



# Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville  
Volume 72, Number 5 – NOV 16, 2017

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## November Business Meeting



A good turnout of nineteen Optimists and one guest assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for our regularly scheduled business meeting for the month. Our guest was Samar Misra.

Samar was a prospective member of our Club, but announced today that he was returning to India.

Alberto Duarte catered our meal today, and we enjoyed chicken tenders, French fries and coleslaw, along with a choice of three home-made pies (lemon cream, chocolate cream or coconut cream) and drinks.

## Opening

President Eureka Battie welcomed everyone to the Club's monthly business meeting, and had our guest introduced. Rev. Jim Berry brought the opening prayer and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Optimist Family News

New member **Keaires Roberson** has authored a book, *5 a. m. with God*, and will have a book signing at 6:30 p. m. on November 18 at 223 Salem Dr.

Good news from **Al Renz** on his back problem. His orthopedic surgeon told him surgery would not be necessary as the pain was due to arthritis and not a spinal injury.

**Club meets**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**  
**At 6:00 p.m. at**  
**Huntsville Country**  
**Club**

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

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**Announcements**



All Club members are asked to bring a gift to support the “Home Sweet Dorm” program sponsored by the P.E.A.R.L.S. organization when they attend the

Club’s Christmas party on December 7. Tom Casteel will coordinate the gifts, so everyone won’t bring the same thing. There are 13 young ladies leaving for college. The following items are needed. Email Tom at [tom@leetsac.net](mailto:tom@leetsac.net) with what you plan to bring.

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Body Wash         | Plastic Soap Holder        |
| Cotton Balls      | Plastic Tooth Brush Holder |
| Cotton Swabs      | Pure Silk Shaving Cream    |
| Deodorant         | Pure Silk Shaving Cream    |
| Dryer Sheets      | Razors                     |
| Feminine Products | Shower Cap                 |
| Dental Floss      | Bar Soap                   |
| Laundry Pods      | Shower Shoes (Flip Flops)  |
| Lint Roller       | Tooth Brushes              |
| Lysol Wipes       | Toothpaste                 |
| Mesh Sponge       | Towels                     |
| Mouthwash         | Trash Bags                 |
| Nail Clippers     | Wash clothes               |
| Nail File         | Water Bottle               |



Tom Casteel, our Optimist International Foundation Representative, needs a few more Optimists to sign up for the **Dime-A-Day Program** sponsored by the Optimist International Foundation. The OIF is the non-profit arm of OI which provides the funds for the scholarships and other prizes for contests sponsored by OI. Your check for \$36.50, made out to “OIF” with “Dime-A-Day” in the memo line, is tax deductible. Besides the satisfaction of helping the OI Foundation, you will get a handsome lapel pin.

## Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz distributed his financial report for the Club's initial month (October) in this fiscal year:

- The revenue for the month was \$4,090.00, mostly from the Pecan Fund Raiser membership dues and meal charges.
- Expenses for the month were \$4,029.09, most of which was paying for the pecans for the fund raiser. Other large expenses were for members' meals and OI dues.
- Expenditures for Youth Activities and Community Service were \$1,721.06, which came mostly from the Band Instrument program plus a little over \$200 for JOI club installations.
- The Club's bank balance at the end of October was \$11,486.50. When all meals are paid for and pecan sale money paid, the Club has a potential cash position of \$14,938.06.

Al also reported that the Club did not receive the \$150 due from Jeff Klimek in October. This made 3 months in a row that Mr. Klimek was delinquent in his payment. The matter has been turned over to our attorney who has brought results when this happened earlier.

## Committee Reports



**Pecan Sale** Chairman Alfred Adams reported that all the pecans except one batch of 10 have been picked up, but 7 members have not yet paid for their allotment (money was due today!). Even with the delinquent payments, the fund raiser is \$300 to the good with the money received so far. Member Byrom Goodwin, in addition to selling his allotment of 10 bags also sent a check for \$100 in memory of deceased members Joe Pullen and Zack Thompson.



President Eureka reported that **Chapman Middle School** has asked our Club to come to the school on Friday, Nov. 17 at 9:00 a. m. to present the JOI Clubs to the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at a "simultaneous symposium" at the school. President Eureka will attend with some other Club members to present the JOI Club program. We hope to get one or more JOI Clubs from Chapman from this activity.



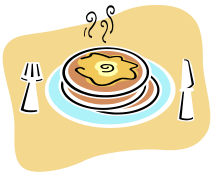
**Grace Lutheran High School's JOI Club** is sponsoring a semi-formal dance, "An Evening in Candy Land," on Friday, December 8 at the school. The dance is open to all 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in North Alabama. Admission is \$5, and proceeds from the event will go to support "Friends of Rescue," a non-profit rescuing dogs and cats.



Alberto Duarte announced that **Whitesburg Middle School** will be installing their JOI Club officers on Friday, November 17, at 4 p. m. at the school. Our Club will install the officers and supply pizza for attendees.



Tom Casteel reported that while only 4 members (plus Eureka's twin sons) turned out to be in our entry in the **Veterans' Day Parade**, the Club got valuable exposure nonetheless. Each entry got an announcement over the PA system as they passed the Veterans Memorial, and this included where to get membership information. Our entry was composed of Danielle Hartung's Jeep preceded by the new Club banner that Tom Casteel had made. See photo at the end of the newsletter.



**Pancake Breakfast** Chairman Alberto Duarte confirmed the February 3, 2018 date for the Club's annual project to support the Hawthorne Conservatory. He said Al Renz is already printing the tickets. More information to come later.



Gay Pepper, chairperson of our annual **Christmas Party**, circulated a sign-up sheet for our annual party at the Huntsville Country Club on December 7th. She is still looking for some musical entertainment. Our traditional "Dirty Santa" gift exchange and carol singing are planned. By the way, participating in Dirty Santa is optional. To participate, bring a wrapped (or bagged) gift costing around \$10. All participants will take home a similarly valued gift.

## New Business



President Eureka announced that she is planning a New Member Orientation before the end of the calendar year. As of now, we have 6 new members, and Eureka said she had two more "hot prospects." The orientation will familiarize new members with Club management, Club projects, and the Huntsville Optimist Foundation.

## Huntsville Optimist Foundation Report



**Foundation President** Alberto Duarte reported on the assets of the Foundation as of November 16, 2017. Assets managed by Regions are now valued at \$906,152. Assets managed by Synovus are valued at \$165,609. He said the Market is doing very well, despite President Trump being on a trip to Asia.

## Closing

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

*Clyde Nevins*



## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Choose wisely.”**

*~ Vala Afshar*

## CALENDAR

11/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)**

11/24 Thursday **NO MEETING**

**THANKSGIVING**



12/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.

**Board Meeting**

12/7 Thursday 6:00 pm Huntsville Country Club

**Annual Christmas Party**



12/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)**

12/28 Thursday **NO MEETING CHRISTMAS**



**Veteran's Day Parade. Right to Left: Bob Hirschbuehler, Tom Casteel, Danielle Hartung, President Eureka Battie and her twins, Michael and Malik**

## 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



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**TO:**