



**OPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL**

*Friend of Youth*

**PRESIDENT**

George McDonough  
256-534-2591  
gfmcdonough@yahoo.com

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Alfred G. Adams  
502-541-6469  
alfredg.adams@gmail.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

John Inman  
256-425-8022  
inman\_john@hotmail.com

**SECRETARY TREASURER**

Al Renz  
256-772-7929  
optimist3480@aol.com

**Club meets**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays  
At 11:45 am**

**Downtown Holiday Inn  
Huntsville, AL**

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

# Opti - Topics

## Opening

Twenty-three Optimists assembled in the meeting room of the Optimist Recreation Center for the Club's monthly business meeting. President George McDonough called the meeting to order and asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the invocation. Jim prefaced the invocation by reading "Thanksgiving Reflections," a devotional written by our own Dr. Sidney Sandridge. George asked Jim to also lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gay Pepper was our chef today, and she provided Fettuccini Alfredo and/or Southwest Chipotle from Nothing but Noodles, complemented by a tossed salad, bread sticks, cookies and drinks.

## Kudos

President George McDonough recognized Gay Pepper for the great lunch and John Inman for organizing the JOOI Club participation in Huntsville's Veterans' Day Parade. Both received a nice round of applause from the Club. John played a recording from his smart phone of the kids yelling "Happy Veterans' Day!" He said they yelled this about every 20 seconds, and never stopped throughout the entire duration of the parade.

Tom Casteel said he found the entire parade on U Tube, so if anyone wants to see our entourage, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReoEpryzu5M>

Our entry is at the 9:30 mark.

## DIRECTORS

Bob Martin

bmartin12@bellsouth.net  
256-722-8062

Jim Otto

256-287-9089  
ppo7890@bellsouth.net

Tim Vander Veer

Vander\_veer@hotmail.com  
256-882-6510

Matt Hancock

256-990-0077  
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

Gay Pepper

256-288-4321  
gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com

Jim Roe

256-883-8950  
j\_m\_roe@yahoo.com

## PAST PRESIDENT

Tom Casteel

256-882-9380  
tom@leetsac.net

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

256-881-8215  
clyde.nevins@Juno.com

## Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz went over his monthly report, a copy of which was provided to each attendee. He highlighted the following items from his October report:

- About 2/3 of the membership have paid their dues for this quarter. There is still \$1,197 in dues outstanding.
- Six members have opted to the optional dues schedule (\$65 per quarter with 3 meals paid).
- Four guest meals totaling \$48 are also outstanding.
- Expenditures for the month of October were modest: \$400 for our band instrument maintenance, \$211.23 for JOOI Clubs, and \$48 for Oratorical Contest Medals. All these are reimbursable by the Foundation.
- Our bank balance at the end of October was \$4,081.15.

## Foundation Report

Foundation President Bill Clarke said he had not brought the numbers today, but the Foundation is doing well so long as the stock market continues to advance.

## New Meeting Location



President George McDonough reported on his efforts to find a new meeting location once the Holiday Inn closes. He has looked at many places, including the Embassy Suites, Holiday Inn (Research Park), Ryan's, Logan's, Shea's Express, Marriott, & Gibson's. The only one with any potential, but certainly not ideal, is Ryan's. Problems in the others include room rental, the small size of our club and simply the much higher cost of meals.

The potential for meeting at in a free room somewhere and having the meals catered was discussed. George would like to exhaust the restaurant option first, but conceded this may be necessary. Churches we could meet at might include Trinity Methodist (on Airport Rd.) and the First Baptist Church. The Bevill Center at UAH might also be an option.

## Committee Reports



Committee Chairman George McDonough said he had already received three inquiries on the Essay Contest. He said he intends to split up the City/County geographically and assign one of his committee members to personally contact the principal and/or an English teacher to promote the contest.

Al Adams said that Club members should talk up the essay contest and the oratorical contest at their church or wherever prospective young people might at least be made aware of the financial rewards for winning.

Tom Casteel said he would design and print some posters suitable for mounting on bulletin boards. He also said the Club's web site ([www.huntsville.allams.org](http://www.huntsville.allams.org)) has contest entry blanks and contact information for both the essay contest and the oratorical contest.

Jim Berry said we should have separate contests for Randolph School and the other schools since Randolph always wins; however, he was corrected by others saying that both home-schools and other schools have sponsored several recent winners.

## Christmas Party



Chairperson Gay Pepper announced that our Christmas party would be in our normal meeting place at the Downtown Holiday Inn on December 12. Time of the party will be 6:30 p.m. She passed around a sign-up sheet to get a count of the attendance. **Please contact Gay if you haven't declared if you will attend**, and tell her how many guests, if any will be with you.

Gay asked how many would not care to play "Dirty Santa" at the party, and only two hands were raised. So, we will play Dirty Santa, with the rule that anyone who brings a gift is eligible to participate in the game. If you don't bring a gift and do not care to play, you won't be given a number at the party.

## Gratuities for our Holiday Inn Servers



Gay and Buddy Beck have suggested we take up a collection to give to our friendly, competent and cheerful servers at the Downtown Holiday Inn on our last regular meeting there, December 5. This met with the approval of the Club. Jesse Lang suggested an amount of \$5 per member, and this also met with general approval. A cup was passed around, and Gay reported the collected amount to be \$150. If you want to add to this amount, call Gay and tell her.

## Tri Star Basketball



Committee Chairman Jesse Lang passed around a flyer giving the basics of the Tri Star Basketball contest. He urged our new members to get involved in this contest. Helping with the contest doesn't require basketball skills, and it's a fun way to interact with some of our youth.

Jesse also passed around a picture of a proposed participation ribbon. He said the ribbon was less expensive than the certificate, and the same design could be used from year to year.

The tentative contest date is January 18, 2014, but this date cannot be locked in until the ORC staff firms up their January schedule.

## JOOI Clubs



Committee Chairman John Inman reported on the status of re-chartering the JOOI Clubs for this school year. He said that two schools, Hampton Cove and Westminster, will definitely not have clubs in their schools this year. Four schools are yet to be heard from: Ed White, Davis Hills, University Place and Lee High School.

Al Renz reported he has sent in the paperwork to OI for 9 JOOI Clubs with a total of 226 members. Madison Academy has the largest club with 52 members.

## Batteries for Second Mile



Tom Casteel announced that the Club will be donating batteries (for toys) again this year to the Second Mile Development, a non-profit organization serving the poorest families in Huntsville.

He encouraged every Club member to **look for good bargains on batteries in sizes AAA, AA, C, D, & 9-volt batteries**, all of which are all needed. Bring them to the December 5 or the December 12 meetings.

## Membership



Committee Chairman Tom Casteel reported he plans to organize a NOW banquet for sometime in February of next year. He asks every Club member to **give him names, addresses and telephone numbers of potential Optimists**. Think of those at work or at church or in your neighborhood, and give this information to him before the end of December. His committee will take care of inviting them to the banquet

## Closing

Jim Berry again announced that November is Prostate Cancer Awareness month, and the prescribed way to show support for fighting this disease is to grow a beard. That's why he looks so scruffy, not because wants to be Santa Claus at our Christmas party.

President George asked Charter Member Dr. Carl Winkler to lead the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.**

*~John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

# CALENDAR



**11/28      Thursday      No Meeting (Thanksgiving)**

12/3      Tuesday 4:00 pm      1st Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**

12/5      Thursday 11:45 am      Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Bill McDowell - Second Mile Development**

12/12      Thursday 6:30 pm      Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Annual Christmas Party**

12/19      Thursday 11:45 am      Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)**



**12/26      Thursday      No Meeting (Christmas)**



**1/2/14      Thursday      No Meeting (New Years)**

## 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



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



**TO:**