



**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 was our Club's newest member, Andrew Driver, who, in fact, paid his dues today. Andrew was introduced to our Club by past member Tim Vander Veer, and related that recent employment changes had kept him from attending meetings. President George McDonough asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the invocation and Tom Casteel to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



Jim Berry was our caterer today, and we dined on a nice assortment of mini-sub sandwiches from Subway plus potato chips, Moon Pies, chocolate chip cookies and Milo's tea. John Shirey passed around some photos of the dedication of the ball field at the Optimist Recreation Center in 1993 while we ate.

Optimist Family News

- ❖ A memorial service will be held for **Chev Kellogg** on Saturday at 1:00 p. m. in the Chapel of Whitesburg Baptist Church (this is in the building south of Martin Road, not at the main building).

John Shirey reported that past member **Houston McCullough** passed away this week.

- ❖ Alberto read an e-mail from Martha Pullen reporting that **Joe Pullen** has cancer of the lymph nodes. It was discovered in his throat, and tests are being run to see if it has spread.

- ❖ George McDonough reported that his daughter, **Cathy Anderson**, has a fractured knee cap.

Business Session

President George McDonough called the business session to order after lunch, and began by asking Al Renz to present his treasurer's report.

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Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Al Renz went over his October-January (4-month) report, a copy of which was provided to each attendee. He highlighted the following items from his quarterly summary report:

- Our bank balance at the end of January was \$3,452.73, which included \$390 in pre-paid dues and the \$1,000 stipend received from Optimist International.
- Outstanding dues for the January-thru-March quarter amount to \$1,416.00.
- The Club still owes the Optimist Foundation \$800.

Old Business

Club Meeting Location



Discussions 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 especially the service experienced at last week's meeting. A lengthy discussion followed, with the following as a consensus:

- We will still meet at Mullins next week, but the servers will be instructed to speed up the food delivery by:
 - (1) Serving people as they arrive instead of waiting and taking all orders at once
 - (2) Using an abbreviated menu available for Club members, who will be encouraged to order from the daily lunch menu.
- The Meeting Location Committee will continue, at a more vigorous pace, to look at other locations. Locations serving lunches within our budget are quite limited; As of now, the only promising candidate seems to be Trinity Methodist Church on Airport Road.
- One option put forward was to reduce the number of luncheon meetings to two per month (plus the business meeting). This would allow meeting at a ritzier place without the necessity to raise dues. An informal show of hands indicated this would be acceptable to the majority of those present.

New Business



President George brought to the Club a fund-raising project that has been proposed. Tom Casteel had learned of this project in the District Meeting, and he reported that at least 3 Optimist Clubs are using it. One club reported an income of about \$10,000 per year.

This project involves providing American Flags to individual homes or businesses at appropriate holidays. The Club would install a flag pole receptacle in the customer's yard and place a 10-foot tall flag pole, complete with a 3 X 5 foot embroidered flag, in the receptacle during five holidays in a year. The cost to the customer for this service would be \$35. The income to the Club would be \$1,750 per 50 installations each year after the first year.

Another lengthy discussion ensued on this proposal. Issues that remained open after the discussion are:

1. How would the project be promoted?
2. Would flag etiquette require flags to be flood-lit at night (during the approximate 3 days of being displayed)?

3. Would our JOOI Clubs want to be involved (and thereby receive a portion of the profits)? If not, who would do it?
4. Where would the flags & poles be stored?

Al Adams recommended that a committee be formed to investigate this project and flesh out these and any other details. George asked for volunteers for such a committee, and Tom Casteel said he would serve on the committee after recovery from his knee surgery on March 11. George thought his daughter might be willing to serve also, once she recovers from her fractured knee. Otherwise, there were no takers.

Committee Reports

Essay Contest



Committee Chairman George McDonough reported that the contest was successfully completed with 10 essays being entered. He said one essay was “stolen” by the Madison Optimist Club, or he would have had 11. Students from five different schools entered, including some middle school students. George said the winning essay looks very promising to do well at the next levels of the contest.

Oratorical Contest



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that the Oratorical Contest is still on for Saturday, March 9. He said there is no way to predict accurately the number of entrants, but he has had positive feedback from Randolph, Whitesburg Middle School and some home school students. He encouraged Optimists who are the contacts with our various JOOI Clubs to promote this project in their clubs.

Al Adams reminded the Club that we must encourage kids in public schools to enter this (and other) contest, and not concentrate our promotion in the private schools. Duane Plank said contact with school officials should be an “eye ball-to-eye ball meeting, not just a casual, easy to delete, e-mail.

Pancake Breakfast



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte said he had been in contact with Ms. Mary Flynn of the Hawthorne Conservatory about scheduling our annual pancake breakfast. Ms. Flynn said she recommended that plans for the breakfast be put on hold while some issues between the Conservatory and the Central Presbyterian Church are being resolved.

Announcements



Tom Casteel reported it is not too late to be a supporter of the "Dime-a-Day" project sponsored by Optimist International. He still has three pins, and will be happy to order more, if needed. Make your check out to the OIF (Optimist International Foundation) for \$36.50, write Dime A Day in the memo section and give it to Tom.

Closing

President George said there were no other reports or 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.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push, a smile, a word of optimism and hope, a "You can do it." when things are tough."

~Richard M. DeVos

CALENDAR

2/27 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

Speaker - Jonathan Shields

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

Board Meeting

3/6 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

Speaker - Tom Howell – District Governor Elect

3/13 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

Speaker – Rick Owens

3/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)

3/27 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

Barney Heyward – Financial Advisor

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

Board Meeting

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: