



Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Twenty members of the Optimist Club of Huntsville met at Optimist Recreation Center to conduct the monthly business session for the club. It was good to see some faces we've been missing lately, Ralph Caneer, Alfred Adams and Darrel McColgan, in attendance.

Opening

President Jim Pepper asked Club Chaplain Sidney Sandridge to open the meeting in prayer and lead the pledge of allegiance. He next asked for a round of applause for Al Renz in appreciation of the wonderful luncheon Al had prepared. Al Renz was the chef (literally) for today's luncheon which consisted of ox-tail soup, baked beef brisket sandwiches, potato salad and a selection of chocolate or lemon cake.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Al Renz provided a treasurer's report covering the period from Oct. 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. Highlighted from the report was that the Club had spent \$5971.24 on youth activities in the first 6 months of this administrative year. Also the Club had received \$255.24 in rebates from the Club's charge card. Al reported he still has 4 Optimist polo shirts available for sale. When these are sold, the Club will have made a profit of \$60 on the shirts. For the period we were \$299.61 in the black with a few outstanding dues yet to be collected.

Al reported the Club has served a civil suit on Jeff Klimek in hopes of recovering the \$68,831.38 he owes to us. He was served the suit while in the hospital for unknown reasons. He has 30 days in which to reply to the suit; if he does not, a court order will be issued which allows the Club to receive 25% of any future income he may receive.

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Community Service Committee Report

Al Renz, Chairman of the Community Service Committee, presented the results of the committee's work for this year. Fifteen organizations were mailed a packet with instructions for applying for one of our grants; 9 organizations replied requesting a total of \$41,692 in grants. Since the committee is authorized only \$15,000 for grants, they went through a lengthy process to rank the submitters and to allocate the money available. The resulting list of grants recommended by the committee was presented as follows:

Camp Smile-A-Mile	\$1,500
Choose Life of Alabama	\$1,200
Christmas Charities	\$2,025
Madison County 4-H Clubs	\$1,000
Harris Home for Children	\$1,500
Harvest Youth Club	\$2,600
Heals Clinic	\$2,700
Hospice Family Care	\$1,225
Partners for a Drug Free County	\$1,250

Al moved that these requests be approved and forwarded to the Optimist Foundation for funding. Jim Berry seconded the motion, and the motion passed without discussion. These recommendations will be made at the Optimist Foundation meeting to be held this same day.

Regional Oratorical Contest Results

Alberto Duarte, Chairman of this year's Oratorical Contest reported he had traveled with Alyce Hester, our club's winner, and her parents to the Optimist Regional Oratorical Contest in Birmingham on Saturday, April 14. He said the contest was very well run, and five exceptional young people all delivered wonderful speeches. However, **Alyce won first place**. Alberto said he had paid \$35 for registration and had bought lunch for the Hester family costing \$65. Zack

Thompson said the Club needed to reimburse Alberto the \$100, and he was advised to submit a request to the Treasurer.

Election of Officers for Next Year

President Pepper called for any nominations from the floor that would be in addition to the slate prepared by the Nomination Committee and published in last week's Opti-topics. There were none forthcoming; however, Jack Fauble then announced that he would not only withdraw his name from nomination to the office of 1st Vice President, but that he would resign his Club membership as of the end of May. Jack stated it had been a very difficult and tough decision, but after prayer and consultation with his wife and the Assistant Pastor of his church, he reluctantly came to the conclusion this would be his best course of action. He apologized to the Club for the timing of his decision.

Zack Thompson moved that George McDonough's nomination be elevated to 1st Vice President and that Jim Berry be nominated for 2nd Vice President in lieu of the published slate of nominees. Alfred Adams seconded the motion, and the resulting motion to make this change and elect the modified slate by acclamation carried.

Youth Appreciation Banquet

Youth Appreciation Chairperson Gay Pepper reported that the banquet was coming together nicely. Three JOOI clubs, Morris Elementary, Grace Lutheran MS and Whitesburg MS had responded positively and had committed to attending and presenting their Community Service Projects for this year. Neither Randolph HS nor Hazel Green HS have committed as yet, but both were expected to attend and participate. Two officers of each club, their parents, and the JOOI club sponsor at the school are invited. In addition, the winners of our Club's Oratorical Contest and Essay Contest will give their winning entries as part of the program. It is hoped that this will be an incentive for members of the invited JOOI Clubs to participate in future contests.

The banquet will be next Thursday, April 26, at Mayfair Church of Christ at 6:30 p.m. **If you were not at the meeting today and plan to attend the Youth Appreciation Banquet, call Gay at 256-617-0742.**

Respect for Law Banquet

The Respect for Law banquet will also be held at the Mayfair Church of Christ on May 7. Duane Plank reported that Sheriff Blake Dorning had supplied a nominee for our club. A sheet was passed around for signing up for attendance at this banquet. It was noted that if you bring a guest, you will be charged \$12.50 for the dinner (no charge for Optimist members).

Tom Casteel reported that the Southern Sons of Thunder will be supplying the entertainment for this year's banquet. Jeremy and Justin Jordan have sung at various Optimist functions since they were in elementary school. Now they are both in college, and while their voices are lower, their music is still wonderful. Call Duane or Jim Pepper if you haven't signed up and intend to go to the banquet. We have to give an attendance number to the Zone soon.

Bylaw Revisions

Tom Casteel distributed copies of proposed bylaw revisions. The only significant change was to remove the amount of annual dues from the bylaws. Instead the bylaws would stipulate that the dues would be set by the Club's Board of Directors. Tom said adopting this change would eliminate the need to amend our bylaws each time the Club's dues are changed (sounds ominous). Tom will attach a copy of the revised bylaws to our newsletter.

Optimist Foundation Report

Bill Clarke reported that market value of the Foundation's portfolio had increased \$8,301 in the month of March, and is now valued at \$777,839. The Foundation will have its quarterly meeting with Regions later on in the afternoon of this meeting, after which a separate Foundation board meeting will be held. A significant agenda item is the report of the appointed financial review committee who is charged with assessing how well the Foundation is meeting the IRS requirements for 501(c)3 corporations.

In response to a question by Zack Thompson, Foundation Treasurer Gay Pepper reported that it had cost the Foundation \$4,767 in accountant's fees plus an IRS fine of \$850 in order to be reinstated to good standing.

Clyde Nevins inquired whether there were any State of Alabama requirements for not-for-profit corporations that had not been met by the Foundation in recent years in addition to the IRS requirements. He stated he knew the State of Florida required a mandatory annual report and fee from not-for-profit corporations to remain in good standing. Bill Clarke said he would investigate.

Closing

Despite the lengthy agenda and amount of business covered, the meeting was adjourned just before 1:00 p.m. (Good job, Jim). Jim asked Carl Winkler to lead in the recitation of the Optimist Creed to close.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food, and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies with yourself."

~Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief

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| 4/26 | Thursday 6:30 pm | Mayfair Church of Christ
Youth Appreciation Banquet |
| 5/1 | Tuesday 4:00 pm | 1 st Commercial Bank
Club Board Meeting |
| 5/3 | Thursday 11:45 am | Downtown Holiday Inn
TBD - Jack Fauble |
| 5/7 | Monday 6:30 pm | Mayfair Church of Christ
Respect for Law Banquet |
| 5/10 | Thursday | NO MEETING |
| 5/17 | Thursday 11:45 am | Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jack Fauble) |
| 5/24 | | 5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING |