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#### **SECRETARY TREASURER**

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**Club meets**  
**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**  
**At 11:45 am**  
**Downtown Holiday Inn**  
**Huntsville, AL**

# Opti - Topics

## **Opening**

Twenty Optimists turned out for our monthly business meeting at the Optimist Research Center today. President Tom Casteel called the meeting to order, asking Clyde Nevins to give the invocation and Bob Martin to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Peters provided the lunch, today, and everyone enjoyed either (or both) barbequed beef brisket or pulled pork, along with some specially seasoned bake beans (among the best I've eaten recently), potato salad and assorted ice teas. Bill said the food came from Granville's Gourmet Ribs and Barbeque at the corner of Oakwood and Meridian Streets.

President-elect George McDonough was just back (last night!) from his European vacation with his daughter, and overcame jet lag to be at the meeting.

## **Financial Report**



Club Treasurer Al Renz distributed the financial report for October 1, 2012 through July, 2013, and reviewed the highlights from the report. Our support of youth programs resulted in expenses of over \$881.20 in July, mostly for the refurbishment of band instruments. At the end of July there was a bank balance of \$1,186.56 with several membership dues still outstanding. He said he anticipates no problem in finishing the quarter (and the year) in the black.

**Our business meeting  
is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the  
month at the Optimist  
Recreation Center on  
Oakwood Avenue**

## **DIRECTORS**

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## **Committee Reports**



### **Dues Structure Committee** President

Tom reported on what this committee, chaired by Matt Hancock, had made their recommendations to the Club's Board of Directors at their last meeting. The report today is to get feedback from the Club before the Board takes final action.

First, Tom gave the following background information on the need to address this issue: Currently, the Club is struggling to meet expenses with our dues structure. The cost to support one, full-time member per quarter would be \$141.48 if the member ate all meals. This cost includes the administrative costs (e. g., dues to OI, guest meals, speaker meals, speaker gifts and newsletter mailing) as well as meals at the Downtown Holiday Inn. When the Club was larger, the number of members not eating at meetings resulted in enough funds to cover these administrative costs. Now, with a smaller Club and a higher percentage attending meetings, this is no longer the case.

The committee's main problem in arriving at a new dues structure was to keep the necessary increase small, yet accommodate those members who cannot attend regularly. We want to attract new members from the younger generation, and in today's society they are prone to not wanting to attend weekly meetings.

The committee's proposal was to give each member a choice of two plans for paying his or her dues:

- **Plan A:** Pay \$120 per quarter which would cover all meals of the Club during the quarter, including banquets and meals at special events. This is an increase of \$10 per quarter over current dues.
- **Plan B:** Pay \$65 per quarter which would pay for only 3 Club meals. Each additional meal, including those at banquets and special events, would be billed to the member at the Club's cost, now \$12.

There was a fair amount of discussion on this proposal, and the consensus was that the committee did a good job in coming up with their solution. One question that was raised, but not answered was: How often, or at what intervals, could a member change from Plan A to Plan B or back? The Board will address this, and present their final recommendation for the new dues structure at the September business meeting.

**JOOI Clubs Committee** Chairman John Inman reported that he is still in communication with the Principal at Huntsville High School about starting a JOOI Club there. The Principal seemed very receptive, and indicated he would be seeking a volunteer from the school's faculty to be the club's sponsor. On this past Monday, John met with the Vice Principal at Huntsville Middle School. He received a very enthusiastic response there, since this school apparently has no comparable service club at this time. The Vice Principal even indicated he would be willing to be the JOOI Club sponsor.



**Optimist Foundation** Board Member John Shirey presented the Foundation report in the absence of Foundation President Bill Clarke. John reported that the Foundation's account at Regions grew from about \$755,000 at the beginning of this year to about \$830,000 by the end of July, an increase of \$28,000 (4.5%). This increase is over and above the funds disbursed to the Club for Youth and Community projects. The cost basis for our Foundation account is about \$720,000.

## **Announcements**

**Sign Up for the committees** you are willing to serve on and/or chair for next year. Forms are available in an easy check-off format. See Tom.

**Sign Up for Monthly Programs.** A sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting for Speaker and Business Meeting Lunch Responsibility. Several months were filled. November of this year plus Feb, Mar, May, Jun, Jul and Sep of 2014 are still open. This responsibility includes recruiting speakers and providing the lunches for the business meeting during that particular month.

**Band Instrument Committee Members** need to be contacting their school's Band Directors and shoot for getting the band instruments delivered about two weeks after school opens. Tom has a garage half full of instruments that have been refurbished, so don't be put off by the small number in the band closet.

**A Foundation Board election** will be held by the end of the year for two Directors for the Foundation. Directorships held by Alberto Duarte and Al Renz will become vacant, and these men may be re-nominated and re-elected.

**School supplies for Morris Elementary School** have been coming in nicely and many have already been delivered to the school. More are needed, and it's not too late for you to participate. Tom said that Publix has Crayola 24's on sale at 2 for \$1.00.

**The Installation Banquet** will be held September 26 at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Tom will ask the Hospitality Committee to get an attendee sign-up sheet circulated. Guests are welcome. Tom will seek a speaker for the occasion at the District Meeting in Montgomery this weekend.

### **Closing**

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

*Clyde Nevins*

### **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending. "**

*~Maria Robinson*

## CALENDAR

8/22 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**Chris Crumbly – Manager, Advanced Development Office  
Space Launch System, NASA**

8/29 Thursday **No Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> Thursday)**

9/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

9/5 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD – George McDonough**

9/12 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD – George McDonough**

9/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (George McDonough)**

9/26 Thursday 6:30 pm Downtown Holiday Inn

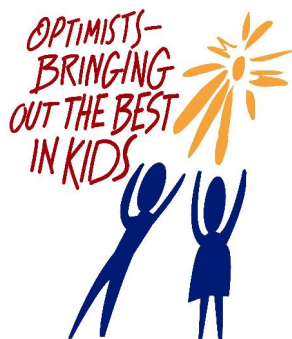
**Officer Installation Banquet**

10/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

10/3 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD – Tim Vander Veer**



**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
710 Versailles Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35803-1728



**TO:**

## **THE OPTIMIST CREED**

Promise Yourself -

**T**o be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

**T**o talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

**T**o make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

**T**o look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

**T**o think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

**T**o be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

**T**o forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

**T**o wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

**T**o give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

**T**o be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International