



PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

88 Buffet

Opti - Topics

February Business Meeting

Sixteen Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for this month's business meeting. Rev. Jim Berry was our caterer today, and we enjoyed an assortment of "mix or match" Subway sandwiches with chips, cookies and drinks.

Opening

President Al called Alberto Duarte to bring the opening prayer, and he also led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Duane Plank was able to attend our meeting today. He is able to get around with a walker, but is still going to therapy to regain normal movement in his hip. He said his therapy is in a warm water pool, and it feels so-o-o-o good!

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz distributed the **financial report for the first four months** of our fiscal year. For this period the Club had a deficit of \$511.56 (income versus expenses). The deficit was due in part to paying the full 2nd quarter's dues to OI, and partly because the meals for the quarter will not be billed and paid for until the first of April.

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

DIRECTORS

2 YEAR

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1 YEAR

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

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In Youth Activities, we added one new JOOI Club and bought the awards for the Tri-Star Basketball Competition. In Community Service, we awarded a \$500 grant to Christmas Charities Year Round. We currently have reimbursement requests to the Foundation of \$3,694.05.

The Bank Balance at the end of January was \$4869.78. With the reimbursement to be received from the Foundation, the Club has a Potential Cash Position of \$8,232.60.

Tom Casteel spoke up to encourage all members to pay their dues amount promptly at the beginning of next quarter. The money the Club pays out each week for meals hurts our cash flow.

Committee Reports



President Al Adams reported that the Club's Board of Directors had voted to cancel the **Tri-Star competition** for this year. As reported in the last business meeting, the City Parks and Recreation Department had double booked the ORC gym on the day scheduled for the competition, and it could not be held. The trophies and basketballs bought for awards will be kept over and given out in next year's Tri-Star.

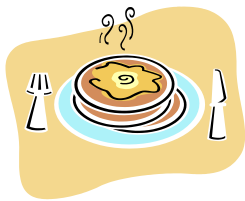


George McDonough, chairman of the **Essay Contest**, reported he has received four essays, and they are in evaluation. Vastell Williams reported that he had tried to send his daughter's essay by e-mail twice, from two different terminals, but it was returned both times. George is looking into it, and said he would be willing to entertain a late entry if circumstances dictated that was the proper thing to do.

Al Adams stated that other Optimist Clubs in our Zone are encroaching on our territory; i.e., they are soliciting and getting entries from schools which should rightfully send them to *our* Club. He will bring this up at the next Zone meeting with the recommendation that specific schools be assigned to specific Optimist Clubs in the Zone.



Alberto Duarte said he has continued to send out emails and flyers for the **Oratorical Contest**, and has telephoned principals of some schools. He also sent information Channel 19 News, but nothing has come of that so far. He reported, however, that two students who were to speak had withdrawn their entries due to their preference in competing in a Science Contest to be held that same day.



Alberto Duarte reported that the Hawthorne Conservatory sold \$1,000 worth of tickets for the Club's **Pancake Breakfast**. He said Ms. Tiffany is "amazing" and "dynamic," and he hopes to have her at a meeting soon to receive our contribution to the Conservatory. He encouraged all Optimists who haven't to **send in their \$50 for the 10 tickets that each was allocated**. You can write a tax-deductible check directly to the Hawthorne Conservatory, or you can give cash or a check to Al Renz and he will add it to the amount to be given to the Conservatory.



Foundation President Alberto Duarte reported that the **Foundation's assets** as of yesterday were \$796,490 in our account at Regions Bank, plus a CD with First Commercial. He reported that the Market has been on a nice uptick in the last few days. Three days ago, our account would have been almost \$50,000 less.



George McDonough, chairman of the **Pecan Sale**, said he has received all the money he expects to receive from our recent fund raiser, and he has closed the books. Our net profit for the fundraiser, as reported by Treasurer Al Renz, was \$796.50

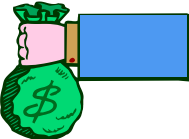
Announcements



President Al Adams announced that our Club will have a booth in the upcoming **iRegister2016** event at the Von Braun Center. This is a “fair” at which middle school and high school students can learn about the many opportunities afforded to them in our city. Rebecca Billings is chairperson for our participation. She is **looking for Club members to volunteer** to sit at our table to pass out brochures and talk to kids about our programs—especially our JOOI Clubs and our Essay and Oratorical contests. **The fair is from 10:00 a. m. to 2:00 p. m. in the Von Braun North Hall on February 27.** About 2,500 students are expected to attend. **Call or e-mail Rebecca to sign up.**



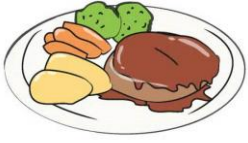
President Al Adams announced that our Club will participate in the **Community Kite Festival** again this year. We will man a table stocked with balsa wood gliders and plenty of information about becoming an Optimist. The festival will be from 1:00 p. m. to 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, March 5.** The afternoon time means that the conflict with our Oratorical Contest that morning will be slight or none.

Al Renz, chairman of the **Community Service Grants** Committee announced that  **the application for the grants is now on line.** Any 501(c)3 organization is eligible to submit a grant proposal, but Al cautioned that the committee gives many more evaluation points to those organizations that serve the youth of our city and county; the more youth served, the more points, too.



The **JOOI Club District Meeting** will be held on March 12 and 13 at the Athens State University. **The Club’s Board of Directors has voted to pay the registration** (which includes meals) **and room costs** for all of the Club’s JOOI Club members who attend. The only restriction is that 3 or 4 students would have to share a room. President Al asked that JOOI Club contacts get the word to their clubs.

New Business



Our Club is scrambling for **a new place to meet** and eat. The current temporary location of the 88 Buffet has great food, but that's about the only thing in its favor. Parking, traffic and room arrangement are all negative factors. We are not the only civic club having this problem, including other Optimist Clubs in Huntsville.

There were numerous suggestions by various members: Blue Plate Café, Trinity Methodist Church, Elks Club, Eagles Club, Gibson's Barbecue, Rosie's and the Huntsville Country Club. Each one of these has its problems. Al Adams asked if the Club would object to meeting in a night club. He reported that an owner of a local night club on Jordan Lane has offered to open his club during the lunch hour (for us only) and serve a meal without us having to guarantee a number. This option was added to the list for Gay Pepper's committee to investigate.

Closing

Rev. Jim Berry led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“One of the most important things we adults can do for young children is to model the kind of person we would like them to be.”

~Carol B. Hillman

CALENDAR

- 2/25 Thursday 11:45 am 88 Buffet
Karen Ouriel Mockensturm – Executive Director of Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater and Academy
- 3/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 3/3 Thursday 6:00 pm TBD
Alberto Duarte – TBD
- 3/10 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
Alberto Duarte – TBD
- 3/17 Thursday 11:45 am
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)
- 3/24 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
Alberto Duarte – TBD
- 3/31 Thursday **NO MEETING – 5th THURSDAY**
- 4/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting

Web Site: hsvoptimists.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleOptimistClub/>

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
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TO: