



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

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SECRETARY TREASURER

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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

Nineteen Optimists attended the May Business Meeting of our Club at the Optimist Recreation Center today. President George McDonough asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the opening prayer and Ralph Caner to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Al Renz was our caterer today, and we enjoyed some delicious home-cooked beef brisket sandwiches with sides of coleslaw and potato salad, finished off by a choice of several flavors of pound cake.

Optimist Family News

President George McDonough reported on **Zack Thompson's funeral**, saying it was one of the "good ones" he's attended. Included in the funeral program was the Optimist Creed, and the minister led the entire assemblage in reciting our creed as part of the service.

Zack was on a senior citizen's bus trip with about 30 others from the First Baptist Church. At their stop in Flagstaff, AZ (elevation: 7,000 ft.), Zack experienced symptoms of altitude sickness which Betty, his wife, said he had experienced in the past. Zack felt bad enough to forego the scheduled trip to the southern rim of the Grand Canyon, and stayed in the hotel for the day. The next morning while eating breakfast he suffered a fatal heart attack.

The Club is planning to honor Zack at a future meeting (see announcements, below).

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz went over his October-April (7-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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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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- There were a number of expenses in the Youth Activities this past month: The Youth Appreciation Banquet, Essay Contest awards, and Band Instrument Program, all of which are reimbursable from the Foundation
- The Club treasury is gradually acquiring a small reserve. This has come about due to the lower cost of meals at Mullins, a \$1,000 award from Optimist International, and a donation
- Our bank balance at the end of April was \$1,845.36. There are a number of outstanding dues, amounting to \$1,625.
- The Club has received its first payment from Jeff Klimek. A U. S. Government check for \$175 was received from the Federal Court in Birmingham. There was no elaboration on how the amount was arrived at, and Al has written the Court for some explanation. A copy of the check was passed around for us to see.

Committee Reports



President George McDonough thanked Committee Chair Gay Pepper and her committee for an outstanding Youth Appreciation Banquet. He also asked Al Adams to thank his wife for providing a facility and helping with the table decorations.

President George said he was quite impressed with the winners of the Essay Contest as well the other youth who were recognized at the banquet.

Respect for Law Banquet



President George thanked Duane Plank for arranging and presenting our Club's award at the Respect for Law Banquet. He also remarked that our Governor did a wonderful job at the banquet, probably her first at such an affair.

Duane Plank said he believed the Respect for Law program was the most highlighted thing we do for Huntsville. Officers love recognition for their efforts, and those who attended had a wonderful time.

Jesse Lang asked why Optimists don't honor firefighters as well law enforcement personnel. They both put their lives on the line for our safety. Tom Casteel said one reason is the Respect for Law is an established OI program, and there is no comparable one for firefighters. Also, the Respect for Law program is run at the Zone level. President George said he would take it upon himself to think of a project to honor firefighters, and Tom Casteel said he would take it to the Zone for consideration.

Band Instrument Committee



Tom Casteel reported that a clean, climate-controlled storage room had been rented, at a very reasonable cost, to store our ever increasing inventory of band instruments. The room is in a facility located at 2501 University Drive just west of the Parkway.

The band committee will assemble there at 11:00 a. m. this Saturday to assemble shelves for storing the instruments. There is also enough space for a 6-ft. table and 8 chairs in the room.

Foundation Report



Foundation President Tom Casteel reported that at the end of April, the balance in the Foundation's Account at Regions Bank was \$878,887.56, down just a little from last month.

New Club Formation

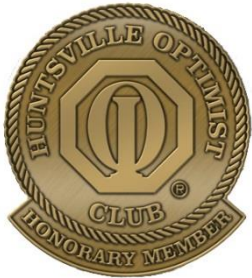


Our newest and youngest member Andrew Driver and Tom Casteel are working hard to get a College Optimist Club established at Calhoun Community College. A kick-off meeting and one informational meeting have already been held. Seven young people have submitted membership applications. They are very excited about the prospect, and are already identifying potential club projects.

Their goal is to charter the new club at Calhoun by July 1. Twenty-five members are needed to form an official club. A College Club is like a regular Optimist Club, but with reduced entry fee and dues.

Announcements

Honorary Membership



The Board of Directors has established an “Honorary Optimist” award, in the form of a lapel pin. Dr. Carl Winkler had proposed this award to be given to band directors; the board expanded the application to include other worthy recipients who serve youth in our community, such as JOOI Club Advisors.

An Honorary Optimist is strictly honorary, and a recipient has no membership privileges (voting, eating, etc.). All the band directors who have loaner instruments in their bands are scheduled to get their pins this month. See Al Renz if you need a pin for presentation.

Meeting Location for the May 22 Meeting

Our meeting on May 22 will be at Regency Retirement Village on Max Luther Drive just west of North Memorial Parkway. Our lunch is being provided at no cost by Regency. We will meet in the Sun Room of the main building. To get to the Sun Room, go to the main entrance, walk straight to the opposite end of the building and turn left.

Zack Thompson Memorial Meeting

The Club is planning to memorialize Zack, who was active in Optimist leadership, including being a past District Governor. The Board of Directors has planned a meeting for June 12 to give Club members an opportunity to relate anecdotes they remember about Zack. Please call or e-mail George McDonough if you'd like to remember Zack at this meeting.

The Club is also considering raising funds for an as yet undefined memorial project. The board welcomes your ideas on both how to raise funds, and what sort of project would be appropriate.

Closing

President George asked if there were other reports or new business that needed our attention today. There being none, he asked Dr. Carl Winkler to lead the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.
Be honest anyway.

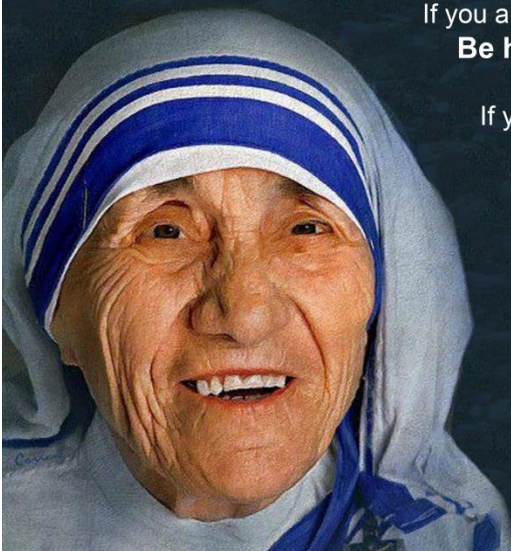
If you find happiness, people may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.
Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway."

~Mother Teresa



CALENDAR

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

5/29 **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday

6/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting

6/5 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker – TBD Jim Berry

6/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Zack Thompson Memorial Meeting

6/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)

6/26 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Speaker – TBD Jim Berry

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: