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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

Apparently a number of Optimists were enjoying Spring Break week with their grandchildren, as only 17 Club members attended our monthly business meeting today at the Optimist Recreation Center.

Al and Marlene Renz provided our lunch today, slices of delicious, home-roasted pork loin covered with a tasty sauce, apple sauce, potato salad, rolls, dessert and drinks.

It looked and smelled so good, we couldn't wait until President George McDonough showed up to begin digging in. Jim Berry brought the blessing and Buddy Beck led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. When George arrived at 11:45, most of us were well into our meal.

Optimist Family News

❖ Past President **Tom Casteel** is recovering nicely from his knee-replacement surgery. George talked to him just prior to the meeting, and Tom is "well ahead of the curve" in his therapy.

❖ **John Shirey** was reported to have fallen, again, and broke the same arm as had broken before. He had his cast off last Tuesday, and will hopefully be back with us by next week.

❖ **Joe Pullen** will undergo surgery to remove cancerous lymph nodes in his throat at Vanderbilt Hospital next Monday. Martha Pullen, Joe's wife, says Joe is in excellent health, otherwise, and is expected to be released on Wednesday or Thursday.

❖ Ralph Caner reported that long-time member and Club Sec./Treas. **Buddy Petty** died this past week.

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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.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz went over his October-February (5-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 February was \$4,553.73, which included \$400 in pre-paid dues and the \$1,000 stipend received from Optimist International.
- The Club is making money due to the lower cost of meals at Mullins, and has used the extra money to repay the Optimist Foundation the \$800 loaned to us while we recovered from the theft of funds.
- Al has written a letter to ascertain the name of Jeff Klimek's probation officer so the Club can determine when (if?) repayment of his debt to the Club will begin.

Old Business

• Essay Contest Results



Contest Chairman George McDonough said he would announce the winners of the Essay Contest at the next meeting.

Zone Oratorical Contest



Alberto Duarte encouraged everyone to attend the Zone Oratorical Contest this coming Saturday (March 22). It's to be held at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 9:00 a. m. Alberto will be out of town (visiting with Fabiani at Mercer). Clyde Nevins volunteered to take the Club' contest folder to the Zone contest.

Program Chairman for July

President George McDonough asked for a volunteer to be Program Chairman for the month of July. Gay Pepper volunteered. George says he already has a speaker lined up—an 11-year old girl who epitomizes optimism. She is wheel-chair bound, and is in the therapy pool at the same time as George on Tuesdays.

Club Meeting Location



President George said he wanted inputs from anyone about if and to where the Club should move from Mullins to another location. This resulted in a l-o-o-o-o-n-g discussion with inputs from nearly all of those present. The consensus of those discussions can be summarized as follows:

- ❖ The Club should pursue moving from Mullins in an orderly manner, but as soon as possible.
- ❖ So far, we have not located an alternative meeting place that has all of what we are looking for, i. e.:
 - “Class”—an environment we would want to bring guests to
 - Decent food—preferably to include a salad and desert
 - Cost--within the amount budgeted for meals in our current dues
 - Storage--for our banners and sound system between meetings
 - Parking—abundant and convenient to the meeting room

- ❖ There are three restaurants that might be suitable. These are:
 - Blix
 - Terra Nova
 - Beauregard's
- ❖ In addition to restaurants, Trinity Methodist Church and the Regency Retirement Village are to be looked into.
- ❖ If none of the above options are suitable, the Club should choose meeting at a hotel, pay the \$20 per meal it would cost, and reduce the number of meetings to three per month (two at the hotel).
- ❖ Instead of reducing the number of meetings per month, one option might be to still a fourth meeting each month, but meet at the ORC similar to what we do now for the business meeting.
- ❖ Holding a "trial" Club meeting at one or more of those facilities deemed to be acceptable would be a good idea and should be pursued by the committee.

John Inman volunteered to chair a committee to investigate the possibilities described above. Contact John if you'd like to be involved in this effort.

Announcements



Youth Appreciation Banquet Chairperson Gay Pepper announced that the banquet is still only *tentatively* scheduled for April 22 (a Tuesday) due to uncertainty in the location for the banquet. The Cooper House has informed her that a charge of \$200 (the same as charged to church members) will be levied on the Club if the banquet is held there. Gay would like to not pay a charge for the room since the meal is to be catered, so she is looking for alternate locations. The banquet cannot be held at Mayfair Church of Christ again, because no Club members belong to the church.

If your church or civic organization has a room suitable for the banquet without a charge, please call Gay. The date can be moved, if that helps.

Al Adams announced that the **Alabama A & M University Concert Choir** will perform at the Lincoln Center in New York City next month. They will be the first choir from an historically Black University to do so. The choir still lacks the full amount needed for the trip, and is seeking donations. Donations may be made to the Alabama A & M Foundation, or you can give at: www.gofundme.com

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

“You have to open up to the world and learn optimism ... Contentment with the past, happiness with the present, and hope for the future. Learned optimism.”

~ Jennifer Crusie

CALENDAR

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|---|
| 3/27 | Thursday 11:45 am | Mullins Restaurant |
| | | Barney Heyward – Financial Advisor |
| 4/1 | Tuesday 4:00 pm | 1st Commercial Bank |
| | | Board Meeting |
| 4/3 | Thursday 11:45 am | Mullins Restaurant |
| | | Speaker – TBD – Alberto Duarte |
| 4/10 | Thursday 11:45 am | Mullins Restaurant |
| | | Speaker – TBD – Alberto Duarte |
| 4/17 | Thursday 11:45 am | Optimist Recreation Center |
| | | Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte) |
| 4/22 | Tuesday 06:30 pm | Saint Paul United Methodist Church
3250 Dunn DR SW |
| | | Youth Appreciation Banquet |
| 4/24 | | NO MEETING |
| | | Tuesday's meeting replaced this meeting |

- PHOTOS -



Buddy Beck's truck that he restored.



Andrew Driver helps Al Renz set up our lunch.



Under the foil is our delicious lunch entrée.



Attention Student Advisors

TOPIC: “Youth Awards Banquet” Given by the Huntsville Optimist Club sponsored by Optimist International

PARTICIPANTS: Students who excelled in any of the following categories: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Community Service, or Leadership. Leadership may include President or Vice President of the JOOI. Students must be under the age of 19 who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent and who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean.

Banquet: The Banquet will be provided by the Huntsville Optimist Club at the St. Paul UM Church at 3250 Dunn Dr. SW in Huntsville at 6:30PM on April 22, 2014. Advisors may send the Nomination Form (Attached) with name of the nominee to Bob Martin Optimist, 274 Vine Cliff Dr. Harvest AL, 35749 or ph 256 722 8062 or emailed to bmartin12@bellsouth.net. Forms are due April 8, 2014. Be sure to include a paragraph by the advisor explaining why the nominee should be honored. Advisors and Parents are invited to come to the Banquet and accompany the honoree. Our Youth Awards Banquet is one of the most popular programs sponsored by Optimist International each year.



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL



OPTIMIST CLUB OF HUNTSVILLE

YOUTH APPRECIATION NOMINATION FORM for 2014

Return To: Huntsville Optimist Club

c/o Bob Martin at bmartin12@bellsouth.net or 256 722 8062

274 Vine Cliff Dr.

Harvest, AL 35749

Nominations Due April 8, 2014

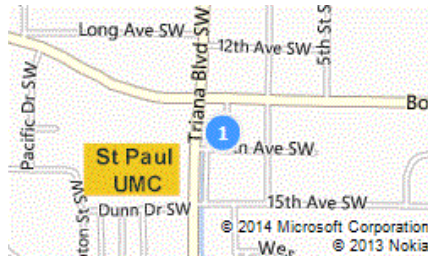
Nominee Name and age _____ grade _____

Nominating School or Organization and address _____

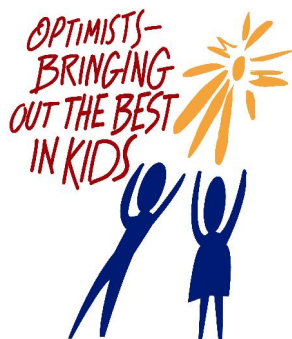
Advisor's Name _____

Advisor's email and phone _____

Will sponsor and nominee be able to attend the Huntsville Optimist's Youth Appreciation Banquet at the St. John United Methodist Church at 6:30 PM on April 22, 2014. The Church is located at 3250 Dunn Dr. SW which is near the intersection of Triana Boulevard and Bob Wallace Ave. See Map below



Enclose a brief explanation of the need to honor this person. Examples are (his/her) optimism or leadership abilities, community service accomplishments, athletics, or academic achievements.



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



TO:

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