



#### **PRESIDENT**

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#### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

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#### **SECRETARY TREASURER**

Al Renz  
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**Club meets**  
**1st, 2nd, & 3rd Thursdays**  
**At 11:45 am**  
**Downtown Holiday Inn**  
**Huntsville, AL**

# Opti - Topics

## **Opening**

Nineteen Optimists gathered at the Optimist Recreation Center for the monthly business meeting. Jim Rowe was our chef today, providing barbeque pork and chicken sandwiches, plus sides, from Gibson's Barbeque. Rev. Jim Berry read a short poem that applied an optimistic approach to Thanksgiving, and then gave the invocation. Clyde Nevins led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Announcements**

President Tom Casteel announced that the Optimist aprons that had been ordered are in, and he modeled one of them. If you ordered one, see Tom. He also ordered a few extras, so if you want one and didn't place an order, also see Tom. The aprons are a nice shade of pancake-batter tan and have a colorful Huntsville Optimist Club logo. Their cost is \$13.00 each.

Jim Roe reported that Dr. Sidney Sandridge is still in Health South, and should be there until the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. He is in room 309 in the Health South Rehab Center across from Huntsville Hospital (adjacent to the Subway shop). Visiting hours are 4 to 8 p. m. Monday through Saturday, and from 12 noon to 8 p. m. on Sunday. Don't come tomorrow (Friday), as Sidney has a pass to attend a birthday celebration and may be away.

## DIRECTORS

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Ralph Caneer announced that he no longer needs a cane as part of his rehab from his recent illness, and he did a little jig to prove it.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Al Renz distributed the Treasurer's Report for October. Perhaps the most significant item to come from his report is that a rather large number of members had not paid their quarterly dues (due October 1) as of October 31.

Al read the notice he had received regarding the criminal trial of Jeff Klimek. The trial will be held in Federal Court on December 3, but the location of the court was not provided. Al reported that Jeff resumed his bankruptcy payments in October, but that his attorney's fees took more than the payment. Our Club is currently owed \$67,101.72 from Jeff.

## Election of Representative to the Optimist Foundation

President Casteel reported that Gay Pepper had already been nominated for this position, and the floor was opened for further nominations. No further nominations were forthcoming, so George McDonough moved that Gay be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Al Renz and passed by unanimous vote.

## Committee Reports



Fabiani Duarte that the **Veteran's Day Parade** went quite well considering the inclement weather. Our Club and the JOOI Clubs were merged with Still Serving Veterans. The combined groups had 7 vehicles and 80 volunteers, including JOOI Club members from Grace Lutheran School and Whitesburg Middle School. There were some additional Optimists viewing the parade from the sidelines, as well.

Bob Martin recommended that the Club invest in some banners and/or magnetic signs for both the Club and for the JOOI Clubs for future parades. Being combined with Still Serving Veterans brought no recognition to either our Club or the JOOI Clubs. Alberto Duarte concurred, and added that banners should also be provided to each school that has a JOOI Club. Tom Casteel volunteered to look into sources and costs and report back on his findings.

Fabiani Duarte reported on the rather packed schedule of **JOOI Club meetings** at the various schools (The schedule was included in the last issue of Opti-Topics). One change in the schedule is that the Ed White Middle School meeting has been postponed to November 29. He reported that an excellent meeting was held at Hazel Green High School. Unfortunately, there were not enough Club members in attendance to do any recruiting of new Optimists (for our Club) from among the parents who were there. He urged better representation at future meetings. Several of the new schools have reported that advisors have been named, a critical first step in getting a JOOI Club organized.

The Huntsville City School System has been forwarded applications of veterans who have agreed to be advisors at the various schools with JOOI Clubs. These veterans will assist the schools' sponsors in guiding the JOOI Clubs.

### Optimist Christmas Party



The next meeting of our Club will be our annual Christmas Party. Gay Pepper reported that it will be held in the Sun Room of the Downtown Holiday Inn at 6:30 p.m. on December 6. She passed around a sign-up sheet to get a tally on the attendance. **Please call or e-mail Gay if you plan to attend**, and also if you intend to bring a guest. Gay's e-mail is: [gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com](mailto:gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com). Dirty Santa is to be a feature of the party, as in the past. Gay will e-mail the instructions shortly before the party so you won't forget.

### Tri-Star Basketball



Committee Chairman Jesse Lang reported that he has set the date for the Tri-Star Basketball tournament for **Saturday, January 19** at the Optimist Recreation Center. He had cleared the date with the desk at the ORC, and was filling out the reservation paperwork. It was suggested that we should actively seek participation by our JOOI Clubs, and Fabiani agreed.

## Pancake Breakfast



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that the date for the pancake breakfast has been set for **Saturday, January 26** (one week after the Tri-Star Basketball event). The date has been coordinated with Mary Flynn , and the Cooper House has been reserved for the event. Tickets for the breakfast will be distributed in December. It was recommended that we invite our JOOI Clubs to sell tickets, and also to give them a cut of the ticket sales, both as an incentive and to provide them a fund-raising project.

## Closing

Just prior to closing, President Tom Casteel urged Club members to take part in the upcoming District Meeting to be held in Madison, AL, on February 1-3. Put these dates on your calendar. You will never have a better opportunity to attend a District Meeting.

Dr. Carl Winkler led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**"Grateful people report higher levels of positive emotions, life satisfaction, vitality, optimism and lower levels of depression and stress. The disposition toward gratitude appears to enhance pleasant feeling states more than it diminishes unpleasant emotions. Grateful people do not deny or ignore the negative aspects of life."**

*~Robert A. Emmons*

## CALENDAR

11/22 Thursday - **NO MEETING**

THANKSGIVING

11/29 **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**

12/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

12/6 Thursday 6:30 pm Downtown Holiday Inn

**Christmas Party**

12/13 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**Christina Lynn – Country Singer/Songwriter**

12/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Bob Martin)**

12/27 Thursday - **NO MEETING**

Merry Christmas

1/3 Thursday - **NO MEETING**

Happy New Year

1/8 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

1/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**TBD - Milt Williams**

Prayer read by Jim Berry

## HOW TO OBSERVE THANKSGIVING

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself.