



**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 fine turnout of twenty-one Optimists, three guests and our speaker attended our Club meeting at Mullins Restaurant today. Our guests today were Kristen Lecroix and Susan Gossett from Columbia High School, and Jennifer Ingram. Kirsten, a guest of Al Renz, attended the meeting to report on the JOOI Club activities at Columbia. Jennifer, an employee of Northrop Grumman, was the guest of Al Adams and is a prospective new member.

President George asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Bob Martin to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

“Optimist Family” News

- ❖ **Nelly Duarte**, wife of Optimist Alberto Duarte, is still in Huntsville Hospital. She recently underwent knee surgery to remedy an inflammation caused by a previous surgery. Her treatments for complications resulting from guillain barre syndrome have been completed.
- ❖ **Bill Clarke** had damage to his property from the recent storm that went through his farm near Hazel Green. Several trees on his property were uprooted, and he lost part of his roof. Bill was sporting a black eye at the meeting today, suffered when he tripped on a branch while surveying storm damage.
- ❖ Duane Plank reported that the **wife of former Optimist Dr. David Copeland**, Superintendent of Madison County Schools is slowly recovering from a severe lung disease. She now has recovered 100% of her left lung function, and 60% of her right lung function.

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Announcements



Committee Chair Gay Pepper was not present today, but President George McDonough reported that our annual **Youth Appreciation Banquet** was a great success. He thanked Al Adams' wife for providing the banquet's location and for participating in the program.



Band Committee Chairman Al Adams asked all Band Committee members to contact their respective schools to get schedules for their Spring band concerts. Also, ask them to identify their "Outstanding Band Student" and the schedule for picking up the loaned instruments at the end of the school year. Also, this year band directors will be given an honorary Optimist Club pin. Al Renz said these will be available at the next meeting



Duane Plank reported that the **Respect for Law Banquet** will be held next Monday evening at 6:30 p. m. at Mayfair Church of Christ. Duane will present our awardee, Forrest Edde of the Madison County Sheriff's Dept., a plaque in recognition of his service in law enforcement.

NOTE

There will be no Club meeting on Thursday, May 9, due to the banquet. If you want to attend the banquet and have not made your reservation, notify Al Renz and he will try to get you added to the attendance list.

Program, Part 1



President George called on Al Renz to introduce the advisor of our JOOI Club at Columbia High School, Ms. Kristen Lecroix. Ms. Lecroix reported on the activities of the club there which center around providing opportunities for club members to volunteer for community service in Huntsville. She said their club has 14 active members who average 21 hours per person per month working with organizations such as:

- Saving Way Thrift Store
- Merrimac Hall
- Manna House
- Agape
- Botanical Gardens
- Burritt on the Mountain
- Lowe Mill
- Miracle League

Ms. Lecroix said she would be happy to provide assistance to other JOOI Clubs who might be having trouble getting started with community service projects. She has a list of contacts for the above organizations plus experience in how to get started with them.

Program, Part 2



Al Renz rose to introduce Ms. Pam Clasgens, the new activities director at HEALS, Inc. To begin, Al related how our Club's Community Service Committee had found HEALS, Inc., to submit the most professional grant proposals through the years, and had consistently been awarded the highest dollar amount from our Community Service Awards allocations. Our own Matt Hancock is a member of the HEALS board of directors.

Ms. Clasgens began her talk by thanking the Club for all they do for kids. She said her daughter, now at Grissom HS, was president of the JOOI Club at Whitesburg MS last year, and she had had the pleasure of attending last year's Youth Appreciation Banquet.

Ms. Clasgens said HEALS, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Huntsville, Alabama, dedicated to providing accessible quality, school-based primary health care for children through collaborative efforts with the Huntsville City/Madison County school systems and the medical community. It is a "home-

grown” organization and not part of any national organization. They treat needy children from infancy through 18 years of age, and treat about 2000 kids per year. Their funding comes sources consist of:

- 50% from grants applied for
- 25% from Medicaid reimbursements
- 25% from donations (such as those from our Club)

She stated that 91% of every dollar received goes directly to patient care.

Today, HEALS has medical clinics at Martin Luther King Elementary School, Morris Elementary School, and University Place Elementary School in Huntsville, and at Madison Cross Roads Elementary School in Madison County. In addition, HEALS has a dental clinic at Martin Luther King Elementary School. There are several doctors and dentists who volunteer their time to work at these clinics. Their clinics provide everything that regular doctor’s or dentist’s offices provide. She said that they had found a great need for dental care; many children had never seen a dentist.

She told one anecdote about a child who received a toothbrush after his dental exam, whereupon the child asked, “Is this just for me or for my whole family?” (The child was given enough toothbrushes for the entire family.)

Ms. Clasgens related on some new initiatives by HEALS. (1)They are adding a dental clinic at Madison Cross Roads Elementary School; (2) They will add medical clinics at the Harris Home for Children and Lincoln Academy. (3)HEALS also has begun a “Heels for HEALS” program whereby they provide about 1000 pair of new athletic shoes per year to kids who cannot afford them.

In response to a question, Ms. Clasgens said they would welcome donations of new athletic shoes, tooth brushes, tooth paste and dental floss. These items may be dropped off at their office at 1100 Meridian St. in Huntsville.

Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, presented her a coaster with our Optimist Creed, and asked her to draw the name for our attendance prize. The first name drawn was Alberto Duarte, and Alberto was present.

Dr. Carl Winkler closed the meeting by leading us in the reciting the Optimist Creed

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

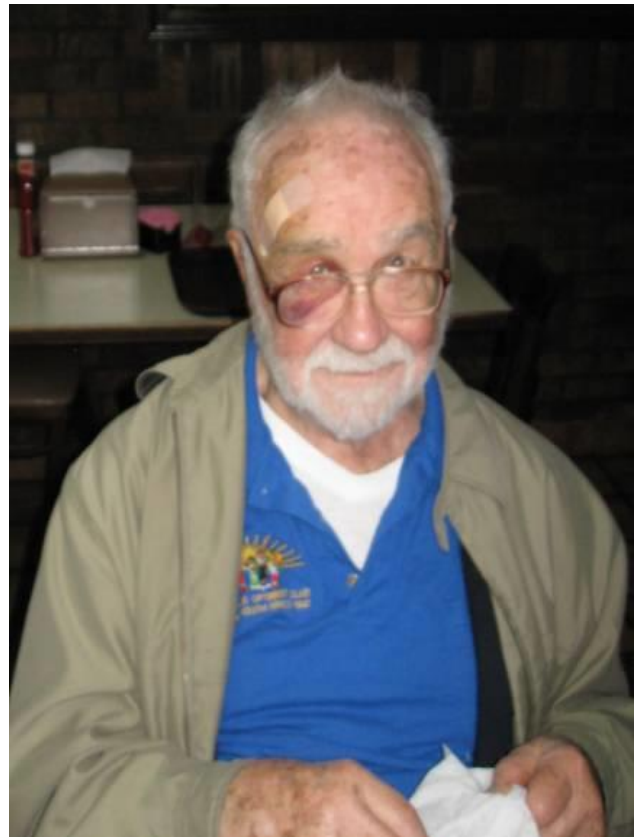
An optimist is the human personification of spring.

~Susan J. Bissonette

- PHOTOS -



**Al Renz with Kristen Lecroix
JOOI Club Advisor Wearing Their
Columbia HS JOOI Club shirts.**



Bill Clarke with "Storm Damage"



Al Adams with His Guest Jennifer Ingram



**Our speaker, Ms. Pam Clagens
from HEALS, Inc.**



**Susan Gossett, Assistant
Principal at Columbia HS**

CALENDAR

- 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**
5th Thursday
- 6/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 6/5 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker - TBD -
- 6/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker - TBD -
- 6/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (TBD)
- 6/26 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker - TBD -

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: