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SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm at 88 Buffet

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

At the

**Optimist Recreational
Center**

Opti - Topics

September –Business Meeting

A good turnout of 17 Optimists and two guests assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for this month's business meeting. **George McDonough and Kathy Anderson** was our catering team today. We enjoyed tossed salad, spaghetti and meatballs, cheese cake and assorted drinks. Our two guests were Nell Berry, wife of Jim Berry, and Denise Watson, guest of Marilyn King-Jordan. Denise stated she was going to sign up as a new member.

Opening

President Al Adams called the meeting to order. He asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Al led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked **Al Renz** for the fine job he did of planning the Club's picnic last Saturday.

Optimist Family News

It was good to see at last Saturday's picnic some Club members who can't make regular meetings for health reasons. We miss seeing **Sidney and Gladys Sandridge, Bob and Nancy Martin, and Buddy Beck**, who were able to be at the picnic for a couple of hours. The photos I took are attached.

**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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Marilyn King-Jordan was without her dark glasses, today. She has had to wear them in recent months due to a repair on a damaged retina. She said her eye condition has now improved to where she has been released by the eye specialist in Birmingham, and her “bad” eye gives her trouble only if she sleeps on one side. She is still under the care of a retina specialist here in Huntsville.

Kelly Bullard, Jim Berry’s granddaughter, is our newest member. She joined last Saturday at the Club’s picnic. If you remember, Kelly was instrumental in starting the Hazel Green JOI Club a few years ago. Welcome, Kelly!

Denise Watson, our member-to-be, has organized a camp meeting for motorcyclists at Sharon Johnson Park this weekend. She works with a ministry that witnesses Christ to motorcycle clubs. She expects riders from several southeast states to attend the affair which features food, fun, and workshops.

Announcements



The **Installation Banquet** for next year’s incoming officers will be at **6:00 p. m. on Friday, Sept 23**. Note that the banquet is not on our traditional Thursday night. Banquet chairperson Gay Pepper said only 22 had signed up so far. President Al said **every Optimist who is in town that day should attend**. Our OI District Governor, Pam Black, will attend and install our Club’s officers for next year.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer **Al Renz** distributed the **financial report** for the Club as of August 31, 2016 (this report covers the first 11 months of our fiscal year). For this period, the Club had a net income of about \$1,570, down a little from last month, mostly due to being over budget in Postage and District Travel Expenses.

Other than the normal Band Instrument Program expenses in the period was the expense (\$110) of starting the new JOI Club at Grace Lutheran High School. The bank balance at the end of August was \$8,038.46.



Treasure Al Renz next presented the proposed budget for the Club's fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, 2016. Al reported that the budge had been approved by the board of directors and moved that it be accepted (no second required). He then reviewed the budget in some detail.

First, Al compared the estimated end-of-the-year totals for this year, in both revenue and expenses, with the proposed budget. The budget for income assumes adding dues from 5 new members; otherwise the budget closely follows the totals for the current year.

The main changes in the budget for expenses he noted were: (1) Increasing the District Travel Expenses by adding \$300 to cover the President-Elect's expenses to attend the Fall District Meeting; (2) Increasing the Band Instrument budget to cover an anticipated increase in our maintenance contract with Southeastern Music arising from the Club's recent purchase of 25 additional band instruments; (3) Adding \$10,000 for STEM Projects, which will replace our Community Service Grants, and (4) Increasing the awards for both the Oratorical Contest and the Essay Contest to \$500 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place.

Alberto Duarte raised questions on the budget for the Band Instrument Program: How far are we going to take this program? Is the Club to continue to buy new band instruments (as we did this year), and if so, where are we headed? Band Instrument Committee Chairman Tom Casteel replied that there were no plans to add additional instruments in the coming year. There is about \$2,000 in the budget to replace damaged or un-repairable instruments. As to where the program is headed, President Al Adams stated that the Club did not intend to take over the City's responsibility to supply musical instruments.

Alberto Duarte also asked if his recommended increase in prize money for the Oratorical Contest was included in the budget. As was previously stated, he was told that this is in the budget (he claimed Gay distracted him).

The question was called, and the motion to accept the budget was accepted without any dissenting votes.

Committee Reports



Clyde Nevins reported on the results of the **Meeting Survey** held last month. He reported that the membership wanted the number of meetings per month reduced, wanted to keep one evening meeting, and preferred to replace a regular meeting with any special event held near it. He stated the Board of Directors had voted to reduce the meetings from 4 to 3 per month, to keep the evening meeting on the first Thursday in the month, and to delete the meeting on the 2nd Thursday. He moved that the Club adopt the meeting schedule approved by the board. George McDonough seconded.

Alberto Duarte raised the issue of why the Club should continue to hold an evening meeting. He said with daylight hours being shortened, it would soon require members to drive to meetings in the dark. Clyde Nevins said that a majority of the members taking the survey wanted to keep the evening meeting, likely because of work-related time constraints at lunchtime. President Al proposed that next year's board of directors put this issue on a meeting agenda for further consideration, and Alberto agreed to this. Following this agreement, the motion was voted upon and passed without dissent.



Membership Committee Chairman Tom Casteel passed around his "Builder of Excellence" medal he had received at the OI District Meeting last month. Next, he called the Club's attention to a new membership category adopted by the Club. The new category is called "**Spouse and Caregivers Membership**." Dues are \$20 per quarter, and these members will be billed for meals just as regular members.

Our new Lt. Governor, Alfred Adams, stated he has a goal to form 3 new clubs in our zone this year. Good candidates are: Alabama A & M, Arab, and Scottsboro.



Policy and Procedures Chairman, Tom Casteel, distributed recommended changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual. The revisions document the change in the Club's meeting schedule, the addition of the Spouse and Caregivers Membership, the increases in the prize money for the Oratorical and Essay Contests, and the inclusion of the \$50 prize awarded to the outstanding band member in bands participating in our band instrument program.



Alberto Duarte reported on the **dedication of four musical instruments at the Hawthorne Conservatory in memory of Duane Plank** this past Tuesday. Several Club members attended, and Elaine Plank was our special guest as the three keyboards and one electronic drum set were dedicated. The four instruments were already in use, including one keyboard now located at an

“outstation” at Lincoln Academy. Attendees also enjoyed a tour of Hawthorne’s new facility which houses art and dance classrooms and a computer lab for doing homework, etc.



Foundation Chairman Alberto Duarte gave what he characterized as “we are doing very good” **Foundation Report**. The Foundation’s account at Regions as of September 14, 2016, was valued at \$840,876.96. This amount is after all of the reimbursements to the Club have been made. In addition, the

Foundation’s account at Synovus (an arm of First Commercial bank) was valued at \$147,811.58.



Pecan Sale Chairman George McDonough reported that he will soon be contacting each member (personally) for getting their order for the pecan sale. He is encouraging members to have pre-sale orders in hand. He plans to order the pecans in mid-October.

New Business



Foundation Chairman Alberto Duarte announced that this was the time to **elect two Club members to the Foundation’s Board of Directors**. The two current members whose terms are expiring are: Al Renz and Alberto Duarte. Both of these members are eligible for re-nomination to the Foundation’s board of directors.

Jim Berry moved that both Al and Alberto be re-elected as members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. Jesse Lang seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed without dissent.

Closing

Gay Pepper led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“The more you become aware of and respond to the needs of others, the richer your own life becomes.”

~Mollie Marti

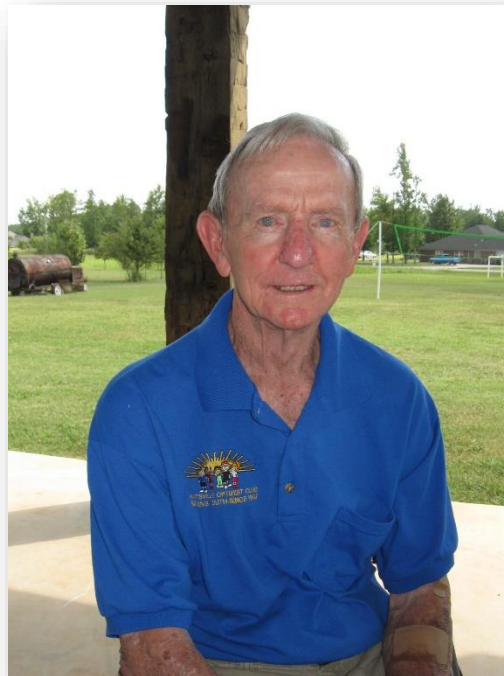
PHOTOS



Sidney Sandridge with Bill Clarke.



Bob and Nancy Martin



Buddy Beck

Website – hsvoptimists.org

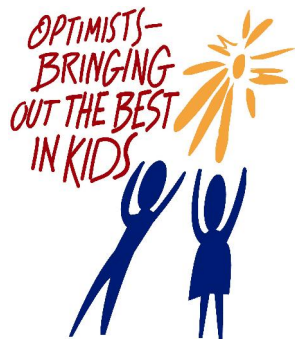


Elaine Plank and Alberto Duarte with One of the Pianos We Donated to Hawthorne Conservatory

The calendar below reflects the meeting schedule approved at our last business meeting. Mark your calendars, meetings are on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays.

CALENDAR

- 9/23 **Friday 6:00 pm** Optimist Recreation Center
Officer Installation Banquet – Governor Pam Black
- 10/4 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 10/6 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet
TBD– TBD
- 10/20 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)
- 10/27 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
TBD – TBD



Huntsville Optimist Club
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TO:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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