



**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**

**Mullins Restaurant  
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

Perhaps because of the good weather, or less likely because of the scheduled election of officers, a great turnout of 24 Optimists attended the April Business Meeting at the Optimist Recreation Center today. President George McDonough asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the opening prayer and Tom Casteel to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We were glad to see Kathy Anderson, today, who usually has a Thursday meeting conflict at work.

Alberto Duarte was our caterer today, and we enjoyed some delicious chicken and pork barbeque with sides of baked beans, coleslaw and potato salad, finished off by either lemon meringue or pecan pie.

## New Member Installation



President George McDonough called the business session to order after lunch, saying today's meeting was special because of our installing two new members and electing next year's officers.

President George asked Tom Casteel, Andrew Driver and Kathy Anderson to come forward. Tom spoke briefly about Andrew, and George did the same for his daughter, Kathy, whom he said "he had known a long time." He then administered the Oath of Membership and gave each one a membership packet.

## Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz went over his October-March (6-month) report, a copy of which was provided to each attendee. He highlighted the following items from his quarterly summary report:

### DIRECTORS

Don Holder  
256-881-4655  
[don\\_holder@comcast.net](mailto:don_holder@comcast.net)

Bob Martin  
[bmartin12@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmartin12@bellsouth.net)  
256-722-8062

Matt Hancock  
256-990-0077  
[wmhancock@wolfejones.com](mailto:wmhancock@wolfejones.com)

Gay Pepper  
256-288-4321  
[gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com](mailto:gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com)

Jim Roe  
256-883-8950  
[j\\_m\\_roe@yahoo.com](mailto:j_m_roe@yahoo.com)

### PAST PRESIDENT

Tom Casteel  
256-882-9380  
[tom@leetsac.net](mailto:tom@leetsac.net)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins  
256-881-8215  
[clyde.nevins@Juno.com](mailto:clyde.nevins@Juno.com)

- The half-year summary shows we are a little over in revenue and substantially under in expenses for the six months. The revenue was greater because of the \$1,000 received from OI plus a \$500 contribution. The expenses were lower principally because of lower meal costs and fewer members eating.
- The Club is making money due to the lower cost of meals at Mullins. It costs the Club about \$100 less per meal than at the Downtown Holiday Inn, and this is helping build a reserve.
- The Youth Activities & Community Service Expenditures were below budget because only 9 of last year's 14 JOOI Clubs re-chartered.
- Our bank balance at the end of February was \$2,232.09, which included \$400 in pre-paid dues and the \$1,000 stipend received from Optimist International.
- Al has written three letters to Jeff Klimek's probation officer so the Club can determine when (if?) repayment of his debt to the Club will begin. So far, he has not received any response.

### • Committee Reports

#### • Youth Appreciation Banquet



• Gay Pepper reported that the Youth Appreciation Banquet will be held at the St. Paul UM Church at 3250 Dunn Dr. SW in Huntsville (see map) at 6:30 p. m. on April 22, 2014. That's next *Tuesday*. **Gay needs your reservation(s) by Friday, April 18**, to give our caterer the meal count.

To date, there are 8 youths nominated from schools and our 3 essay contest winners attending. There are other nominees possible, including our oratorical contest winners

### **Regional Oratorical Contest**



Alberto Duarte reported on the Region Oratorical Contest last Saturday. He, Tom Casteel and Clyde Nevins attended from our Club. Our boy contestant won 2<sup>nd</sup> place and our girl contestant won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Region. The boy winner was the young man, Jonathan Shields, who spoke at our Club in February. Our girl contestant received only 4<sup>th</sup> place in our Club contest, since the top 3 contestants had conflicts, but gave her speech quite well. Alberto was a little miffed that Jonathan would have represented our Club but for a conflict at the time of our contest.

### **Club Meeting Location**

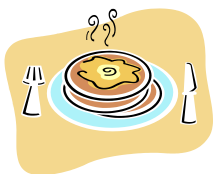


John Inman reported that his committee is eating their way through the suggested locations for our Club meetings. They ate at Terra Nova and judged the food to be very good and the meeting room adequate, including a place to store our stuff. The cost is a little high, however (\$14), and the traffic on University Dr. could be a problem to some of us.

Jim Roe reported that Beauregard's just off Airport Road has a good-sized meeting room that is more secluded than our room at Mullins. The committee will eat there soon. Blix on Airport Rd. is also on the schedule.

Some of the committee have tried out the food at the Regency Retirement Village off of North Parkway. Al Renz reported that the cost is very low (\$6), and that includes a choice of two entrees, vegetables, drink and dessert. The entire Club will meet there on May 22, at which time the Regency Program Coordinator will speak to us (and there will be no cost for our food!).

### **Pancake Breakfast**



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that the Pancake Breakfast is in limbo due to a conflict that has arisen between the Hawthorne Conservatory and the Central Presbyterian Church. Without going into details, Alberto said he is awaiting a feedback from those in charge at these organizations to see if there is any possibility of holding the event in a similar manner as before.

If not, someone suggested we look into having the event at Appleby's. As part of their community outreach, Appleby's will host a pancake breakfast for half of the proceeds. Al Adams said his church had done this successfully.

## Foundation Report



Foundation President Tom Casteel reported that at the end of March, the balance in the Foundation's Account at Regions Bank was \$882,161.09. With the addition of the value of our CD at First Commercial Bank, the total assets of the Foundation now exceed one million dollars.

## Election of Officers



President George asked Nominating Committee Chairman Tom Casteel to present the committee's slate of officers for 2014-2015. Tom announced the committee proposed the following nominations:

<b>President:</b>	Al Adams
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	John Inman
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Don Holder
<b>2-yr Director</b>	Tom Casteel
<b>2-yr Director</b>	Richie Myers
<b>2-yr Director</b>	Vastell Williams
<b>1-yr Director</b>	Andrew Driver

The following positions did not require voting. These Directors are serving their 2<sup>nd</sup> year and the Secretary-Treasurer is an appointed position.

<b>1-yr Director</b>	Bob Martin
<b>1-yr Director</b>	Gay Pepper
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	Al Renz

**There was some discussion on the nominations. Ralph Caneer said he was** not comfortable with someone being an officer on both the Club and the Foundation's Board of Directors. He would prefer more independence of the two boards, i. e., no overlap in officers.

Clyde Nevins asked if there was a clause in our bylaws requiring any length of membership prior to serving on the Club's Board of Directors. He opined that it seemed a little unusual for a person to be installed as a new member and voted to the Club's board on the same day. Tom reported there was no such restriction for board membership.

These voiced concerns resulted in no additional nominations. Jim Berry moved that the slate of nominees be approved by acclamation. Duane Plank seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

## **Announcements**

The **Respect for Law banquet** will be held on Monday, May 5, at the Mayfair Church of Christ on Carl T. Jones Dr. If you haven't signed up, you need to do that now. There will be **no Club meeting on May 8** because of this event.

Our **meeting on May 22** will be at Regency Retirement Village on Max Luther Drive just west of North Memorial Parkway.

If you have need of your **Optimist Member Number**, Tom Casteel has a list that gives the number for every one of our Club members.

## **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**

**"If plan A doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters"**

*~Claire Cook*



# - PHOTOS -



**George Installs Andrew Driver and Kathy Anderson**



**New Members Andrew and Kathy**



**Alberto Duarte with our  
Oratorical Contest Contestants**



**Various Shots Of Our Members Enjoying Fellowship**

## CALENDAR

4/22      Tuesday 06:30 pm      Saint Paul United Methodist Church  
3250 Dunn DR SW  
See attached map

### **Youth Appreciation Banquet**

4/24      **NO MEETING**

**Tuesday's meeting replaced this meeting**

5/1      Thursday 11:45 am      Mullins Restaurant  
**Speaker – Pam Clasgens of Heals, Inc.**

5/5      Monday 6:30 pm      Mayfair Church of Christ  
**Respect for Law Banquet**

5/6      Tuesday 4:00 pm      1st Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**

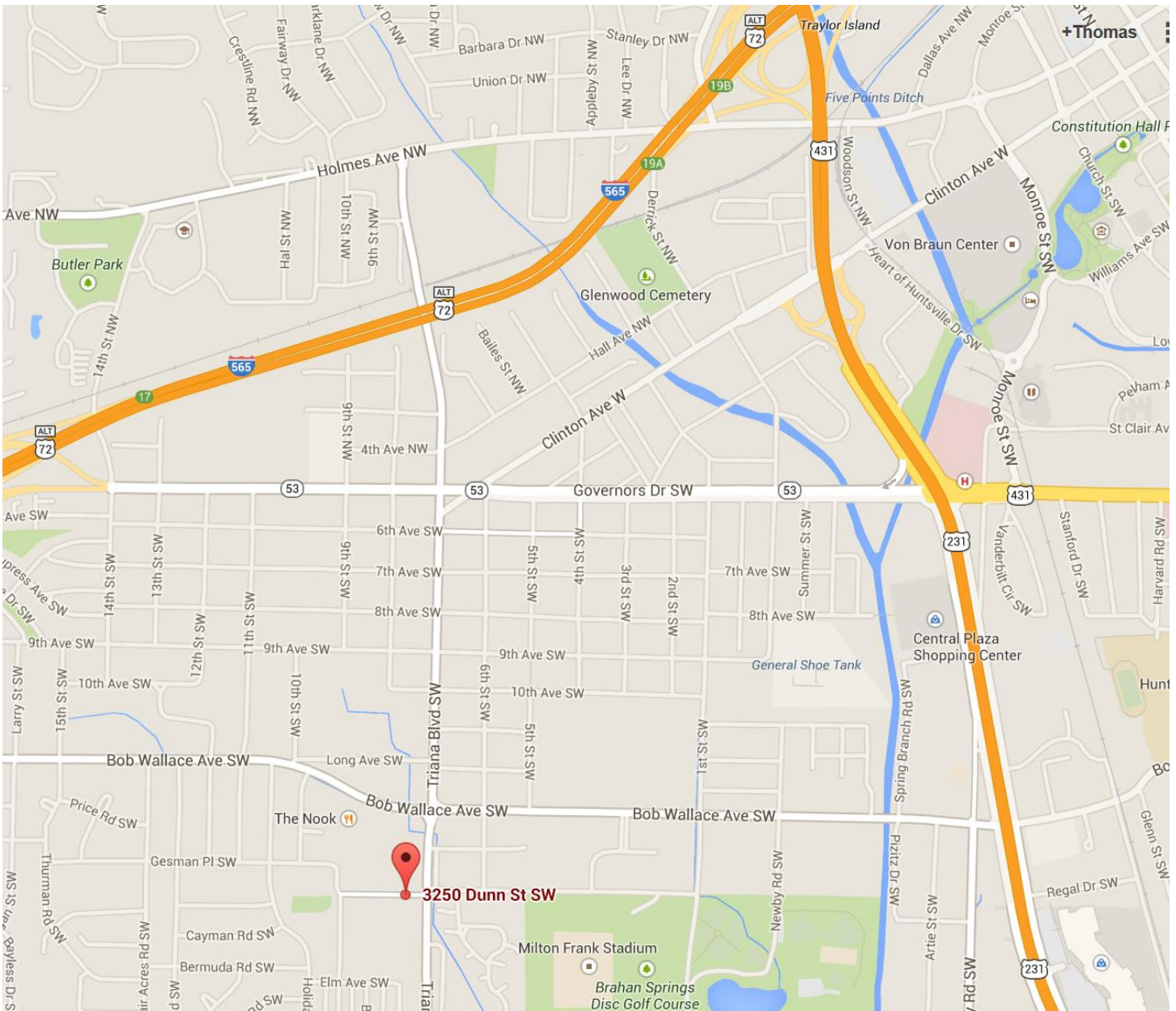
5/8      **NO MEETING**  
**Respect for Law Banquet replaced this meeting**

5/15      Thursday 11:45 am      Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)**

5/22      Thursday 11:45 am      Regency Retirement Village  
**Dana Hill from Regency Retirement Village**

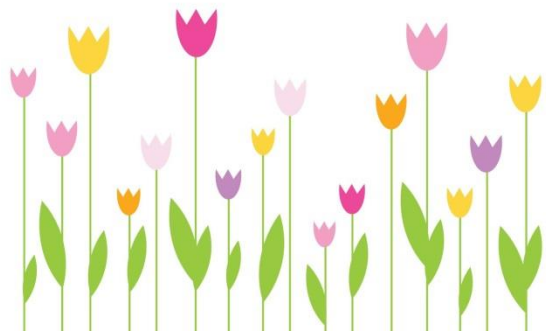
5/29      **NO MEETING**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Thursday**





**Saint Paul United Methodist Church**

Happy  
Easter!





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



**TO:**

## **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