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# Opti - Topics

## **August Business Meeting**



Thirteen Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for our regularly scheduled business meeting for the month. Tom Casteel was our caterer for lunch today, and he's my nominee for doing it every month. We

enjoyed do-it-yourself taco salads from the Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant, with a choice of chicken or beef, with all the fixin's. We also had plenty of tortilla chips and a choice of drinks, plus a dessert of "strawberry cheese pastry bits." You missed a fine lunch if you weren't there!

## **Opening**

President Vastell Williams welcomed everyone to the Club's monthly business meeting. Rev. Jim Berry brought the opening prayer and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Optimist Family News**

**Bob Hirschbuehler** made the meeting today after an episode with a detached retina. He told me he had only been able to drive for less than a week, but the surgery was successful and he has no vision problems.

Alberto Duarte reported that **Fabiani** is settled in at his JAG assignment at Holloman AFB in New Mexico and tried his first case in court yesterday.

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

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

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## **New Member Introduction**

President Vastell asked Tom Casteel to introduce our newest member who was in attendance today: Mrs. **Annie Sandusky**. Mrs. Sandusky is an underwriter with Platinum Mortgage in Huntsville. She and her husband Rick live in Five Points and have a 4-month old baby.

## **Announcements**



President Vastell announced that the **school supplies** collected for Morris School will be given instead to the Huntsville Achievement School since the school is now supplying everything needed to all its students. Al Adams will deliver them to HAS.

Alberto Duarte announced that he had contacted Mrs. Tiffany Martin at the **Hawthorne Conservatory**. She would like to be a speaker at a Club meeting, and has suggested an early date in February for our annual Pancake Breakfast. Alberto also reported he would begin teaching a beginning Spanish class at the Conservatory. You can take the class, too, he announced.

## **Treasurer's Report**



Treasurer Al Renz distributed his financial report for the 10 months ending July 31, 2017. Highlights from his report were:

- In the month of July the Club's income was \$750 in dues and a one-time administrative fee of \$1,750 (a fee for doing the Foundation's Income Tax Return donated to

- In the month of July the Club's income was \$750 in dues and a one-time administrative fee of \$1,750 (a fee for doing the Foundation's Income Tax Return donated to the Club by Al Renz).
- July expenses included quarterly dues to Optimist International and the OI District. The other major expense was for 3 meals at the ORC, one of which was for a duplicate meal at one meeting.
- For the second consecutive month we did not receive the \$150 monthly payment owed the Club by Jeff Klimek. The matter has been turned over to the attorney who handled our lawsuit against Mr. Klimek, and he is pursuing it.
- The Club's bank balance at the end of July was \$13,820.55, and with outstanding receivables our potential cash position is \$15,058.03.

Al commented that the Club has lost the chairman of our annual Pecan Sale fundraiser, and, if we don't do the pecan sale, that combined with the lack of monthly payments from Jeff Klimek would reduce our annual income about \$3,300.

## Committee Reports



**Band Committee** Chairman Tom Casteel reported that all but one of the Club's 190 instruments are now distributed to schools. The one remaining flute was returned. He said there are still schools asking for more instruments, and the need is greater than ever. He will be asking the Club to buy more instruments in "New Business."



Gay Pepper reported that plans for the **Youth Appreciation Banquet** have hit a snag. The plan to invite the year's CAFY monthly winners required getting their contact information from Kenny Anderson at City Hall. However, Mr. Anderson said it would take at least two weeks to get the information due to staff problems, and this would be too late to support the planned banquet date of Thursday, September 7. Gay Pepper will bring the options to the Club in "Old Business."



Alberto Duarte reported an option he investigated for the Club's **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Officer Installation Banquet** on the last Thursday in September. He had contacted Embassy Suites about using their meeting room. However, he was unable to give them the number of attendees and whether we wanted a plated or buffet dinner, so he had no cost information. Tom Casteel, Committee Chairman for this event told him to plan on 40, and Alberto will contact Embassy Suites get the resulting costs as well as to see if the September 28 date is available.



Eureka Battie reported that the **JOI Club Committee** is waiting for school to get underway before pursuing JOI Club contacts at Columbia High School and Mae Jemison High School. Al Adams reported that Hazel Green High School is ready to firm up their association with our Club, and they have previously had one of our JOI Clubs.

## Old Business

Gay Pepper said that because of not being able to get the contact information from this past year's CAFY award winners, there were two options possible for the Youth Appreciation Banquet: (1) Postpone the banquet until November when the CAFY winners could be invited, or (2) Limit the banquet's awardees to church youth groups and keep the current date of September 7. After some discussion, **the Club voted to postpone the banquet until November**. Gay will cancel our reservation at the Cooper House.

## New Business



Tom Casteel stated he would like the Club to consider **buying 40 more band instruments**, 10 more of each of four instruments (trumpet, trombone, flute and clarinet, I believe) for the Club's Band Instrument Program. He said the need is great, and we are not now able to supply all of the instruments that are requested. He said he could

order "like-new" instruments from a music store in New Jersey at a rough estimate of \$15,000. Jim Berry moved we ask the Foundation for this amount for the additional instruments, and Tom Casteel seconded the motion.

The discussion on the motion asked whether the available storage unit would have adequate room for 40 more instruments, and how much more would our maintenance contract with Southeastern Music cost.

President Vastell said he would like to have a more formal definition of the costs. Tom agreed to supply a more detailed breakdown of the costs and bring it back to the Club very soon, and the motion was tabled. Tom would like to have the instruments here in time to support this year's band programs.



President Vastell said he wanted the Club to continue our annual **Pecan Sale** fund raiser, and asked for a volunteer to be Committee Chairman. Eureka Battie volunteered Alfred Adams, and Alfred accepted.

## Huntsville Optimist Foundation Report



**Foundation President** Alberto Duarte reported on the assets of the Foundation as of July 17, 2017. Assets managed by Regions are now valued at \$901,400. Assets managed by Synovus are valued at \$161,204. The total Foundation assets are now \$1,062,604, down about \$7,000 from last month.

## Zone Update

Zone VP Alfred Adams reminded everyone of the District Convention in Mississippi this coming weekend. He reported that four of the Optimist Clubs in our Zone are healthy, but the Noon Club has notified Optimist International that it is disbanding. The Noon Club currently has only 9 members.

## Closing

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

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**Scared and sacred are spelled with the same letters. Awful proceeds from the same root word as awesome. Terrify and terrific. Every negative experience holds the seed of transformation.**

*~Alan Cohen*

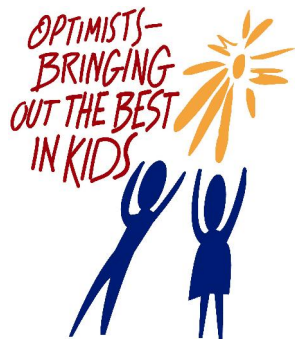
## CALENDAR

- 8/24 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Beth Roberts and Sutton - Therapy Partners**
- 9/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 9/7 Thursday 6:00 pm Blue Plate Cafe  
**TBD - TBD**
- 9/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)**
- 9/28 Thursday 6:30 pm TBD  
**Officer Installation and 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**
- 10/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 10/5 Thursday 6:00 pm Blue Plate Cafe  
**TBD - TBD**
- 10/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)**



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





**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
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**TO:**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## **THE OPTIMIST CREED**

**P**romise 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