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SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant

Huntsville, AL

Opti - Topics

Opening



The Optimist Club of Huntsville held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting at the Optimist Recreation Center today. Nineteen Optimists attended.

Bob Martin was our caterer today, and we enjoyed a selection of Domino's pizzas, along with assorted Christmas cookies and drinks.

President Al asked Jim Berry to give the opening prayer, and Al led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Jesse Lang just returned from Detroit dealing with some family medical problems, but reported he had to return again because of **Jesse's brother's illness**. His brother was recently transferred to a hospice facility.

Alberto Duarte reported that **Fabiani** finished his last final exam yesterday, and will be coming home to Huntsville either tomorrow or Saturday.

Alberto also stated that he would like to every Club member to consider having an Optimist speak at his/her funeral saying some good words about how he/she contributed through the Club's activities. He said that he would like that done at his funeral, and he hopes every Optimist feels the same way.

**Our business meeting
is held on the 3rd
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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Treasurer's Report



President Al asked Treasurer Al Renz for his Treasurer's report. Al first gave us a report covering first two months of this fiscal year—through November 30. Highlights of Al's report are:

- We continued to receive Jeff Klimek's monthly payment.
- The recent fund raiser brought in \$783.60 in income, with \$72 still outstanding for the pecans.
- The Club spent \$200 to provide Christmas gifts to two needy families at Morris Elementary School.
- Other expenses for the month of November were for youth programs, particularly the Band Instrument Program.
- Our bank balance at the end of the first quarter should be above \$7,000, despite having no appreciable income in December.
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Committee Reports



Bob Martin reported that he has encouraged James Vasquez, counselor at **Morris Elementary School**, to become the Advisor for their JOOI Club, which is in jeopardy of not being re-chartered. Mr. Vasquez was the contact person at Morris Elementary for selecting the needy families. He and his wife spent the \$200 provided by the Club to buy clothing and toiletries, then wrapped them as gifts for the two families. Bob says Mr. Vasquez is definitely interested in the JOOI Clubs, and may be a potential member as well.



President Al Adams urged all **JOOI Club Contacts** to get with their respective JOOI Clubs and submit the necessary forms for re-chartering. We do not want to decommission any of our existing Clubs, and this will happen without our active follow-up with them.



Essay Committee Chairman George McDonough reported he had been to Randolph School to drum up some entries in the **Essay Contest**. He was able to meet with the heads of both the Upper School and the Middle School, and both expressed enthusiasm and support for the contest.



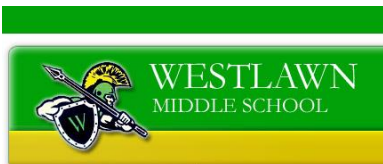
Committee Chairman Jesse Lang reported that he will be out of town until after January 1 due to his brother's illness, but everything is set up for **Tri-Star Basketball Contest** to be held on January 10. Al Renz is taking care of ordering the basketballs and the trophies. Tom Casteel said this year every entrant in the contest will receive a ribbon instead of a certificate.



Band Instrument Committee Chairman Tom Casteel reported that the Optimist Foundation had voted to donate money for band instruments as a **memorial to John Shirey**, a long-time member of both the Foundation and the Band Instrument Committee. The amount of the donation was set at \$3,300, \$100 for each year of John's service. With these funds, the Band Instrument Committee was able to purchase 7 instruments (4 clarinets and 3 flutes) completely refurbished by Southeastern Music. Each of the cases for these instruments will have a brass plaque affixed noting the memorial.



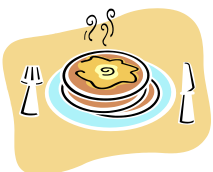
Tom said that he had also been in discussion with Southeastern Music to participate in the LINK (Lonely Instruments Needing Kids) program sponsored by our Club. They indicated they will advertise this in their store and on their Facebook page.



Clyde Nevins reported that he, President Al Adams, Bill Clarke and Matt Clarke had attended the **Fine Arts Program at Westlawn Middle School** on Wednesday evening. In a jam-packed gymnasium, more than 250 middle school students in the Fine Arts Department at Westlawn presented their “Sounds of the Season” Concert. Their outstanding program included performances by the Beginning Band, the Spirit Team (dancers), the Concert Choir, and the Concert Band. The Beginning band has 29 of our Club’s instruments.

At the end of the concert, Optimist Club members were called forward to receive certificates of appreciation from the school’s band director and principal for both the Club and for Clyde. Al Adams said he understands that Westlawn is on the list of underachieving schools in Huntsville, but you wouldn’t know it by the quality of their fine arts program that he witnessed.

Al Renz reported that Middle School and Elementary School JOOI Clubs often have trouble in performing community service projects because they cannot drive. However, he said **Williams Middle School JOOI Club** is working with Greenpeace wherein the club is making pillows from plastic grocery bags and pillowcases which are then distributed to homeless people by Greenpeace.



Alberto Duarte, chairman of the **Pancake Breakfast Committee** distributed 10 tickets for the pancake breakfast to each Optimist present. He stated that he wanted no tickets returned, only \$50. He thanked Al Renz for printing the tickets.

He asked each Optimist to both sell tickets and promote the breakfast. Hawthorne Conservatory and Central Presbyterian Church will also be selling tickets. He expects some JOOI Club members from Randolph HS and some students from the Conservatory to help with the breakfast. The breakfast is the first Saturday in February next year. Make your plans to participate in this event—it’s a great time to work together as a team and doesn’t last but one morning.



Tom Casteel, outgoing president of the **Optimist Foundation** reported that the Foundation’s investments gained about \$10,000 in November, and the current total is \$891,492.20. The Foundation Board of Directors will shortly be electing new officers for the coming year.



President Al Adams encouraged each Optimist to work on **Membership**. Not only is the Club in danger of losing points, but we need more members to effectively staff and manage the various Club activities. Ask your friend or colleague to be our guest at one of our good programs in January.

New Business

There was no new business put forward at today's meeting.

Closing

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



Your Opti-Topics editor wishes you and your family a happy and blessed time as you celebrate Christmas.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Their old, familiar carols play,

And wild and sweet

The words repeat

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CALENDAR

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

Steve Roy - Exceptional Speaker

1/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food - (Richie Myers)

1/22 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

Connie Carnes - HEALS, Inc.

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



Huntsville Optimist Club
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: