



PRESIDENT

Alfred G. Adams

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alfredg.adams@gmail.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT

John Inman

256-518-9490

inman_john@hotmail.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Vastell Williams

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VHV.Williams@yahoo.com

SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

256-772-7929

optimist3480@aol.com

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 a good turnout of 19 Optimists in attendance.

Alberto Duarte was our caterer today, and we enjoyed a delicious chicken and pork barbeque meal from Paul's Barbecue. With the two entrees came sides of potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, pie and iced tea.

President Al asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the opening prayer, and Al led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance (it was nice to have a flag this week).

Optimist Family News

Rev. Jim Berry reports that he will have his ailing hip evaluated at the Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville tomorrow. Jim anticipates that surgery to replace his hip joint will be needed.

Carl Winkler reported that his grandson, Graham, is now a junior in high school and will be attending his first prom shortly. Carl said he learned that Graham's date is to be a girl whose last name was Showers and lives on Monte Sano. Carl wonders if she might be member **Nate Showers'** granddaughter, since Nate lives on the mountain.

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

DIRECTORS

2 YEAR

Tom Casteel

256-882-9380

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Richie Myers

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1 YEAR

Andrew Driver

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Bob Martin

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Gay Pepper

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

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Richie Myers reported that his son has a 5-piece band called Ashley Maine that is doing very well. The band will be playing at Panoply, Whistle Stop and Concerts in the Park.

Treasurer's Report



President Al asked Treasurer Al Renz for his **Treasurer's Report**. Al's report covered the first six months of this fiscal year—through March 31, 2015. Highlights of Al's report are:

- The total revenue (income) for the period was \$8,707.29 compared to the budgeted amount of \$8,195.00. The main reasons for the increase in income over budget was \$445 in prepaid dues and our fundraiser that raised a little more than \$100 over the anticipated profit.
- We continued to receive Jeff Klimek's monthly payment of \$150.
- The Club's expenses for the period totaled \$6,296.51 compared to the budgeted amount of \$6,515.00. The main reason for the reduced expenses was our reduced membership eating fewer meals.
- Youth Activities expenses for the period included an unbudgeted \$2,487.93 for the Club's participation in the Kite Festival.
- Our bank balance at the end of March was \$6,785.38, with \$1,301.96 reimbursement receivable from the Foundation. There was also \$204 receivable in outstanding dues and \$19 for guest meals, giving us a potential cash position of \$8,310.34.

Treasurer Al Renz also presented to the Club a **Financial Analysis of the Club** in considering our dwindling membership. Al reminded the Club that 8 years ago we had over \$60,000 in the bank. One year later, we were \$8,000 in debt due to embezzlement, and had to borrow this amount from the Foundation.

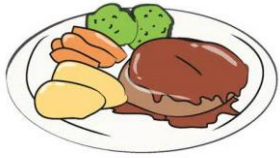
We have since paid back the \$8,000 and are now about \$8,000 in the black.

However, the Club's membership is currently down to 34 members, of which only 18 pay the full \$120 in dues. We lost 3 members since last October, 2 by resignation and one by death. Other members have downgraded their memberships. These membership changes significantly reduce our income.

Al's analysis showed that we are still okay with our current membership status, but only because we are getting monthly payments of \$150 from Jeff Klimek and about \$500 rebate from our credit card. Al forecasts that if all of these hold steady, we will have a net surplus of about \$2,300 at the end of the year. The message, however, is: **we need more members.**

President Al Adams charged the membership to talk up the good things about being an Optimist to every possible new member. Also, give any good ideas to Membership Committee chairman Tom Casteel on how we might gain new members.

Committee Reports



Meeting Site Committee Chair Gay Pepper reported that her committee has made arrangements for the **Club to meet at the ORC**, temporarily, until we can find a permanent meeting place. Meals can be catered in by various people, including Kathleen's Catering who brought in a very nice meal in February.

Next week's meeting will be at Rosie's on South Parkway at our regular meeting time. Alberto Duarte has arranged with Rosie's Manager (Duane Plank's son) for us to have the meeting room at no cost.



President Al Adams reported he, Tom Casteel and Clyde Nevins, met with Mr. Johnny Giles, Chief of Staff, and Rena Anderson, Director of Community Engagement for the **Huntsville City Schools**, to inform them of the Optimist Club's programs that would fit very well with the goals of the school system. They especially emphasized our JOOI Clubs, Youth Appreciation, and our Oratorical and Essay contests. We established contacts for inputting these programs into the school system's network. This looks very promising for getting support from the Huntsville School System.



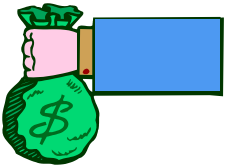
Band Instrument Committee Chairman Tom Casteel reported that the committee is gearing up to participate in the spring concerts and awards ceremonies next month. The committee is considering giving a small cash award to the Outstanding Band Student at each school in addition to the traditional plaque. Also, Tom reported that a percussion kit in excellent condition had been donated to our band instrument program, after being apprised of the program by Duane Plank. Note: A donor of a band instrument may drop it off at Southeastern Music at 3308 9th Ave. SW in Huntsville.



Gay Pepper, Chairperson of the **Youth Appreciation Banquet**, again asked for the Club to solicit any groups or organizations they are associated with for nominations to be honored at the banquet. She said this is traditionally the hardest part of the job in putting on the banquet. Two possible dates have been proposed for the banquet: May 18 or May 19. A place for the banquet has not been set, but the two most likely places are where we met last year (Saint Paul United Methodist Church) or at the ORC.



Committee Chairman Al Renz passed around a sign-up sheet for the **Respect for Law Banquet** to be held on Monday, May 4, at the Mayfair Church of Christ. Members will eat free, since the banquet replaces one of our regular meetings, and guests will be billed at the usual rate of \$12. Duane Plank is again getting our Club's nominee from the Madison County Sheriff's Department.



Community Service Awards Committee Chairman Al Renz reported that he received 8 completed grant requests from the 13 grant applications he sent to local organizations that qualify. He has given a packet of with these 8 documents to each of the 6 Club members who will now evaluate which organization gets how much money. These evaluations are due back to him in 2 weeks.



Alberto Duarte, president of the **Optimist Foundation** reported that the Foundation's assets totaled \$897,839 at the end of March. This was a little lower than the total at the end of February, caused by a down market at the end of the month and the extraction of \$10,000 for our youth programs.

Election of Officers for 2015-2016

Club Secretary Al Renz reported that the current Board of Directors comprised the **Nominating Committee** this year. He stated that it was extremely difficult to find nominees to fill all of the vacancies for office, and in fact the office of 2nd Vice President has no nominee. There is a nominee for president only because current president Al Adams has agreed to serve a second term. Also, due to the resignation of Director Bill Peters, the Board has appointed Gay Pepper to fill out his remaining one-year term.

Nominees for 2015-2016 Offices presented to the Club today were:

President:	Al Adams
First Vice President:	Vastell Williams
Second Vice President:	(Open)
Directors (2-year terms):	Matt Hancock
	Clyde Nevins
	Joyce Brown

President Al Adams asked if there were any further nominees from the floor for any of these offices. There were none. Rev. Jim Berry moved that these nominees be elected by acclamation, and President Al Adams so moved.

President Al Adams reminded the Club that the office of Secretary/Treasurer is appointed by the incoming President, and he announced that he was appointing Al Renz for this position.

Announcements

President Al reminded the Club to work on **membership**, and to be thinking about **fund-raising projects** for next year.

Closing

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"The realist sees reality as concrete. The optimist sees reality as clay."

~Robert Brault

CALENDAR

- 4/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)
- 4/23 Thursday 11:45 am Rosie's Mexican Cantina
7540 Memorial Pkwy SW, Huntsville, AL
Tiffany Martin – Director – Hawthorne Conservatory
- 4/30 Thursday 11:45 am **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday
- 5/4 Monday 6:30 pm Respect for Law Banquet
Mayfair Church of Christ (Gymnasium)
- 5/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 5/7 Thursday **NO MEETING**
Respect for Law Banquet replaces this meeting
- 5/14 Thursday 11:45 am Location **TBD**
Bill Kling, Jr., Councilman
- 5/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 5/28 Thursday 11:45 am Location **TBD**
Debi Trumbull, TARCOG
(Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments)

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.

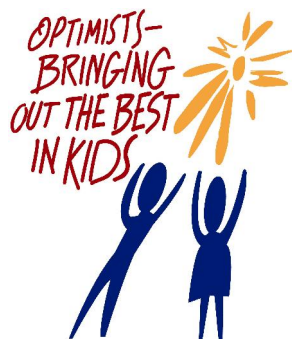
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

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
P, O, Box 2230
Huntsville, AL 35804-2230

PLACE
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TO: