



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

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SECRETARY TREASURER

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

Opti - Topics

Opening

Nineteen Optimists turned out for our monthly business meeting at the Optimist Research Center today. We also had one guest, today: Duane Plank's grandson, Jack Mayo, a senior at Creekville High School in Atlanta. President Tom Casteel called the meeting to order, asking Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation and Buddy Beck to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

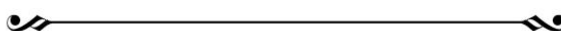
Incoming President George McDonough provided the lunch, today, and everyone enjoyed some delicious roast chicken, home-made coleslaw, baked beans, potato chips, cookies and drinks. It was later reported by Treasurer Al Renz that George had provided this meal at no cost to the Club. Thanks, George!

Announcements

President Tom Casteel reported that there are still two months open for Program (and Business Meeting lunch) Chairmen for next year: June and July. We need two Optimists to volunteer for these months. Call or e-mail George McDonough to volunteer.



Call Tom or Gay before next Monday if you (and any guests) plan to attend the installation banquet on September 26. Tom needs to inform the Hotel by Monday.



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

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Financial Report



Club Treasurer Al Renz distributed the financial report for October 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013, and reviewed the highlights from the report. There were very few expenditures last month. At the end of August there was a bank balance of \$919.56 with several membership dues still outstanding. He said he anticipates no problem in finishing the quarter (and our fiscal year) well in the black.

Budget



Club Treasurer Al Renz presented the budget for next year, as approved by the Club's Board of Directors. The features of the budget as presented are:

- The budget assumes the new dues structure will be approved by the Club.
- The budget is based on getting 8 new members.
- The budget for the Band Program is raised by \$1,500 for inclusion of renting a climate-controlled storage facility for our band instruments.
- The budget for Community Service was proposed to be exclusively for Heals, Inc., and the amount would be the residual of whatever was not spent for Youth Activities from the budgeted \$35,000.
- Fundraising was assumed to bring in \$2,000 during the year.

There was a fair amount of discussion on the Community Service budget item (above). Al stated that in the past the Heals Clinic has always had overwhelming support of the Community Service Committee, with any others a distant second. Al also stated that this change in allocation would have to be approved by the Foundation.

Alberto commented that there should be some flexibility, should something more urgent come along. Tom called for a vote on the budget, as proposed, and the motion carried with 17 ayes and 2 nays.

Policy Manual Change



President Tom Casteel presented the proposed change in the Club dues structure, as had been presented in the past two Opti-Topics. The motion was discussed at some length. John Shirey questioned whether the new dues structure might cause a decrease in income, rather than the increase expected by attracting new members.

Members who would pay \$120 and attend infrequently would benefit financially by paying \$65 and paying for the few meals over the included three. In response, Tom said that (1) Any member eating 8 or more meals per quarter would have less cost by paying \$120, and (2) The Optimist Club is a service Club, and he thinks members will be more motivated by contributing to the Club's funds than by saving a few dollars in meals. Also, if it doesn't work out, the policy can always be modified by the Board of Directors.

Duane Plank called for the question, Jim Berry seconded, and the motion passed.

Don't forget to let Al Renz know by the next meeting if you wish to change plans.

Committee Reports

Band Instrument Committee



Committee Chairman Al Adams reported that a great majority of the instruments have been placed in the schools. Also, the Club has purchased 5 more trumpets at a very reasonable cost due to their popularity in the bands. Al said the closet in the ORC is "the worst place in the world to store instruments," and he is looking forward to having a climate-controlled area with adequate storage area. Tom Casteel read a letter from Emily Parker at Buckhorn, thanking the Club for this valuable and much appreciated project.

JOOI Clubs Committee



Chairman John Inman reported that he is still in communication with the Vice Principal at Huntsville Middle School about starting a JOOI Club there. The process is taking a lot longer than anticipated due to the schools' mandatory activities for starting the school year. He also met with the faculty sponsor at Morris Elementary School to discuss projects, budgets, etc.

John and Tim Vander Veer attended a meeting on the Lee High School video project. The recent formation of the ALL BAMA Youth Sports Network has complicated the aims and involvement of the Lee High School JOOI Club. When the All Bama Network is added to our already fuzzy partnership with *Semper Fi* at LHS, there is concern that the aim of JOOI Clubs to be service oriented will be lost. John said he believes the LHS Video Project is worth keeping, but he agrees that the direction of the JOOI Club needs to be continually monitored. He has written a check to the JOOI Club for start-up costs.

Alberto reported that the three JOOI Clubs for which he is coordinator are up and running. He expects all of them to have installation of officers in the next 3 weeks.

Notice to all JOOI Club Coordinators

Every JOOI Club must submit their completed forms and a membership list to Al Renz before October 15. Any JOOI Clubs not submitting these documents will be dissolved. Forms required are attached at the end of this newsletter.

Optimist Foundation



Foundation President Bill Clarke reported that the Foundation's investments managed by Regions Bank are doing well, although there was a decline in August (which, he said, is likely more than made up for by the recent surge in the market). As of August 31, the value of the Foundation's investments was \$804,887. As a matter of interest, the investment cost for these investments was \$721,200, and there have been numerous withdrawals to support the Club's Youth Activities and Community Service projects.

Closing Comments & Announcements



The Club's **installation banquet** for next year's officers will be held **September 26** in our normal meeting room at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Time is 6:30 p.m. Don't forget that Tom Casteel needs to know how many members and how many guests will attend. Our District Governor, David Mills will do the installation. Let's have a good turnout.

Tom Casteel reported that the **next District Meeting** will be held in Vicksburg, MS, on **October 4-6**. The new District Governor, Lenore Cox of Louisiana, has a goal to make these district meetings more affordable and more fun, both for the Optimists and their families. Tom would like our Club to increase their attendance. He has a Honda CR-V that will hold several Club members in addition to him.



Al Renz reported that the recent District quarterly newsletter lists **our Club as no. 1** in both our size category and overall (for all clubs). We were a close second last year with 49,000 points, and so far this year we already have over 60,000 points.

Alberto reported that Fabiani is continuing his frenetic pace at Mercer College. He visited him over the Labor Day weekend, and said he is losing both sleep and weight. He has joined the Mercer Hispanic Club, the Mercer Christian Club and the Mercer Women's Club! (does Megan know about this?). He is also running for a position on the Student Government Board.



President Tom Casteel expressed his heartfelt thanks to the guys and gals in the Club for their support to him over the past 1 ½ years that he has been President. Their enthusiastic support has made our club outstanding in the District. He asked everyone to continue their support for George McDonough in the coming year.

Closing

In the absence of Carl Winkler, Tom asked Duane Plank to lead the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"Optimists are nostalgic about the future."

~Chicago Tribune

CALENDAR

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

10/4-6 Holiday Inn – Vicksburg, MS

AL-LA-MS District Meeting

10/10 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Tim Vander Veer

10/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Tim Vander Veer)

10/24 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Tim Vander Veer

- PHOTOS -



George McDonough Prepares Lunch for the Members



Al Renz Distributes Budget



John Shirey



Jim Berry and Al Adams Carry on a Conversation

Officer Information Sheet/Election Report

JOOI Club Name: _____

JOOI Club No. _____ (New charters leave blank)

Name of Sponsoring Optimist Club: _____

Club No. _____

JOOI Club Adviser:

Name: Mr. Ms. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Optimist Serving as Chairman of JOOI Club Committee:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

JOOI Club Officers: (Optional for Alpha Clubs)

President: _____ Grade Level: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Secretary/Treasurer: _____ Grade Level: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Possible Projects Discussed:

1. _____

2. _____

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

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

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

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

Optimist International



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TO: