



**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

Twenty Optimists assembled in the meeting room of the Optimist Recreation Center for the Club's monthly business meeting. In attendance today were our Club's newest member, Kathy Anderson, and Alberto Duarte, recently returning from almost 3 weeks in Colombia. President George asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the invocation and Al Renz to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Inman was our caterer today, and he provided us with regular and extra-crispy Kentucky Fried Chicken with baked beans, mashed potatoes, biscuits & cookies, along with assorted drinks. Al Renz later reported that John had set a record by providing the meal at the lowest cost, barely edging out former leader Gay Pepper.

Business Session

President George McDonough called the business session to order after lunch, and began by telling us a little about our newest member, his daughter Kathy Anderson. He then asked Al Renz to begin the session with his treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz went over his October-December (3-month) report, a copy of which was provided to each attendee. He highlighted the following items from his quarterly summary report:

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Our income for the quarter was about \$400 over the budget amount, due to the \$1,000 received from Optimist International and prepayment of some membership dues. Without that income, the Club would have been very close, but slightly in the red for the quarter.

- There were still dues payments and meals for Christmas party guests outstanding at the end of the quarter, the total being a little over \$450.
- Non-reimbursable (from the Foundation) expenses were about \$300 lower than budgeted.
- Bank balance at the end of November was \$1,729.58.

Al also reported he had filed the Club's income tax return to the IRS for calendar year 2013.

There has been no income, nor any news from Jeff Klimek, as to when he will begin repaying the Club. He is known to be out of prison, and that his freedom is contingent upon beginning repayment.

Dues Structure



President George McDonough reported that the Board of Directors had discussed the options for the new dues structure, and he asked Past President Tom Casteel to bring this item to the floor.

Tom stated that the consensus of the Board was to revise the Club's Policy and Procedures Manual, paragraph 6.6.1.1, to add Plan C. Plan C would allow regular members to pay \$35 per quarter plus the actual cost of meals eaten. Plan A would be the payment of \$120 per quarter, which would include all meals, and Plan B would be the payment of \$65 per quarter which would include three meals (additional meals to be billed at the current meal cost).

However, after pondering this matter, Tom now concluded we should leave paragraph 6.6.1.1 exactly as it is (with only Plans A & B). This precipitated a lot of discussion on the relative cost of the meals at Mullins, which Al Renz reported the average cost to be about \$10, compared to what we paid at the Downtown Holiday Inn (\$12).

President George McDonough said he is of the opinion that if only Plans A & B are in force there may need to be some restrictions on what meals or what meal cost is permitted at Mullins. Another point: Plan C would require a lot of extra work for our treasurer, and it could create a cash flow problem for the Club since a member's dues would not be known, and therefore not payable, until the end of the quarter.

John Inman moved that the Club's dues structure be maintained as now specified in paragraph 6.6.1.1. Jim Berry (I think) seconded the motion, and the motion carried without dissent.

Meeting Location

Discussion continued on the suitability of Mullins for the Club's meetings. President George reported that he had received several gripes about the room, the food, and the service experienced at last week's meeting. He threw the floor open for discussion (gripes) on Mullins' suitability.

There were a number of comments, especially about the cramped quarters and the poor acoustics. Another option at Mullins is a larger room up front in the restaurant, but it would not be private.

Duane Plank stated that he thinks Mullins is not classy enough for our Club. He believes that Mullins does not provide a suitable image to potential new members or guest speakers.

President George allowed that there are several classier places available if we are willing to pay close to \$20 per plate—about twice what we pay at Mullins. It's a trade off of cost versus "class." In his opinion we are "common folk," and Mullins is okay.

In the end, the consensus was that we continue to meet at Mullins, but not rule out moving to a better location in the future. For examples, it was reported that the Noon Optimist Club meets at the Elks Lodge (parking problem), and the Evening Optimist Club meets at the Double Tree Inn on South Parkway (room

availability not guaranteed, apparently). In the meantime, we could “tweak” the seating arrangements and menu options at Mullins.

Committee Reports



Al Renz reported he had attended the Optimist Zone meeting last Tuesday where plans for the **Respect for Law Banquet** were finalized. Our Club is committed to providing someone to bring the invocation and lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in addition to nominating a law-enforcement officer to be honored at the banquet. The banquet will be held at the Mayfair Church of Christ on May 5. Our Club’s banquet reservations need to be in by April 25, and our honoree’s bio by April 25. Al will be passing around a sign-up sheet at upcoming Club meetings.



The **Tri-Star Basketball** competition will be held this coming Saturday, January 18, at the Optimist Recreation Center. Committee Chairman Jesse Lang was unable to be at today’s meeting due to a scheduled root canal, and is also to undergo a procedure on his pacemaker tomorrow (Friday); thus, he may not make it to the event. A number of Club members who have helped in the past will be there, however, so the event can be held as scheduled.



Committee Chairman John Inman reported that there will be an installation ceremony for the officers at Columbia today (Thursday). As it turns out the JOOI Club advisor at Madison Academy last year had relocated to Columbia and had agreed to be advisor for the club.

After an early show of interest, it now appears that Huntsville Middle School has “lost traction” in forming a JOOI Club there. However, Butler HS is showing interest. John has sent them a package of information.

Tom Casteel said he had learned Mountain Gap is interested in starting a Club, so he and John will follow up on this opportunity.

Closing

President George said there were no other reports nor other new business that needed our attention today. He asked our longest serving member, Dr. Carl Winkler, to lead the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Huntsville Optimist Foundation

The foundation had elections at its meeting today after the regular club meeting. The officers for the 1914 year are:

President: Tom Casteel

Vice President: John Shirey

Secretary-Treasurer: Gay Pepper

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

It's not that optimism solves all of life's problems; it is just that it can sometimes make the difference between coping and collapsing.

~Lucy Macdonald

CALENDAR

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 1/23 | Thursday 11:45 am | Mullins Restaurant
TBD – John Inman |
| 1/30 | Thursday | No Meeting (5th Thursday) |
| 2/4 | Tuesday 4:00 pm | 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting |
| 2/6 | Thursday 11:45 am | Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry |
| 2/13 | Thursday 11:45 am | Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry |
| 2/20 | Thursday 11:45 am | Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Berry) |

- PHOTOS -



Our Newest Member – Kathy Anderson



Members Enjoy the Fantastic Layout John Inman Brought



Members Recite the Optimist Creed

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: