



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

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Club meets

**1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 am**

**Mullins Restaurant
Huntsville, AL**

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

Opti - Topics

Opening

A rather sparse turnout of 16 Optimists assembled in the meeting room of the Optimist Recreation Center for the Club's monthly business meeting. President George McDonough delayed the normal meeting opening time about 10 minutes hoping for more to show up (a couple more did). One of the slightly late attendees was Fabiani Duarte who had driven in from Mercer Law School in Macon, Georgia this morning.

President George asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the invocation and John Inman to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Roe was our caterer today, and he provided us Gibson's barbeque with potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, buns & cake.

Kudos

Alberto Duarte announced that our newsletter editor was celebrating his birthday this very day, and the club sang *Happy Birthday* to him.

President George McDonough asked the newsletter editor to again say, "*Thank you, Gay Pepper, for the wonderful Christmas party last week.*"

Treasurer's Report

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



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month summary report:

- Optimist International sent the Club a check for \$1,000 in recognition of last year's outstanding JOOI Club efforts. This is unprecedented in the memories of the long-term Optimists in our Club.
- The Club had one new member in November.
- There are still dues payments of \$185 outstanding.
- Bank balance at the end of November was \$1,429.43.
- If the OI donation and the rebate from our Chase credit card were discounted, the Club's income might not cover the anticipated expenses for the rest of the quarter (December), even if the unpaid dues are collected.
- The Club now owes the Optimist Foundation only \$800, thanks to donations by Jim Berry and Zack Thompson.

New Meeting Location



President George McDonough reported on his efforts to find a new location for our luncheon meetings. He has concluded there is only one location that has a suitable meeting room, decent food, adequate parking and reasonable cost (compared to what we have been paying at the Downtown Holiday Inn). The recommended site is Mullins Restaurant on Andrew Jackson Way. The only drawbacks to Mullins are the ease and the method of paying for individual meals ordered from the menu.

There was much discussion on how each member would pay for his/her meals, and how it would affect the current Club membership dues. The various options tossed around were:

1. Each member would pay for his/her meal individually and pay dues of \$35 per quarter. This could mean a l-o-o-o-n-g line at the only cash register at the conclusion of the meeting.
2. Each member would sign his/her check and give it to Treasurer Al Renz who would pay for everyone who eats. Al would charge the entire amount to our credit card, thereby keeping our rebate. Al would bill individual members for their total meal costs at the end of the quarter plus dues. This option might create a cash-flow problem, but it has a lot going for it.
3. Each member would pay a flat amount for dues and meals, similar to the amount paid now, and Al would pay the bill for the entire Club at each meal without keeping a record. This option wouldn't seem to be equitable considering that some members would eat a lot, others not so much, but pay the same.

President George said the Club's Board of Directors would resolve the matter at their upcoming January 7 meeting. In any case, he proposes that we eat at Mullins several times to give it a fair trial.

Committee Reports

JOOI Clubs



Committee Chairman John Inman reported on the two installation ceremonies, Whitesburg Middle School and Randolph School. He said there had been a communications breakdown with Randolph, so Mrs. Ormond was not prepared for the morning ceremony. However, after a little scrambling all of the officers were rounded up and installed, after which some cake and apple juice were enjoyed. The uneaten cake was left at the school to be shared with other club members later.

At Whitesburg Middle School, there was a good turnout for the evening ceremony except for the JOOI Club officers, only one of which attended and was installed. John told them of two projects being undertaken by the Hazel Green JOOI Club and suggested they look at the possibility of their club doing something similar.

John said he expected activities to “ramp up” after the holidays. Alberto recommended to all of the Club's Points of Contact to push for getting the installation ceremonies done as early as possible in the first semester of school.

President George asked about the status of the Lee High School JOOI Club. He remarked that “We’re not just donating money” for the activities at Lee High; i. e., they didn’t charter their JOOI Club, there would be no money from us. John promised to look into it.

Essay Contest



Committee Chairman George McDonough distributed an information sheet giving the basics of the Essay Contest and a copy of the application. He asked those present to give the handout to a prospective entrant. Entries must be received by February 1, 2014, to George. Entries may be mailed to George at 1902

Fairmont Road, Huntsville AL 35801, or e-mailed to him at gfmcdonough@yahoo.com.

Oratorical Contest



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte reported he had designed and distributed a flyer for the Oratorical Contest. The flyer was distributed to members at the Christmas party as well as e-mailed to the membership. The contest will be held at the Cooper House on March 8, 2014.

Closing

Duane Plank apologized for taking more time, but said he had to tell of the evening he had enjoyed Sunday night at Joe & Martha Pullen’s. He related how during the evening he had conversations with Joe’s son and another guest, Angela Walker, who knew kids who had benefited from Optimist Club projects (Band Instrument and Oratorical Contest). He encouraged us to keep up our efforts—they are making a difference.

Due to the late meeting start and the lengthy discussion on the new meeting place, and because we were well past 1:00 p. m., President George said there was no other new business that needed our attention today. He 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

“A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.”

~Hugh Downs



Fabiani wearing his Mercer Law shirt



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



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

1/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting

1/9 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – John Inman

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: