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SECRETARY TREASURER

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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. Fourteen Optimists braved the inclement weather of snow, sleet and rain to attend.

Richie Myers was our caterer today, and we enjoyed a selection of meat, cheese and condiments in constructing our own sub sandwiches. Richie also provided a selection of home-made salads, chips, cookies, and drinks.

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

Optimist Family News

A long-time Athens Optimist, **Walt Merritt**, husband of District A & A Chair Debbie Merritt and known to several in our Club, passed away this week. He and his wife have both been very active in leadership positions at both the local and district level. A Celebration of Life Ceremony for Walt will be held on Saturday, January 17th from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm in the Ballroom of the Sandridge Student Center at Athens College.

Alberto Duarte reported that **Fabiani Duarte** will be returning to Macon, GA, tomorrow to resume his law studies after a lengthy holiday break.

**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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Treasurer's Report



President Al asked Treasurer Al Renz for his Treasurer's report. Al's report covered the first quarter of this fiscal year—through December 31. Highlights of Al's report are:

- We continued to receive Jeff Klimek's monthly payment of \$150.
- The Club's expenses for December were abnormally high due to the cost of the Christmas party. The costs of guest meals for the party are billed on this quarter's dues statement, and most have not been paid.
- The Club spent \$200 to provide Christmas gifts to two needy families at Morris Elementary School, and bought two new banner stands.
- Other large expenses for the quarter were for youth programs, particularly the Band Instrument Program and for re-chartering five JOOI Clubs, totaling nearly \$2,000.
- Our bank balance at the end of the first quarter was \$3,928.04

Committee Reports



President Al Adams reported he will be contacting the principal at Chapman MS to see if the **Chapman MS JOOI Club** can be reactivated. He has also sent an e-mail to **Johnson High School** to get the status on the activation of the new JOOI Club there.

Bob Martin reported that he had invited James Vasquez, counselor at **Morris Elementary School**, to attend a Club meeting and report about the JOOI Club activities there. He was agreeable, but the principal refused permission to leave school at lunchtime.

Since the Club has conducted several helpful programs for Morris Elementary School, President Al will follow up through the School Superintendent's office to see if the restriction can be lifted.



The Club had a good showing of members at the **Tri-Star Basketball Contest** held last Saturday at the ORC. As usual, there were many more entrants in the 8 & 9 age bracket and the 10 & 11 age bracket than in the 12-13 age bracket. Nonetheless, all first prizes (new basketballs) and half of the 18 trophies were awarded. Every entrant received a blue ribbon for participation.



Band Instrument Committee Chairman Tom Casteel that in the last month the Club had two instruments donated to it. The first was an expensive (valued at \$800) trumpet in excellent condition; the second was a trombone which needed some repair but was still valued at \$400.

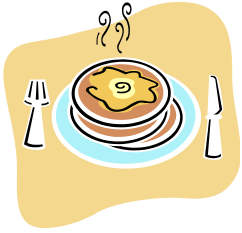


Alberto Duarte, the new president of the **Optimist Foundation** reported that the Foundation's investments gained about \$1,000 in December, and the total at the end of December was \$891,492.20. The Foundation Board of Directors will hold their quarterly meeting today (Thursday) with Regions Bank.



President Al Adams encouraged each Optimist to work on **Membership**. He had sent out an e-mail to our Club membership which itemized the awards received from OI for the year 2013-2014. He noted that the Optimist Club of Huntsville received NO AWARDS. This is primarily attributed to a decline in our membership plus the loss of several JOOI Clubs. He has a goal of 20 new members for the year.

George McDonough observed that our Club is shrinking to a few "tired old guys." He suggested the Club recruit more young people, women, and ethnic people. We could plug into Hispanic and Asian communities through their existing clubs, for instance.



Pancake Breakfast Chairman Alberto Duarte said he had plenty more tickets already printed, so if anyone needed more please call him. Someone asked how young a breakfast patron had to be to not require paying the \$5.00. Alberto replied that there was no rule; use your discretion (take into consideration the size and expected appetite of the youngster).

New Business



President Al Adams announced that Tom Casteel and Vastell Williams had created a new **Facebook** page. Al said he had already received five responses, at least one of whom showed interest in membership. Vastell will be keeping the page current. Tom urged all Club members to **access our Facebook page and “like” it**. The site is: *Optimist Club of Huntsville*. There have been 36 “likes” so far. Receiving more than 100 “likes” gives the page better status.



Motion: Tom Casteel moved that the Club participate in the **Community Kite Festival** on March 8, 2015, with a budget not to exceed \$2,000. Al Renz seconded the motion.

Discussion: The festival is sponsored by AshaKiran and the City of Huntsville. Tom Casteel and Al Adams reported on their attending a planning session recently. The festival is designed to get kids involved in physical activities, and about 6,000 kids attended the festival in John Hunt Park last year. The Club reserved a table in the Jaycee Building for the event this year. Tom said the table would be used to promote the Club’s activities and solicit members. The money budgeted would be used for:

- 2000 small, balsa wood gliders (@ \$0.62 each) printed with Club advertisement.
- Commercial printing of more membership brochures
- A “skirt” for our table in the Jaycee Building.

Ralph Caner recommended that the expense for this project be submitted to the Foundation for payment.

Alberto Duarte suggested we get our JOOI Clubs involved somehow, maybe to sit at our table. Another suggestion was to have all of our JOOI Club banners displayed behind the table.

Vote: President Al called for the vote, and the motion passed without dissent.

Announcements

Tom Casteel and Al Adams will be attending the District Meeting in Lafayette, LA, leaving on January 23.

Don't forget to pay your dues!

Promote the Essay and Oratorical Contests!

Closing

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

**"The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness;
to an opponent, tolerance;
to a friend, your heart;
to your child, a good example;
to a father, deference;
to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you;
to yourself, respect;
to all men, charity."**

~Benjamin Franklin

CALENDAR

- 1/22 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Connie Carnes – HEALS, Inc.
- 1/29 Thursday 11:45 am **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday
- 2/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 2/5 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry
- 2/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry
- 2/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Berry)
- 2/26 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry
- 3/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 3/5 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. – President, Alabama A&M
- 3/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Mr. Carlton Wright – Director of Bands, Alabama A&M
- 3/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Alfred Adams)
- 3/26 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Mr. Jerry Mitchell – Executive Director
North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce

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: