**How Not To Run A Club Meeting**

Cast:

Roscoe – long time Club member

Ed – long time Club member

Club President

Ruby Lee – newest Club member

Bonnie Lou – guest

Chef Bubba – world famous chef

Jimmy Myithurts – (Dentist) Board member

David Whiner – Board member

Billy I. Didit – Club member

Henrietta – Club member

Bertha Rosebottom – Guest speaker

Johnny Gottago – Club member

(optional) Additional Club members

***(The scene opens at a club meeting with two long-time Optimist members Ed and Roscoe sitting at a table talking about their club, the Mud Flap Midday Optimist Club.)(There is no podium, bell or gavel, the club banners are missing, beer bottles are sitting on the table, etc.)***

**ROSCOE:** You know Ed, you and I’ve been coming to this club for the last 15 years, ever since the club received its charter. We’ve seen a lot of meetings come and go.

**ED:** Yep, you can say that again. ***(Roscoe starts repeating what he just said) (Ed interrupts)*** Roscoe, I didn’t mean for you to actually repeat what you just said. I meant it ﬁguratively.

**ROSCOE:** OH! I was just doing what you said.

**ED *(Continues)*:** Now where was I? Oh, about how long have you and I been coming to meetings. It has been a long time. We’ve also seen a lot of Presidents come and go too. What’ya think about this new one we’ve got.

**ROSCOE *(Contemplates for a minute)*:** Seems to me he’s about one brick shy of a load.

**ED:** What’ ya mean by that.

**ROSCOE:** Well, he just doesn’t seem to have it all together. Just last week he came to the meeting Wearing one brown shoe and one black shoe. When I mentioned it to him, do you know what he said? He said I know, I got another pair at home just 1ike’em!

**ED:** Say Roscoe. Who are those two strangers sitting over there? I ain’t seen them around here before.

**ROSCOE:** Maybe they’re new members or guests. I heard we recently signed up a new member or two.

**ED:** Think maybe we ought to go over and say “howdy” and welcome them to the club?

**ROSCOE:** Nah! They’re the new people; if they want to get to know us they can come over here and speak to us. After all they’re the new guys.

**ED:** Yeah, Roscoe, I guess you’re right. As a - matter of fact I’m kind of insulted they haven't come over and introduced themselves. Why! The nerve of some people.

***(At this time the President of the club runs into the room. He/she is all in a dither.)***

**PRESIDENT:** Hi everybody! Sony I’m running late. Be with you in a minute.

***(President runs over to Ed and Roscoe and says)*** Guys, I don’t have an agenda! I’ve got to put something together real quick! Do we have a program today? Who can I get to give an invocation and pledge(toast)? Is there anyone having a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion? What else is going on? Didn’t the club do some kind of project last weekend? One of those bike rodeos. Hurry up and help me, I need to get this meeting going!

***(President turns to the audience and says)*** I’ll get things underway in a few minutes. I just have to go over a few things with Ed and Roscoe. We might have to run the meeting a little longer today. However, I’m sure being the Optimist you are you won’t mind. (turns back and continues talking with Ed and Roscoe.)***(In the meantime Ruby Lee, a new member and Bonnie Lou, a guest, are talking.)***

**RUBY LEE**: Hi, I understand you are a guest. I’m Ruby Lee, I’ve just become a new member of this club. Are you thinking about joining?

**BONNIE LOU:** Nice to meet you. Yes, I’m a guest. This my first visit, Howie Cheetum invited me. Do you know him? He’s one of the partners in that big law ﬁrm downtown, “Dewey, Cheetum and Howe”. He’ s not here and I don’t know a soul. As a matter of fact you’re the ﬁrst person that’s taken the time to say hello and speak with me. If Howie hadn’t told me about all the wonderful things this club does for kids I might have already left. They don’t seem too friendly. See those two guys over there with the President. They must be long time members and pretty important to this club, but they don’t seem very interested in anyone but themselves.

**RUBY LEE:** Well honey don’t you worry. You come on and join up and we’ll light a fire under these folks.

***(President comes to the head of the table, clears his throat several times, everyone keeps talking. Finally he yells! “Okay everyone listen up, I’m ready to start the meeting.”)***

***(At this time the actors freeze and the moderator, using a ﬂip chart, asks the audience to evaluate what they have just witnessed. The moderator writes down the comments.)***

***(Skit resumes)***

**PRESIDENT:** Welcome everybody. I’m sorry I was late, but you know what a busy person I am. I had to take the kids to camp this morning, run by the hardware store to pick up the paint for my mother’s house. I’m helping her paint the house. While I was there, I met Doogie Watson and he told me this wonderful joke about this one-eyed donkey. Oops! Heh, heh it might be a little to risqué for this crowd, especially with ladies present. Well I guess that’s all I have to say let’s eat.

**ED: *(Leaning over to Roscoe comments)*** I guess we’re not going to have an invocation and pledge(toast).

**ROSCOE:** What about those two women sitting over there? Who are they?

***(Chef Bubba, world famous chef, of the Chat & Chew Restaurant enters the room and announces a problem with the meal.)***

**CHEF BUBBA:** Howdy ya’1l. I’m sorry but we weren’t expecting such a big crowd today and since we’ve only got one burner working on our stove, lunch is going to be delayed. But don’t you worry one bit—-—you’re still going to get to enjoy the ﬁne sumptuous Southern cuisine We’re noted for here at the Chat & Chew. I just sent my son Bobby Lee down to the KFC for some buckets of chicken (regular and crispy) with all the ﬁxings. It’s going to take a while cause he has to go to the MUD Mart for some toilet tissue. We’re running a little behind in that department too. Anyway, I’ve got get back to the kitchen. Just wanted you to know what’s happening. Bon appetite!

**ROSCOE *(Leans over to Ed and says)*:** It seems like every week something’s going wrong back in that kitchen. I don’t believe they’ve ever been prepared for one of our meetings. This is the third time this month we’ve had KFC and last week it was McDonald’s. I know they had it listed on the menu as their special “Fish on The Bun”, but I saw all those McDonald’s Fish Filet sandwich Wrappers out in the dumpster. Are you sure they even have a kitchen back there!

**PRESIDENT:** Well, I guess since we have to wait on our meal we can continue with our meeting. Anyone got anything they’d like to bring up. The only news I’ve got is what my friend here Ed was telling me about the communication problem he had the other night. Most of you know that along with running his garage Ed answers the telephone for the MUD Flap emergency dispatch. That’s the natural thing for him to do since it is usually somebody broke down on the interstate needing a tow and he has the onlywrecker in town. However, the woman on the phone this time was frantic, “My house is on fire, send the ﬁre department! Since MUD Flap does not have Emergency 911, Ed being the one that usually drives the ﬁre truck asked, “Mam, can you tell me how to get to your house”, and she said, Could you come in that big red truck with the siren and that has the water and hoses on it, and please hurry! I understand from Ed that it was not a complete loss. They were able to save the axles.

**RUBY LEE:** ***(Speaking to Bonnie Lou)*** I wonder when they’re going to recognize us? Me a brand new member, and you a first-time guest. I thought as a new member and you as a potential member, we’d be the center of attention. Oh well, maybe that’s something they do later on in the meeting.

***(As Ruby Lee finishes her remarks Dentist Jimmy Myithurts stands up and addresses the President.)***

**JIMMY MYITHURTS:** Mr. President I have something I would like to discuss with the club.

**PRESIDENT:** Okay, Jimmy, what’s on your mind?

**JIMMY:** As a Board Member of this club, I think we need to discuss the details of our upcoming fundraiser, “The MUD Flap Silent Auction and Bake Sale”. It’s been scheduled for the 18th of August 2004. I’ve already spoken with the manager over at the MUD MART and he is letting us use the whole north end of the parking lot. They are also going to donate all the hotdogs and buns. This fund-raiser is real important because our service account is real low—after you know who, made that little accounting error last year. We’ve got a lot of donated items from the local merchants, and I believe this is going to be a big success. I’ll just take a few minutes to give you a rundown on some of the things we’ve gotten. - The Sweetwater Septic and Well Service has donated one outhouse removal and backfill valued at over $250. - The law firm of “Dewey, Cheetum and Howe” has donated their legal services for. .

***(Dr. Myithurt’s presentation is interrupted by another Club Board Member.)***

**DAVID WHINER:** ***(Board Member)*** Mr. President I’m not so sure this fund raiser is such good idea! I think we should consider some alternative projects. I’ve got this great idea! My father-in-law makes these little bird houses and...

***(Member David Whiner’s presentation is interrupted by member Billy I. Didit.)***

**BILLY I. DIDIT**: I don’t care about all that fund raising stuff. I want to report on the Bicycle Rodeo I did. It was fantastic! As chairman, I set the whole thing up. We had over 150 kids show up, and I can tell you they had a ball. I set up ten different activities for the kids to participate in. I even taught some of the kids how to ride a bike. At the end, I gave away a brand new bicycle. I believe this is the best project we do.

**ED: *(Leans over to Roscoe)*** Sounds like Billy did the whole thing by himself. I wonder what you, me and the rest of the club members were there for? .. .to be spectators?

**ROSCOE:** Yeah, if I had known he could of done everything by himself, I wouldn’t have bothered to haul all that stuff over to the park and spent my time helping set up the bicycle course.

***(At this time the actors freeze and the moderator, using the flip chart, asks the audience to evaluate what they have just witnessed. The moderator writes down the comments.)***

***(Skit continues)***

**PRESIDENT:** Okay everyone, listen up I’ve got something on my mind. I have been.....

***(Henrietta Lately enters the room, late as usual. Announces herself and walks around the room shaking hands and talking to everyone. Finally realizes she’s interrupted the speaker and quickly takes her seat.)***

**HENRIETTA:** Hi folks sorry I’m late! But I’m here now and aren’t you glad. Oh, hi Ruby Lee how is your mother doing. I was telling my Horace the other day I hadn’t seen your mother at church the last Sundays. I hope she’s not ill. There’s my ED. I got a bone to pick with you young man. When I came in last Week to get my oil change you didn’t give me my green stamps.

**PRESIDENT:** Clears throat several times.

**HENRIETTA:** Oh! Pardon me! ***(Henrietta quickly takes a seat)***

**PRESIDENT:** As I was saying, I’ve been president of this club for the last l0 months. And as far as I’m concerned, you have given me very little support. I’ve pretty much had to do everything. Now I want to be Distinguished and you’ve got to help me. We need more members and you’ve got to help get’em.

**ROSCOE *(Leans over to Ed):*** He’s asking for more members and I haven’t been recognized for the five I’ve already brought in.

**ED:** I thought you were supposed to get a pin and a special tie from the President of Optimist International.

**ROSCOE:** That’s what they said in all the promotional stuff they sent out. Of course all that stuff’ s not important to me, I’m in this just to help those kids. Course it would be nice to be recognized wouldn’t it.

**PRESIDENT:** If there is no more business to discuss we can Wrap this meeting up early.

**ED *(Interrupts):*** Mr. President! What about our program?

**PRESIDENT:** What Program??

**ED:** You know! That lady from the MUD Flap Botanical Society—you announced last week that she was going to give a talk on the propagation, irrigation and irritation of the Mudd Flap rose.

**ROSCOE:** We have our own ﬂower?

***(Miss Bertha Rosebottom stands up and begins to move toward the podium)***

**BERTHA:** Yoo-hoo! Here I am. I’m so excited!

**PRESIDENT:** Ahh, Miss Rosebottom nice to see you. Madam, how long will your presentation be? ***(Johnny Gottago gets up noisily to leave.)***

**JOHNNY:** Well folks I gotta go! You know me places to go, people to see and things to do. Good being here with everyone. See you next week.

***(Johnny walks out of the room.)***

**PRESIDENT:** I’m so sorry about that interruption Miss Rosebottom. Now how much time will you need for your presentation?

**BERTHA:** Why dear, I told you I would need about 20 minutes. I’ve brought my slides and everything. It’s just wonderful. This is going to put Mudd Flap on the map. I just know it!

**PRESIDENT:** Miss Rosebottom I am afraid we only have about 10 minutes left. Could you either give us . . .say a 5-minute version of your presentation, or maybe it would be better if you came back some other time.

**BERTHA:** OH MY! Well ...I guess I’ll have to come back. I could not very well discuss the intricacies of such a biological phenomenon as the Mudd Flap Rose in five minutes! The idea that you would ask me to do such a thing!

**PRESIDENT:** Okay, folks, this meeting is adjourned! See everyone next week.

**ROSCOE:** Mr. President! Aren’t you forgetting something?

**PRESIDENT:** No. I don’t think so. I believe we covered everything.

**ED:** What about the creed!

**PRESIDENT:** Oh that! I was running late and wasn’t able to pick up the banners. I was just going to skip it.

**ROSCOE:** I don’t like closing an Optimist meeting without the creed.

**PRESIDENT:** You don’t have to get testy about it! I guess we can say it from memory

***(Group cites the Creed.)***

**RUBY LEE *(Takes Bonnie Lou aside):*** Isn’t that a fine how-de-do! I’ve just joined this club and you’re a guest and potential new member and they act like we’re not even here. I’m beginning to think maybe you and I ought to look elsewhere to offer our time and talents volunteer work. Let’s go!

***(At this time the actors freeze and the moderator, using the flip chart, asks the audience to evaluate what they have just witnessed. The moderator writes down the comments.)***

***(Skit continues)***

Using the comments made during the skit and asking for audience participation, the skit actors will outline and demonstrate what makes a good, viable club meeting that keeps people coming back.

* Room is set up with properly hung banners, placement of the National ﬂag, podium, bell and gavel
* President has prepared agenda.
* Members meet and welcome new members and guest.
* The person that is to give the program is introduced to the President and the President makes sure everything is set up to accommodate him or her.
* President starts the meeting on time. Calls meeting to order with bell and gavel.
* The restaurant is aware of how many people will be in attendance at the meeting in advance.
* President makes arrangement for members to give invocation and cite the pledge of allegiance or give the toast.
* President welcomes everyone, recognizes guests, special visitors and new members. Also, recognizes birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.
* Club business is not discussed during the meeting.
* A good program is provided and ample time is given to the speaker to present, without interruption.
* People who are late getting to the meeting or must leave early should do so in a respectful and least disruptive way.
* Secondary conversations should not be going on while there are speakers at the podium.
* End the meeting on a positive note and leave enough time to recite the Optimist Creed.