



Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 72, Number 8 – JAN 18, 2018

January Business Meeting

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A fine turnout of Optimists assembled on a cold day at the Optimist Recreation Center for our regularly scheduled business meeting for the month. Richie Myers was our caterer today, and Richie served us a crock pot of home-made meatballs along with buns to make our sandwiches. We also enjoyed salads, dips, and some tasty M & M cookies to go along with our iced tea. Vegan meals were also supplied by Richie.

Opening

President Eureka Battie welcomed everyone to the Club's first business meeting of 2018. She asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Alberto Duarte reported that his son and a member of our Club (albeit from afar), **Fabiani Duarte**, had been promoted to Captain. Fabiani is in the Air Force JAG Corps stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, NM. Alberto said he is very busy and very satisfied with his career.

President **Eureka Battie** received her Level I and Level II Personal Growth and Improvement Awards from PGI Chairman Al Renz. Note: Contact Al for your PGI "Passport" which gives the requirements for participation in this program.

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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Announcements

Pancake Breakfast Chairman Alberto Duarte Reminded everyone that the Club's Pancake breakfast is coming very soon: Saturday, February 3 at the Cooper House. All Club members have an allotment of 10 tickets to sell at \$5 each. Alberto said, "No returns, only \$50 accepted." By the way, you can make out your check to the Hawthorne Conservatory for unsold tickets and get a tax deduction. He urged everyone to come and help cook, serve, or just socialize with our patrons. Be there at 7:30 a. m.



Note: Tom Casteel has two or three aprons (pancake colored) for anyone needing protection while helping with the breakfast. Call Tom if you want one.



Alfred Adams announced that he and Tom Casteel will attend the next Alabama/Mississippi **District Meeting** will be in Hattiesburg, MS, on January 19-21. He and Tom had planned to charter a new Optimist Club in Biloxi, MS, as part of the trip, but the organizer they were working had to back out due to illness.



President Eureka announced that the Club's **closet at the ORC** was cleaned and organized. She, Jesse Lang, Tom Casteel and Gay Pepper did the work. The metal file cabinet that was in the closet is given to one of the Optimist Center's employees.



President Eureka announced that there will be a **new member orientation coming soon**. It will be a one-hour session to introduce our new members to the operation and projects of our Club. The current thinking is to hold the orientation on a Saturday morning at the ORC, but it has yet to be scheduled with the facility

Treasurer's Report



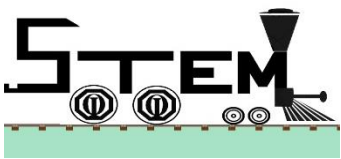
Treasurer Al Renz distributed his financial report for the quarter ending December 31, 2017. Highlights from his report were:

The revenue for the quarter was \$4,763.51 of which \$1,405.00 was from dues and \$1,548.90 from the pecan sale. There was also \$1,195.00 received for meal reimbursement.

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- Expenses for the quarter were \$4,151.61, of which meal payments totaling \$2,400 was the largest item, resulting in a net gain of \$611.90.
- Expenditures for the Band Instrument Program for the quarter were \$5,273.62, which included the repair and refurbishment of 6 donated instruments.
- Good news: The Club received a check for \$600 from Jeff Klimek yesterday. This brings him up to date on his court-mandated payments to the Club. Al said our lawyer did the necessary prodding at no cost.

The Club's bank balance at the end of the month was \$11,431.91. With outstanding receivables, the Club has a Potential Cash Position of \$14,832.55.

Committee Reports



Vastell Williams reported for **STEM Grant Committee** Chairman Tom Rumph. He said that the deadline for grant request applications was January 19, 2018 (tomorrow). Once all the applications are in, Chairman Tom Rumph will schedule the presentations at the applying schools. Vastell said that all Club members will be invited to attend the presentations and help evaluate the grant's merits. You will be notified of the presentation schedule by e-mail.

Huntsville Optimist Foundation Report



Foundation President Alberto Duarte reported that the Foundation is "doing very well." The current balance at Regions is \$953,734.93, and is \$132,835.94 at Synovus. Alberto said this is an all-time high. The Foundation Board met with Regions following today's meeting.

New Business



President Eureka brought a motion to the floor from the Club's Board of Directors. At their last meeting, the Board decided to **reduce the number of Club meetings per month to two** (from the present three). The motion was:

Motion: It is moved that the Club have two meetings per month; an evening meeting on the 2nd Thursday at the Huntsville Country Club, and a Business meeting at lunch time on the 4th Thursday of the month at the ORC. (No second required).

There was some discussion on whether the 4th Thursday meeting was to be designated a business meeting, and it was the pleasure of the Club that it be so designated.

After this discussion, the motion passed on voice vote without dissent. The change will take effect in February.



Tom Casteel distributed proposed changes to the Club's **Policy and Procedure Manual**. These changes include revising the meeting schedule (as specified above) and correcting the Club's calendar to match the current project schedule and other events.

Motion: Tom moved that the proposed changes to the manual be approved. Alberto Duarte seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed by voice vote with no dissent.

Closing

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.”

~Dr. Martin Luther King

CALENDAR

- JAN 25 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Richie Myers- TBD
- FEB 3 Saturday 7.30 am to 11:30 pm **Cooper House**
Pancake Breakfast
- FEB 6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- FEB 8 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club
Matt Clarke- TBD
- FEB 22 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Matt Clarke)
- MAR 3 Saturday 10.00 am to 2 pm **John Hunt Park**
Kite Festival
- MAR 6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- MAR 8 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club
Tom Casteel- TBD
- 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
- MAR 22 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)



Huntsville Optimist Club
710 Versailles Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803-1728

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