal and valuable in the fight against terrorism. The bad is the sacrifice that we all make regarding our own privacy. Another U.S. District judge ruled that NSA's bulk collection violates the Constitution. I think we can all join the author in hoping we can find a vigilant watchdog to oversee the immense power of the NSA.

David Griffith called Vietnam an unending war, and it's easy to see why. That war not only placed a burden on our nation, but many of us experienced personal hardships whether through personal participation in the war or lost friends and relatives. David also pointed to the influence that Vietnam still has on our world. In "Parallels to the Present: America's Unending War," David poses and answers three questions. (1) Why did the United States invest so heavily in such a remote, insignificant area? (2) The United States was the most powerful nation in the world. How is it possible that they failed to succeed? (3) What were the consequences for America and Vietnam?

Comments were made by James Coursey, Robert Sivley, James Adams, Wynn Radford, Robert Harper, Danny Gilkey, Jason Powell, and Marvin Denison.

Presenters for the January meeting will be Jason Powell and Whitney Westerfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer