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Opti - Topics

February Business Meeting



A good turnout of 17 Optimists assembled today at the Optimist Recreation Center today for the Club's monthly business meeting.

Our chef for lunch today was Richie Myers, who brought "fixins" for a variety of delicious deli sandwiches along with condiments, a home-made tossed garden salad, potato salad, chips, brownies and assorted drinks. We were nearly overwhelmed with the amount and quality of the food, and Richie got a well-deserved round of applause for his efforts.

We had one guest today, Dave Bender. Dave learned about our Club through an inquiry to Optimist International whom he asked if there were an Optimist Club in Huntsville where he might get involved in civic affairs in our city. OI directed him to our club (of course). Dave has been in Huntsville about one year, having moved here to be near his grandchildren. He was given a membership application, and we look forward to him joining us in bringing out the best in Huntsville's kids.

Opening

President Vastell Williams called the meeting to order. He asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at Blue
Plate Café**

**3rd & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 a.m.
Optimist Recreational
Center**

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Announcements



President Vastell Williams began the business portion of the meeting by distributing several **“Get Involved” sheets.** These sheets listed all the current Club’s committees, the current Committee Chairmen, and the contact information for the chairmen. He said the sheets were primarily for some of our newer members, and he them to contact committee chairman and volunteer to work on the committees of their choice. He would like to see “new blood” not only serving on the committees but chairing them as well.



Zone Vice President Alfred Adams displayed the many **District Club and individual awards** that were garnered at the recent District Meeting. These awards have been reported in previous editions of Opti-Topics, but this was the first time we were able to see the actual awards in the form of patches, stickers, pins, and certificates. Our most prestigious awards were Honor Club and the “Grand Prize” of being the Number One Club in the District.

Alfred concluded by saying, “Thanks for making my two years as Club President so rewarding and so successful.” Someone spoke up to tell Vastell he needed to be president for two years so he could be equally successful, but Alfred said he was actually more successful in his first year.



Zone Vice President Alfred Adams announced he will be **visiting Fort Payne** to present their District Awards at a regular Optimist Club noon meeting on Wednesday, March 1. He would like four members of our Club to go so we can get A & A points for a Club visit. Contact Alfred if you are interested in going. Fort Payne was a “Distinguished Club” last year, having brought in 15 new members.



Tri-Star Basketball Contest Chairman Jesse Lange couldn't make today's meeting, but he sent along some announcements by way of Tom Casteel. This year's contest will be on Saturday, March 18. Helpers need to be there by 9:00 am. Tom passed out flyers and posters to all who would take them. By the way, the contest has separate boys' and girls' competitions, so we need some of our lady Optimists to show up and officiate. Eureka Battie said she had a referee's shirt at home.



Tom Casteel announced that he is nearly ready to send off another order for the **Club polo shirts or dress shirts**. He passed around a sign-up sheet for those who wished to order at the meeting. If you want one, and weren't at the meeting let Tom know ASAP. The cost of the polo shirt is \$15. If 4 or more of you would like a dress-style Club shirt, they can also be ordered, but will cost you \$25 (for the dress shirts, both men's and women's shirt styles are available, and the shirts can be either long-sleeved or short-sleeved).

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz presented the **Treasurer's Financial Report** for the first four months (October through January) of our fiscal year. He reported there was not a lot of activity in the month of January. Highlights of his report were:

- Revenue for the month included collecting "quite a lot" of meals and dues from Club members, as well as our monthly payment from Jeff Klimek.
- Youth Activities and Community Service Expenditures for the 4-month period were for the Band Instrument program (\$3,752), JOI Clubs (\$1,539) and STEM Grants (\$10,002).
- The Club is currently owed a receivable of \$6,721 from the Foundation.

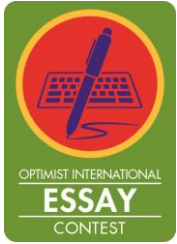
Our bank balance at the end of January was \$3,890.47. When the receivables from the Foundation and the outstanding meals are added, our potential cash position is \$11,485.47.

Committee Reports



JOI Club Committee Chair Alberto Duarte reported he had presented the Club's check of \$500 to the JOI Club at **Grace Lutheran High School**. This money was authorized by the Board of Directors to support the school's JOI Club's project of the "Snowflake Ball" the proceeds of which will go to St. Jude's hospital.

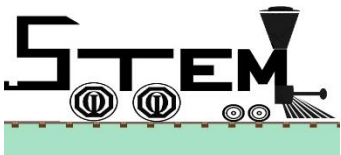
Eureka Battie reported she has successfully re-established our JOI Club at **Columbia High School**. Columbia has named three faculty members to be co-sponsors of the club. She also has an appointment with the principal at **Jemison High School** to discuss starting a JOI Club there, and has been in contact with the principal at **Chapman Middle School** as well.



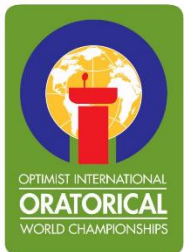
Essay Contest Chairman George McDonough reported he was disappointed in the number of essays received (he didn't give the number). He had been expecting several essays from the promotion at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, but got none. He opined that next year the promotion of the contest needs to be different—perhaps designating one Optimist to each school, and encouraging teachers to assign the essay as a class assignment. He passed out copies of the essays to the judges (all Optimists).



Pancake Breakfast Chairman Alberto Duarte encouraged everyone who hasn't made their "voluntary" donation of \$50 to the Hawthorne Conservatory to do so ASAP. Treasurer Al Renz reported that to date, the receipts for tickets and donations total \$1,435, and he expects a few more Club members to send in their \$50. The committee spent \$386.06 for the food for the breakfast, so the net receipts for the Conservatory will be well over \$1,000.



STEM Grant Committee Chairman Clyde Nevins passed around two letters he had received from Challenger Middle School; one from the teacher and one from the students. The letters expressed their appreciation for the \$1,500 STEM grant they received, and the teacher promised to give a report to the Club after they have competed in the National Finals at Indianapolis in May. Their Greenpower racer will have our Club's logo on it. Tom Casteel ordered "bumper" stickers for this purpose.



Oratorical Contest Committee Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that everything is set for contest on Saturday, March 11. He been contacting many of the schools, and has sent contest information to all Club members to promote the contest. He has arranged for the contest judges from Dr. Seldon at UAH. Alberto said he will be on vacation in Colombia (South America) on the day of the contest, but Al Renz has volunteered to take the reins.

Foundation Report



Foundation President Alberto Duarte reported that as of the close of business yesterday, Foundation's assets were about \$1,050,000 (that's up \$20K from last month!). Alberto said the Foundation is "doing very well," but he cautioned that the market is currently on the increase, and there are certain to be down swings as well in the future.

Closing

President Vastell led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

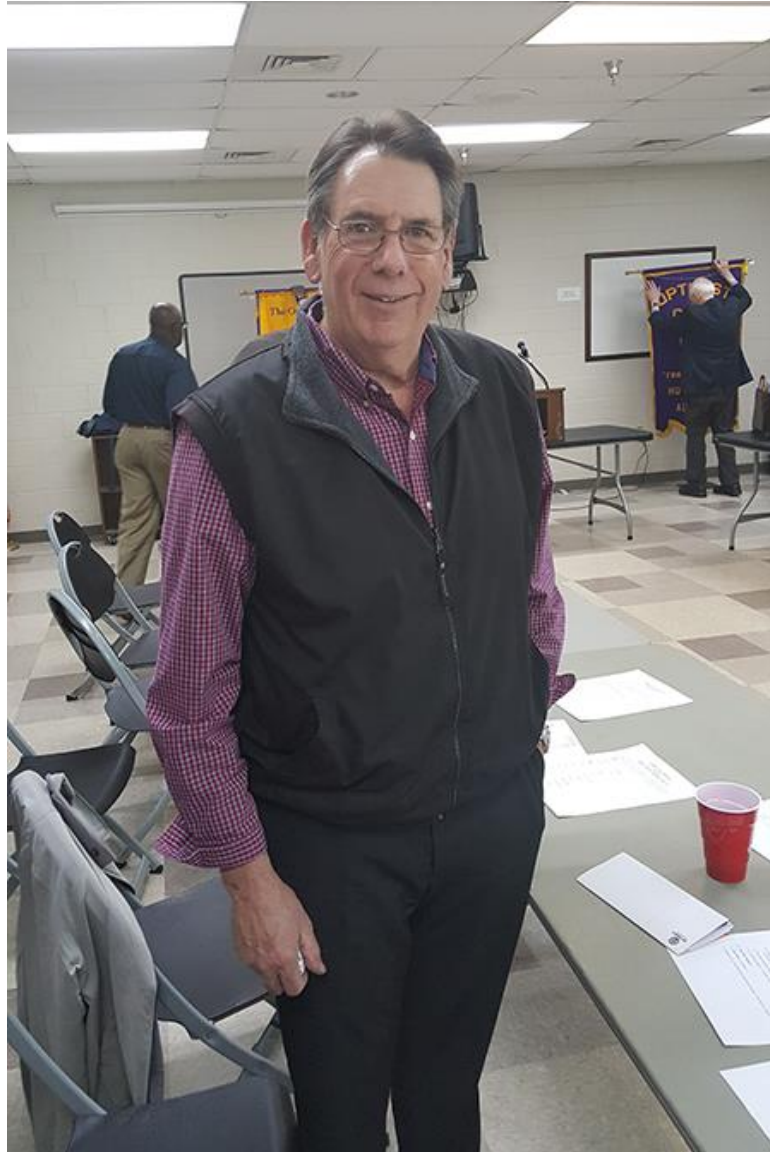
"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

CALENDAR

- 2/23** Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Alberto Duarte - NASA
- 3/2** Thursday **6:00 pm** Blue Plate Cafe
TBD – Marilyn King-Jordan
- 3/7** Tuesday **4:00 pm** 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 3/16** Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Marilyn King-Jordan)

Photos



**Today's Guest and Potential Member
Dave Bender**



THE OPTIMIST CLUB of HUNTSVILLE



FREE

TRI-STAR BASKETBALL CONTEST

Passing, Dribbling, and Shooting Contests

Calling all Hoopsters...The Huntsville Optimist Club is sponsoring its annual Tri-Star Basketball Contest on Saturday, March 18, 2017. It's open to boys and girls between ages 8 and 13. Whether you are an experienced player or just want to come have some fun, this day is for you. Test your skills in a friendly age-level competition, with trophies up for grabs. It's all at the Optimist Recreation Center beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Place: Optimist Recreation Center
703 Oakwood Ave
East of Andrew Jackson
(256) 427-5775



Date: Saturday, March 18, 2017
Time: 9:30 – 10:10 a.m. 8 - 9 year olds
10:10 - 10:50 a.m. 10 - 11 year olds
10:50 - 11:30 a.m. 12 - 13 year olds



Tear off, complete and have your parent or guardian sign and turn in when you arrive at the Optimist Recreation Center

Name (Please Print) _____

Birth date _____ Age _____ Gender (Circle) M F

School Attending _____

Parent of Guardian Signature _____

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: