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SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

**Check Website for
location**

hsvoptimists.org

Opti - Topics

Opening

The Optimist Club of Huntsville held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting at the Optimist Recreation Center today with seventeen Optimists in attendance.



Alfred Adams was our caterer today, and we enjoyed a delicious

chicken and pork barbeque sandwiches from Granville's Barbeque. Al also provided sides of potato salad, baked beans, cookies and iced tea.

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

Optimist Family News

Alberto Duarte reported that **Dr. Bill Clarke** is experiencing chest pain and is staying close to home. Also, he had heard from **Ralph Caneer** reporting that he was also not feeling well.

Alberto gave us a few more details on how his son, **Fabiani** Duarte, came to be elected 2015-2016 National Chairman of the American Bar Association's Law Student Division at the Division's Board of Governors Spring Meeting. The meeting was held in Las Vegas, March 12-15, and Fabiani was one of four candidates for the position. The favorite was a young lady who had been Vice Chairman last year, but Fabiani won over her in a run-off election.

**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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President Al asked Treasurer Al Renz for his Treasurer's report. Al's report covered the first five months of this fiscal year—through February 28, 2015.

Highlights of Al's report are:

- The total revenue (income) for the period was \$7,998.29, and the total expenses were \$5,555.61.
- We continued to receive Jeff Klimek's monthly payment of \$150.
- The Club's expenses for the period included \$4,025.00 for the Band Instrument Program, \$1,958.11 for the JOOI Clubs and \$2,393.65 for the Kite Festival.
- Our bank balance at the end of the first quarter was \$1,349.86, with \$6,769.38 reimbursement receivable from the Foundation. There are also \$520 receivable in outstanding dues and \$76 for guest meals, giving us a potential cash position of \$8,715.24.

Committee Reports



The much needed **Membership** recruiting is gaining strength. Today we installed **Ms. Joyce Brown** as a new member (see the special section on her induction at the end of the newsletter).

Richie Myers reported that our guest from last week, **Fred Lurenz**, has said he will join. Richie will give him a membership application and route it through the Membership Committee. President Al said he had a couple of strong candidates for membership, including another lady.



Meeting Site Committee Chair Gay Pepper reported that there are several possibilities “in the pipeline.” These include the Sunny Street Café in Madison, O Bryans on University Dr. and the soon-to-open Blue Plate Café #2 on South Parkway. She is in frequent communication with the folks at Blue Plate since they are customers at her bank. **Next week’s meeting will be at the 88**

Buffet, and you will be advised of subsequent meeting sites in the next newsletter.



President Al Adams reported he has contacted both the principal and the designated **JOOI Club** sponsor-to-be at **Chapman Middle School**. He is optimistic (what else?) that a JOOI Club will be chartered there.

Jim Roe said there is activity going on at **Sparkman High School**.

An energetic student has lined up 6 or 8 students to re-charter the JOOI Club there, and a teacher is interested in being the club’s sponsor.

Tom Casteel is still working with **Calhoun Community College** to see if the effort initiated there by Andrew Driver can result in a College Club there.



Band Instrument Committee Chairman Tom Casteel reported that he learned about a need for band instruments at Rolling Hills Elementary School. He contacted the band director there, and found that kids there were sharing instruments, making it difficult for them to learn. Tom emptied our band storage unit (except for one remaining trombone) to lend to kids in the school’s band program.

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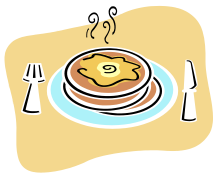


In answer to a question from Duane Plank on how the Club might gain more instruments, Tom reported that the Club has a **LINK (Lonely Instruments Needing Kids)** program for that very purpose. Details of the LINK

program are on our Facebook page, and it is being promoted on *Brass Reeds and Percussion*, a weekly band program on WLRH. He has also talked to Lee Meriwether, local TV personality, who may help promote the program as well. Southeastern Musical Services said that they will feature the program on their web site.



Alberto Duarte, the new president of the **Optimist Foundation** reported that the Foundation’s investments gained a whopping \$39,276.57 in February. He doesn’t expect that to carry over into March as the Market has been cycling up and down this month.



Pancake Breakfast Chairman Alberto Duarte said he had scheduled Ms. Tiffany Martin, Conservatory Director, to speak at a Club meeting in late April. At that time, the Club will present her a check for the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast. Al Renz reported that a recent input of \$50 put the total over \$2,000.

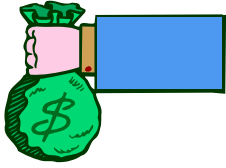


Tom Casteel reported that the Club's participation in the **Community Kite Festival** on March 8 was very successful. Our table in the Jaycees' Building looked very professional with a blue tablecloth and banners in the rear for a backdrop. He estimates we gave away about 500 balsa wood gliders. More importantly, we gave out quite a few brochures on our Club, and a number of people expressed interest in checking us out for membership. There are a few photos from the Kite Festival in the photo section.



Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte reflected on the recent disappointing participation in both the **Oratorical Contest** and the **Essay Contest**. He said that the two weeks of bad weather that greatly curtailed classroom time certainly had much to do with the lack of contestants (none for the Oratorical Contest and only one essay), but the Club needs to overhaul its approach to promoting these contests. His recommendation was that the Board of Directors appoint a team of two or three people to personally visit every school with potential contestants. Emails and telephone contacts are not enough. He is optimistic that the newly announced \$25,000 scholarship at the OI national contest will be a great incentive if properly advertised and promoted.

Clyde Nevins recommended contacting local home school associations, since recent experience shows home schooled students to be more interested in these contests than those in the public or private schools. Bill Peters concurred, saying there are a number of home school associations in our area, and they should be points of contact.



Community Service Awards Committee Chairman Al Renz reported that he has sent out a dozen or more grant applications to local non-profit organizations involved in youth activities.

Completed applications are due by the end of the month. Current members of his committee are Gay Pepper, Clyde Nevins, Al Adams, and he asked for two or three more volunteers to serve on it. Jim Roe, Joyce Brown and Bill Peters volunteered.

Al briefly outlined the procedure used by the committee to determine the money to be granted and the method of determining who gets how much. In short, the money for grants is whatever is left over after the Youth Programs expenses are deducted from the \$35,000 allotted to the Club by the Foundation. The amount for grants this year is estimated to be about \$12,000. The ranking of grantees is based on independent review by committee members from which a composite committee distribution of funds is derived.

Announcements

Tom Casteel announced that the Club had received a patch from Optimist International in recognition of our giving to the OI Foundation last year. The Club donated an average of about \$150 per member due to our donation in the memory of Zack Thompson.

Closing

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“You'll never find a rainbow if you're looking down”

~Charles Chaplin

Our Latest Member, Ms. Joyce M. Brown

Joyce has a special passion for children and the elderly, enjoys life and believes love conquers all evil. She is the mother of two grown sons, Johnny and Justin, and the Nana of four beautiful grandchildren.

She is employed by the Defense Logistics Agency as the Tactical Missile and DLR ADD Division Chief. She has a Bachelors degree from Florida A & M University in Business Administration, and a Masters in Acquisition & Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

She is a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and serves as the President of the Advisory Council for Columbia High School (where she met her sponsor, Pres. Al Adams).



Joyce Brown



President Al Adams Administers the Optimist Membership Oath

Photos from the Kite Festival



Clyde Nevins, Al Adams & Tom Casteel at Our Table



A Beautiful Day for Kite Flying

Thanks to Bob Martin for providing these photos.



Al Renz, Tom Casteel, and Our New Member Joyce Brown



Some Examples of Kites Being Flown

CALENDAR

- 3/26 Thursday 11:30 am 88 Buffet
Mr. Carlton Wright – Director of Bands, Alabama A&M
- 4/2 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
TBD – Alberto Duarte
- 4/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 4/9 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
TBD – Alberto Duarte
- 4/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)
- 4/23 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
Tiffany Martin – Director – Hawthorne Conservatory
- 4/30 Thursday 11:45 am **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday
- 5/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 5/9 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
TBD – Al Renz

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: