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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

**Check Website for
location**

hsvoptimists.org

Opti - Topics

Today's Restaurant

The Optimist Club of Huntsville met at the 88 Buffett today since we were unable to reserve the meeting room at the ORC. Parking near the restaurant wasn't too bad today (compared to other days, that is), and the food and service were very good, as usual.

Opening

There was a sparse turnout of 14 Optimists in attendance today.

We also had two guest, Matt Clarke, Bill's son, and Marlene Renz, wife of Al Renz. It was good to see Sidney Sandridge with us today.

President Al Adams asked Clyde Nevins to open the meeting in prayer. Thanks to Al Renz, we had a small American Flag to use while we recited the Pledge of Allegiance (see the photo section).

Optimist Family News

Several Optimists asked about **Jim Berry**, especially whether he was to undergo hip surgery. I called Jim after the meeting, and he told me his doctor had decided to treat his hip problem with medication. He has just started taking the medication, and said he wasn't experiencing any side effects.

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

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Bob Martin told me that his wife, **Nancy Martin**, just started chemotherapy treatments to treat a cancer that was detected during her recent surgery. Her chemotherapy treatments will be once a month for six months.

Secretary Al Renz reported that **Buddy Beck** had cataract surgery on a second eye this past week, so we missed Buddy again this week.

Al Renz's wife, **Marlene Renz**, recently fell after tripping on a sidewalk. She was sporting a black eye today, but otherwise she said she is recovering nicely. Her eyeglasses, however, have to be replaced.

Announcements



Gay Pepper, Chairperson of the **Youth Appreciation Banquet**, announced that the banquet will be held in the Community Room of the First Baptist Church on **Monday, May 18**. She reported she currently has 6 nominees and is hoping for more before Monday.

Please attend this event. President Al Adams said he considers it the most important youth project we do, in that it recognizes youth of our community who are doing things right.

To get to the Community Room at the First Baptist Church, **enter the church at Entrance 7**. George McDonough said this is the last door to the west on the north side of the church.

President Al Adams read a letter the Club had received recognizing **Gay Pepper** for her efforts on behalf of the **Respect for Law banquet**. The letter was written by District Governor Tom Howell thanking Gay for being "a member of the team" that put on the banquet. Gay did all the table decorations for the event.





Tom Casteel announced that Band Committee members are currently active in attending the year-end band concerts at the schools in our Band Instrument Program. **Band Committee members are to take returned instruments directly to Southeastern Musical Services** for refurbishment once they are picked up from the schools with the exception of percussion instruments which should be taken straight to the storage facility.

Al Adams circulated an e-mail he had received from Elizabeth Parker asking for volunteers from our club for the **H.O.P.E. Leadership Academy Summer Workshops**. Volunteers are needed to both assist students with public speaking techniques (e.g., body position, eye contact, voice projection, and gestures) and for judging. Schools in the program are Buckhorn Middle School, Madison Cross Roads Elementary and Sparkman Middle School. The workshops are in June and July. Please inform Al Adams if you are able to volunteer.

Program



Program Chairman Al Renz introduced our speaker for the day, **City Councilman Bill Kling, Jr.** Bill is a graduate of both the University of Alabama and Alabama A & M University. He began his public service career serving on the Huntsville School Board from 1984 to 1988 (along with our own Jim Berry), and is currently in his fourth term as City Councilman.

Councilman Kling opened his talk by saying he felt like he had come full circle. He said he participated in our Club's 1970 Oratorical Contest, finishing 3rd. He complimented our Club for its many youth oriented programs that help the youth of our city. He said Huntsville is a great place to raise families.

Councilman Kling outlined several changes in Huntsville's City government since he began his career as a school board member. These include:

- Having three police precincts. These allow policemen to have more familiarity with the neighborhoods and the people in them.
- More competitive Schools via technology. Huntsville is the first city of our size to introduce laptop computers in our schools from 3rd grade on up.
- New school facilities. There are numerous new, state-of-the-art school buildings being constructed, and the city government has contributed \$80 million for them.
- Diversification of Industry. A variety of new industries such as Toyota, and Remington have come to Huntsville.

- Real Estate is a bargain here. \$100,000 buys a very nice house in Huntsville these days, and \$200,000 or more will get a buyer “a mansion.”
- Large land area. Huntsville is the 38th largest city in America using land area as the measure. It is larger in area than St. Louis, MO, or Chicago, Ill, for example.
- We have trees! Our city is not a concrete jungle, but has trees throughout, including on the courthouse square.
- John Hunt Park will soon be undergoing an \$80 million expansion. Roads and athletic fields will be improved, and the Iceplex will add another sheet.

One negative change in Huntsville has been the loss of our minor league baseball team. Councilman Kling said this is not so much a lack of interest on our citizens, but the lack of promotion by the team. In the past, promotions such as bringing in “the Chicken” mascot or baseball comedian Al Sachts nearly always filled the stadium. He said one of his enduring memories is facing hall-of-famer pitcher Bob Feller during a promotion one night.

Councilman Kling reported he holds monthly town meetings at the Huntsville Library. While some of the feedback is on mundane complaints such as potholes and barking dogs, he also gets good input on major items of interest such as building a baseball stadium in downtown Huntsville. Other councilpersons are also holding regular town meetings, and two of them are promoting businesses in their districts.

Question and Answer Session

- Q.** Vastell Williams asked if he supported body cameras on policemen.
- A.** Yes, at this time. Early models of the body cams had short life and poor resolution. The second generation models have much better resolution and are more efficient.
- Q.** Matt Clarke asked if there were anyway to improve the north-south traffic flow by providing at least one more artery in this direction.
- A.** There are two problems in building new roads or streets. First and foremost, the state does not give Huntsville its fair share of tax dollars for improving state highways, let alone city streets. Secondly, the only feasible new N-S artery would cost at least \$100 million. Some improvements can be made by widening Whitesburg Drive and California Streets. He is concerned that the recent 1-cent sales tax increase will not be used as intended.

- Q.** Jesse Lang asked what his opinion would be on raising new revenue for the State: (1) new taxes, (2) gambling, or (3) a combination of these two.
- A.** First, he reminded us that Governor Bentley campaigned on no new taxes. As a first step, a thorough study of state programs needs to be made, and those that are wasteful or not needed need to be cut. However, if these efforts still left a need, he could support a gambling option *provided* that the revenues from gambling are properly earmarked and that corruption can be controlled.

Closing

President Al Adams gave our speaker a tile with the Optimist creed. Councilman Kling drew Alberto Duarte's name and Buddy Beck's name before the winner, Jesse Lang took home the attendance prize.

Dr. Carl Winkler led us in the reciting the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

**"Between the optimist and the pessimist, the difference is droll.
The optimist sees the doughnut; the pessimist the hole!"**

~Oscar Wilde



Our speaker, Councilman Bill Kling, Jr.



The flag for reciting our Pledge of Allegiance



Sidney Sandridge



Marlene Renz

CALENDAR

- 5/18 Monday 6:30 pm Community Room - First Baptist Church
Youth Appreciation Banquet
- 5/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (Al Renz)
- 5/28 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Dr Willie Brunetti - Care Giving
- 6/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank - Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 6/4 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
TBD - Duane Plank
- 6/11 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
TBD - Duane Plank
- 6/18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food - (Duane Plank)
- 6/25 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
TBD - Duane Plank

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: