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## **SECRETARY TREASURER**

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**Club meets**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**

**At 11:45 am**

**Mullins Restaurant**

**Huntsville, AL**

# Opti - Topics

## **Opening**

The Optimist Club of Huntsville assembled today at Mullins Restaurant for a regular Club meeting. Eighteen Optimists and our speakers were in attendance. No guests as prospective members again, today.

President Al Adams, asked Rev. Jim Berry to open the meeting in prayer, and Gay Pepper led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Optimist Family News**

Contrary to an e-mail you probably received, George McDonough was not destitute in the Philippines last week pleading for you to send him money to buy an airline ticket back to the U. S. Someone hacked his computer, and in fact George said his e-mail account is now not working.

## **Announcements**



The **Randolph High School JOOI Club** ("The ROC") will hold their officer installation tomorrow, Friday, December 5, at 10:00 a. m. Alberto Duarte is the Optimist Club contact for that club, and he invited any Club member to join him for the ceremony and refreshments.

George McDonough and Jim Roe said they'd come, and others are possible.

**Our business meeting  
is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the  
month at the Optimist  
Recreation Center on  
Oakwood Avenue**

## **DIRECTORS**

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Clyde Nevins**

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The **Grace Lutheran JOOI Club** will have their officer installation one week from tomorrow, on Friday, December 12, at 2:00 p. m. Again, you are invited/urged to attend.

President Al reported that the **Johnson High School JOOI Club** will be up and running in January.



**Christmas party** chairperson Gay

Pepper reported that everything is set for the Christmas party on December 9 at the Cooper House. If you haven't informed her that you plan to attend, or if you've changed your mind on your attendance or how many guests you will bring, please call her *today*.

Gay asked us to remember to **bring a wrapped (or bagged) Christmas gift** costing \$5 to \$10 for the "Dirty Santa" part of the evening's program.



Bob Martin reported he had had an hour-long discussion with a counselor, Mr. James Vasquez, at **Morris Elementary** to see if there were **needy families** with children in the school that our Club might help at Christmas. Mr. Vasquez said there were two families, one with four children, the other with a single child, who were in dire need. He volunteered to do the shopping since he knows the specific needs, and he will provide the Club receipts on what he buys. The gifts will be presented by President Al Adams on December 15 at the school.

The Board of Directors has authorized a donation of \$200 for this purpose. Since this is an unbudgeted item, your contribution towards helping these families will be very welcome.

## Program



Program Chairman Bob Martin introduced our speaker for today, Ms. Tiffany Martin, Director of the Hawthorne Conservatory. He also introduced Ms. Valerie Chandler, a member of the Board of Directors of the Conservatory who accompanied Ms. Martin.

Ms. Martin began her talk by relating how during her high school days at Lee High School back in the early 90s she had been a participant in the Club's Oratorical Contest. She said the contest was instrumental in helping her speak before groups, and also provided scholarship money for her university education at Memphis State University.

Ms. Martin thanked the Club for its long-standing support of the Hawthorne Conservatory, and said she knew how it began by Optimist Jeff Smith's love for the music program there. She said there was an amazing team of musicians working with the Conservatory, teaching piano, voice, song-writing, guitar, violin and trumpet. The Conservatory is a Christian ministry that strives to not only provide excellent musical instruction but where all associated with it can grow and thrive in Christ through music mastery.

Ms. Martin told how the Conservatory is expanding its ministry in several ways:

- ❖ They have established an outreach program, and will bring music instruction to students away from their own building. As an example, they have started music instruction at the Lincoln Academy after school.
- ❖ They will partner with local colleges and universities.
- ❖ Conservatory students and staff will go out to "feed the hungry" both by serving food, by means of a soup kitchen, and playing music.
- ❖ There will be group instruction as well as individual instruction. A theater musical, "I Am," is planned in April.
- ❖ The Conservatory sponsors seasonal camps and specialty classes.
- ❖ In the future, a Masters Academy is planned during the days (rather than being all after school, as it is now). A large percentage of students are home-schooled and could attend during the day.

Ms. Martin closed her talk by again thanking the Club for sponsoring the past Pancake Breakfasts, and, based on discussions with Alberto Duarte, she proposed to schedule another one on the first Saturday in February, Feb. 7, 2015.

### **Question and Answer Session**

- Q.** *Buddy Beck* asked if the Conservatory could have students come to a meeting and demonstrate their musical skills?
- A.** Yes. As mentioned earlier, many students are home-schooled, and have the freedom to perform during the day.
- Q.** *Jesse Lang* asked if they Conservatory provided scholarships for needy students?
- A.** Yes, more than 40% of the students at the Conservatory pay less than the prescribed fees. They do ask for a minimum of \$15 per month for the lessons.
- Q.** *Jesse Lang* asked if students had to be Christians to take lessons at the Conservatory?
- A.** No, any student is welcome to take lessons, whether Christian or not. They do not have to subscribe to a statement of faith to enroll. However, they should expect the gospel to be communicated, since this is a Christian ministry.
- Q.** *Al Renz* asked whether some students did not have their own instruments and needed one to be loaned?
- A.** Yes, some students have to rent or to have loaned instruments. Some students pay a monthly rental, and others are supplied by donations or sponsors. [Note: Ms. Martin was made aware of the Club's Band Instrument Program, and we do have trumpets, one of the instruments instructed on]
- Q.** *Gay Pepper* asked whether, at this late date, there would be any chance of Conservatory students to play at our Christmas party next week?
- A.** No, because of parent/teacher conferences all next week. However, Ms. Martin said she would be happy to schedule performances at a Club luncheon in the future.

**Q.** *Tom Casteel* asked if Ms. Martin was familiar with the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild, especially did she know that the professional performers who come to Huntsville through the Guild provide Masters Classes while they are in town?

**A.** No, but Ms. Martin will certainly look into that.

**Q.** *Alberto Duarte* asked when the Conservatory students and staff could begin selling tickets for the Pancake Breakfast, and was the price of \$5.00 about right?

**A.** Ms. Martin said the staff had been informed about the breakfast and was ready to begin selling when they got the tickets. She said the \$5.00 was good, but had one recommendation: provide a family discount ticket so that large families (some of the families represented at the Conservatory have 7 or more children.

Duane Plank remarked on how impressed he was with Ms. Martin's speaking skills, and how thankful he was that the Hawthorne Conservatory was serving Christ. Ms. Chandler spoke up to say that the Board had prayed hard about the new director, and the Lord brought Ms. Martin who has done a fabulous job.

## **Closing**

President Al Adams gave our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, and asked Ms. Martin to draw for our attendance prize. She drew **Jesse Lang**'s name on the first draw.

Dr. Carl Winkler led us in the reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

*~Martin Luther*

## CALENDAR

12/9 Tuesday **6:00 pm** Cooper House

**Christmas Party**

12/11 **NO MEETING**

**Replaced by Christmas Party**

12/18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Bob Martin)**

12/25 **NO MEETING**



**Merry Christmas**

1/1 **NO MEETING**



**Happy New Year**

1/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

1/8 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

**TBD – Richie Myers**

1/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Richie Myers)**

# - PHOTOS -



**Ms. Valerie Chandler and Ms. Tiffany Martin  
from the Hawthorne Conservatory**



**George McDonough, safe in the U. S.**



**Our server, Michelle, in the Christmas spirit**

## 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



**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**TO:**