



Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
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January Evening Meeting

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Our first meeting of the new year was a dinner meeting at the Huntsville Country Club. Unfortunately, only 8 members attended, along with our speaker. That is an all-time low since I have been a member. Optimistically, I guess we could blame it on the weather.

Opening

After President Eureka called on Alfred Adams to ask the blessing and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, we were served an excellent meal consisting of sliced roast beef and gravy, cheese enhanced mashed potatoes, and a mixture of vegetables. This was topped off with a very tasty cheese cake.

Program

After indulging ourselves, President Eureka called on Daniel Horton to introduce our speaker, Mike Murdock. He is the founder of Huntsville Steam works. He proceeded to tell us about his organization.

“A big part of our mission at Huntsville STEAM Works centers around our Outreach efforts. We’re not just a makerspace; we’re a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting our community as much as we can. When you participate in the Huntsville STEAM Works community by becoming a member, participating in a workshop, camp, class, or event, you are directly contributing to the financial support of these efforts.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at
Huntsville Country
Club

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

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These efforts include:

- Coach support for Title I School FIRST LEGO League Teams
- STEM Education program for the **Kate Duncan Smith DAR School**, in cooperation with generous support from the **Daughters of the American Revolution**.
- Instruction at **KTECH**, in cooperation with **Kids to Love**.
- **Santa's Lab**, a seasonal program that brings customized gifts to underprivileged area youth. Items are made by volunteers in our lab.

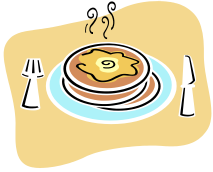
Huntsville STEAM Works is available to provide in-school programs to both public and private schools. We have experience working with several school systems in the North Alabama region to enrich high quality education with resources and expertise that schools may not have internally available. Our team of creative teachers are diverse with education and expertise in areas such as industrial design, graphic design, engineering, illustration, theater production, programming, and more. Programs we have offered in schools have included topics such as 2-D Design, 3-D design, electronics, robotics, simple machines, graphic design, computer skills, introductory programming, and more. We have offered classes on an ongoing (weekly) basis, or as single one-time enrichment workshops for students.

We are also excited to share our development on our mobile fabrication lab made possible by a generous grant from Toyota. Once complete, Huntsville STEAM Works will have unprecedented capacity to bring an immersive and engaging experience to students remotely at schools and events.

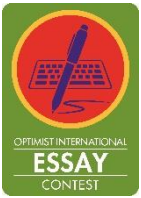
For children, learning doesn't stop when the school day ends. While sports and the performing arts promote many student learning interests, some students prefer to work with their hands, and that is where Huntsville STEAM Works comes in.

We provide a variety of after school enrichment hands-on programs in STEAM areas. Offered both on-site and off-site, we offer programs such as art, robotics, game design, programming, and more. We even have our own in-house FIRST Lego League Team for students without access to a school team.

Announcements



In the absence of Alberto, Al Renz announced that 17 members have received their 10 Pancake Breakfast tickets and 3 have turned in their \$50.00. Alberto will be contacting other members to give them their tickets.



Eureka announced that the deadline for the Essay Contest has been extended to February 16 and that Annie Sandusky will be chairing that program. Alfred Adams, Kathy Anderson and Al Renz will be the essay judges.

She additionally announced that the Kite Festival, headed by Tom Casteel, is normally scheduled the first weekend in March; the Oratorical Contest, headed by Alberto Duarte, will be on March 10, and the Tri-Star Basketball Tournament, headed by Jesse Lang, will be on March 17.



Volunteers are needed to clean and organize the Club's closet at the ORC on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 10 a. m. There's a lot of stuff that needs disposed of in the closet, including a file cabinet that is in good condition, and is available to anyone who needs it. Email Tom if you're interested.

Closing

Eureka had previously presented our speaker with one of our Optimist Coasters, and at this point she asked him to draw a name for our table prize. On the first drawing, he drew her name. With the shortage of members, I thought he may have to draw 8-10 times before he would have found someone present. To adjourn the meeting President Eureka led us in the Optimist Creed.

In Clyde's absents, I hope you find this short newsletter informative.

Al Renz

Club Reporter

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“May the new year bring you an abundance of amazing opportunities, beautiful moments, and joyful experiences. May your positive actions and attitude inspire others. May you be brave enough to take on and overcome rewarding challenges. May you find yourself in high spirits and excellent health. May you love with all your heart and find peace in even the most turbulent of times. May the love you give always find its way back to you multiplied. And may you forever be filled with the hope and strength necessary to make your dreams a reality.”

~Zero Peon

CALENDAR

- JAN 9 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- JAN 13 Saturday 10:00 am Optimist Recreation Center
Closet Organization
- JAN 18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Richie Myers)
- JAN 25 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Richie Myers- TBD
- FEB 4 Saturday 7.30 am to 11:30 pm **Cooper House**
Pancake Breakfast
- MAR 3 Saturday 10.00 am to 2 pm **John Hunt Park**
Tentative Date for Kite Festival
- MAR 10 Saturday 9.00 am **Cooper House**
Oratorical Contest
- MAR 17 Saturday 9.00 am to 11:00 am **Optimist Recreation Center**
TRI – Star Basketball



Huntsville Optimist Club
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TO:

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 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, and stay, happy for the presence of trouble, for

Optimist International