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**Club meets**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**

**At 11:45 am**

**Check Website for  
location**

**[hsvoptimists.org](http://hsvoptimists.org)**

# Opti - Topics

## **Today's Meeting Mullins Restaurant**

A rather slim turnout of only 13 Optimists showed up for our meeting today, but we had a number of guests which fortunately made a decent crowd for our distinguished speaker, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., President of Alabama A & M University.

Our guests were a mixture of actual guests and a couple who are slated to be new members. Guests were Dr. Malinda Gilmore, Special Asst. to the President for Special Initiatives; Alex Thompson, guest of Rebecca Billings; Michelle Williams, wife of Vastell; and "Aunt Maria & Cousin Gloria," guests of Alberto Duarte from Colombia. I understand that two other guests, Rebecca Billings and Matt Clarke, are to become members of the Club.

The service at Mullins was unusually slow and inefficient today. I didn't get my meal (along with a great majority of others) until Dr. Hugine began his talk, so I couldn't both take notes and eat. Also, there was no offer to refill drinks. Perhaps of most importance, Dr. Hugine had to suspend his talk on at least two occasions because of the noise made by servers. I suggested to Al Renz that he bring this to the attention of Mullins when he paid.

## **Opening**

President Al called on Alberto Duarte to bring the opening prayer, and then led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were introduced—you can see their photos in the photo section.

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

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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## **Announcements**



President Al Adams encouraged all Club members to attend some or all of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter District Meeting that is to be held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel at the Huntsville International Airport on August 20-23. Our zone is hosting the meeting, and the other clubs in the zone are expected to have a good turnout. Tom Casteel said parking is free at the events: Optimists should park in the "Hotel Parking" area, then get their parking ticket stamped at the hotel's registration desk before leaving.



Club to see it.

Alberto Duarte brought to the meeting the President's plaque that was awarded to Fabiani when he was installed as Chairman of the American Bar Association's Law Student Division in Chicago recently. Fabiani wanted the



Tom Casteel reminded all Band Committee members to get with their school's band director and begin the process of getting the loan agreements out to students who wanted one of our instruments. Tom said he had two schools that needed a Club member as contact, and he invited new members to get involved in this dynamic program. He said we now have 22 schools in the program.

## **Program**



President Al Adams introduced our speaker for today, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., President of Alabama A & M University. The thing that struck me most about his introduction was that Dr. Hugine has a B. S. and M. S. in mathematics (from South Carolina State

University) and has mathematics text books. His PhD is in Higher Education, authored three awarded by Michigan State University.

Dr. Hugine began his talk by complementing our Club on the programs we do for youth. He quoted a former colleague who said that “Youth are about 25% of today’s population, but will be 100% of tomorrow’s population.”

Dr. Hugine’s talk covered the origins of the University, the current status of the University, and plans for the future of the University. As I mentioned above, I wasn’t able to take my usual detailed notes because of the late food service, so you’ll have to be content with several of the most interesting tidbits I was able to jot down between bites of my lunch.

### **Origin of Alabama A & M**

- Established in 1875, just 10 years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The first President was William Hooper Council, a former slave.
- It is one of two land-grant institutions in Alabama, the other being Auburn.
- A & M has the oldest Computer Science program of any State University.

### **Today’s Alabama A & M**

- The University has 66 programs: 40 baccalaureates, 18 masters, 1 educational specialist and 4 doctorates
- Has about 5,000 students, about 4,000 undergraduates and about 1,000 graduate students
- The top counties in Alabama for enrolled undergraduate students at A & M are: Madison, Jefferson, Mobile, and Montgomery
- The top states sending students to A & M are Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi.
- A & M has about 800 full-time employees, of which 242 are full-time faculty members.
- One interesting program is designed to instruct physics teachers how to make physics both interesting and understandable through hands-on experiments and such.
- Another interesting program at A & M is the study of diseases of bats (they are very important in keeping insect population under control).
- A & M is second in the nation in providing doctorates in agriculture to minority students, and in the top 15 in teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics to minorities.
- Twenty-seven percent of the budget for A & M comes from the State of Alabama (paid for by taxpayers).

- Alabama A & M receives about the same allocation from the State (about \$40 million) per year now as it did 10 years ago.
- The athletics program at A & M is not self-supporting, financially, as are the very great majority of university athletic programs in the U. S.

## **The Future of A & M**

Dr. Malinda Gilmore (one of our guests, today) has put together a strategic plan for the future, with the objectives to:

- Enhance A & M's distinctiveness and competitiveness
- Strengthen structures, operations and systems
- Upgrade the University's infrastructure and facilities
- Secure the University's financial future
- Enhance the University's image and recognition
- Expand the University's outreach

Dr. Hugine concluded his talk by reminded the Club that we taxpayers are supporting Alabama A & M, so we should be considered supporters of the University. He encouraged us to visit the University and get a first-hand look at what is going on there.

Dr. Hugine said the University would be delighted to host one of our Optimist Club meetings on the campus sometime soon.

## **Closing**

President Al gave a tile with the Optimist to Dr. Hugine, and asked him to draw for our attendance prize. Alberto Duarte was the first name drawn.

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

*Clyde Nevins*

## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.”**

*~Maya Angelou*



**President Al with our speaker, President Hugine**



**Dr. Malinda Gilmore, a guest from A & M**





**Guest/New Member Rebecca Billings and her guest, Alex Thompson**



**Michelle and Vastell Williams**



**Alberto Duarte with Aunt Maria and Cousin Gloria**

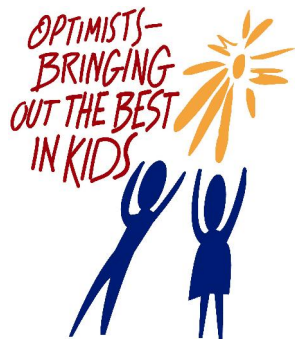


**Don't forget to bring your check for 36.30 to the Business Meeting to support the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) and receive your Dime A Day pin. Tom Casteel has the pins and will collect the checks to take to the District Convention. Make checks out to OIF and write Dime A Day in the memo section.**

# CALENDAR

- 8/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)**
- 8/27 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin’s Restaurant  
**Libby Parker – HOPE Leadership Academy**
- 9/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 9/3 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin’s Restaurant  
**TBD – Andrew Driver**
- 9/10 Thursday  
**NO MEETING – Replaced by Club Picnic on Saturday**
- 9/12 Saturday 3:00 pm - Ford’s Chapel, 280 Ford Chapel DR, Harvest, AL  
**Annual Club Picnic**
- 9/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Andrew Driver)**
- 9/24 Thursday 6:30 pm Optimist Recreation Center  
**Installation Banquet**  
**Special Guest – Governor Tolanda Beal**
- 10/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**





**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
P, O, Box 2230  
Huntsville, AL 35804-2230

**TO:**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## **THE OPTIMIST CREED**

Promise Yourself -

**T**o be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

**T**o talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

**T**o make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

**T**o look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

**T**o think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

**T**o be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

**T**o forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

**T**o wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

**T**o give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

**T**o be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International