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## **SECRETARY TREASURER**

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**Club meets**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**

**At 6:00 pm at 88 Buffet**

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

**At 11:45 am**

**At the**

**Optimist Recreational**

**Center**

# Opti - Topics

## **August – 2<sup>nd</sup> Noon Meeting**

Fourteen Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center today for our regularly scheduled luncheon meeting. We had two guests, Nell Berry and TaNaya Williams. Nell is driving Jim to meetings while he recovers from recent cataract surgery. TaNaya is an intern with United Way who accompanied our speaker for today.



Having our meetings at the ORC has exposed a problem: someone needs to be responsible for ordering the food, and for having it there by 11:45, the scheduled start time for meetings. Neither of those happened today, so President Al had Domino's pizza ordered, and switched the usual meeting order to have the speaker go first. The pizzas were delivered just before the end of the program, so it worked out okay.

## **Opening**

President Al Adams called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and then Al led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Announcements**



Al Adams reported that Danielle Barnes will help him reactivate the JOI club at **Chapman School**, and that Charlene Higgins is working with **New Century School** to form a JOI Club.

**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**

**Clyde Nevins**  
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Alberto Duarte reported that **Grace Lutheran School** will have two JOI Clubs this year; one for their middle school and one for their high school. The middle school officer installation will be September 2, and the high school installation will be on September 9, both at 2:20 p. m. You are invited. He also reported that **Randolph School's** JOI Club will be installing officers in mid-September.



now so you won't forget).  
[clyde.nevins@juno.com](mailto:clyde.nevins@juno.com).

We've had a good response on the **meeting survey** from Optimists who attend the meetings, but it's those of you who aren't attending regularly that we need to hear from. The **survey form is again attached** for your convenience. **Please fill it out and return it** to Clyde Nevins by next week (do it Clyde's e-mail address is:



The date for the **Club's annual picnic** has been set for **September 10**. As in the past couple of years, the picnic will be held at the pavilion of the Fords Chapel UMC in Harvest. The picnic will start at 2 p. m. and be over around 6 p. m. The picnic will have a "pot luck" menu with the Club furnishing the meat and drinks, and Club members furnishing sides and deserts. **Please notify Al Renz if you plan to attend and haven't signed up.**



**Band Committee** chairman, Tom Casteel, reported that the Foundation had approved the Club's request for \$7,000 to buy additional band instruments. Tom immediately got on line and **ordered 25 instruments**. They should arrive by UPS on Friday, after which Tom will take them to Southeastern Music to be added to our maintenance contract. When that's done, they will be available to give out to middle schools.



President Al Adams left for the **Alabama-Mississippi District Meeting** right after today's meeting. It will be at the Birmingham Hilton on **August 26 to August 28**. Al is to be installed as the Lieutenant Governor for our Zone at this meeting. Al was already trying out his Lt. Governor's badge (see photo section) at today's meeting.



Don't forget to **invite prospective new members** to our Club soon. Our Club is down by 4 members for the year, and we need to be at least even to be an Honor Club. We need these 4 new members by September 30. There is currently a one-half price special on membership for new members that are teachers.

## Old Business



**Pecan Sale** chairman George McDonough plans to order pecans as soon as he can get a handle on how many bags are needed. Last year, the pecans were ordered a little too late (Nov. 9), and he would like them in hand in plenty of time for Thanksgiving. He will have a sign-up sheet at next week's meeting for you to indicate how many bags you want.

George doesn't know the Club's cost for the pecans as yet, and it may be higher than last year. Tom Casteel will make a new brochure for the sale.

## Program



This month's program chairman, Tom Casteel, introduced our speaker for today, **Ms. Cathy Miller of the United Way of Madison County**. Ms. Miller has worked with non-profits in Madison County since 2004, and joined United Way in 2010. There are seven full-time employees and a few part time employees there, and she is the Community Impact Director.

Ms. Miller said that she and our President, Al Adams "love each other." They have the same heart for the needs in our County, and occasionally have lunch together (which get "looks," she said). She said she distributes our Club's information on the Essay Contest and Oratorical Contest to all member organizations.

In her talk, Ms. Miller reported these basic facts concerning needs in Madison County's 350,000 citizens:

- 31% are obese
- 18% of the children live in poverty
- 15% experience hunger or food insecurity

- 13% live below the poverty line.
- By 2040, there will be over 100,000 people over the age of 65

Ms. Miller told of a recent example where United Way marshaled local non-profits to deal with the plight of 35 homeless people. Several organizations were notified of a critical need, and through them, solutions were found to take care of all 35.

Ms. Miller outlined the five steps taken by United Way to ensure that the funds go to the best use. A five-step process is employed:

- Identify the needs of the Community
- Develop strategies to meet these needs
- Allocate resources (dollars) by an intense review of grant applications
- Implement the grants (on July 1 of each year) for a 3-year period\*
- Measure results to see that the money is being spent as planned

\*She explained that grants are for a 3-year period so non-profits can be sure of their funding for that length of time.

Next, Ms. Miller distributed a directory of all of the United Way's partner agencies. This brochure gives the basic purpose of each agency and the contact information. She also distributed a business-sized card explaining the services available by dialing 211.

Ms. Miller closed her presentation by offering two specific suggestions for our Optimist Club:

1. Invite one or more of our brightest JOI Club officers to sit on the United Way's Youth Leadership Council. It would be a great experience for them.
2. Consider investing (i. e., giving money) to United Way; if not by a Club grant, then by participation in Employee Giving campaigns.

## **Closing**

President Al gave Ms. Miller a tile with the Optimist Creed on it. She said she already had one, but would love to have another to make a pair. Al asked her to draw for today's attendance prize, and Tom Casteel's name was the first one drawn.

Someone (I didn't catch the name) led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*



## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”**

*~Thomas A. Edison*



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



**Ms. Cathy Miller**  
**Our Speaker For Today**



**President Al with his**  
**Lt. Governor's badge**

# CALENDAR

- 9/1 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet  
**George McDonough- TBD**
- 9/6 Tuesday **4:00 pm**  
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 9/8 Thursday  
**No Meeting – Replaced by Club Picnic**
- 9/10 **Saturday 2:00 to 5:00 pm**  
Ford’s Chapel Pavilion  
**Annual Club Picnic**
- 9/15 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (George McDonough)**
- 9/23 **Friday 6:00 pm** Optimist Recreation Center  
**Officer Installation Banquet – Governor Pam Black**
- 9/29 Thursday  
**No Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday**
- 10/4 Tuesday **4:00 pm**  
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 10/6 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet  
**TBD- TBD**
- 10/13 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**TBD – TBD**
- 10/20 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)**

# Club Meeting Survey

Dear Optimists

To aid your Board of Directors in deciding on how to improve attendance at our Club meetings, please complete the survey below.

1. The things that are most important to me in attending Club meetings are (rank in order of importance):

- The cost of the meals
- The ease of getting to the meeting site
- The closeness of parking to the meeting room
- The length of the meetings
- The quality or relevance of the scheduled program
- The number of meetings each month (see item 2, below)
- Other: .....

2. I would prefer to have:

- Four** Club meetings per month, including one business meeting
- Three** Club meetings per month, including one business meeting
- Two** Club meetings per month, including one business meeting

3. I would prefer \_\_\_\_\_ *evening* meetings per month (fill in the number)

4. Special event meetings (e.g., Respect for Law, Youth Appreciation banquets) should:

- Replace the regularly scheduled meeting nearest to the date of the event regardless of the number of meetings per month
- Be added to the meeting schedule if there are two Club meetings per month

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

## 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



**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**TO:**