



Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 72, Number 11 - FEB 22, 2018

February Business Meeting

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I kept losing count on the number of attendees, but I'm pretty sure that we ended up with 19 members and 3 guests. We had some late arrivers due to heavy rains near the Optimist Recreation Center today.

Matt Clarke was our caterer today, and he went to a lot of extra effort to bring us a fine meal. He fixed individual Styrofoam cartons, with varieties vegetables and three meats, plus some vegan meals, by going through the buffet line twenty-some times at Posey's Restaurant in Hazel Green. He also provided salads and cobbler plus iced tea. Thanks, Matt, the food was delicious.

Opening

President Eureka Battie welcomed everyone to the Club's February business meeting. She asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked for guest introductions:

Jeanette Jones, guest of Keaires, Roberson. Ms. Jones is a care giver and is starting a non-profit organization called 15 Plus.

Edwin Juleus, guest of Alfred Adams. Mr. Juleus is a retired U.S. Army officer who spent many years' duty in Morocco. He now volunteers at Madison Academy, doing whatever they ask him, he said.

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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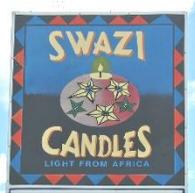
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John Tate, guest of Eureka Battie. Mr. Tate has 24 years' experience in the mortgage business and is looking for a service club to join.

Optimist Family News



Alfred Adams was presented his Level IX Personal Growth and Involvement program by PGI Chairman Al Renz. Al remarked that Alfred had achieved his Level IX in 6 years, while it had taken him almost 10 years to reach that level. He is now on a short list of 3 Club members who have achieved that level



Tom Rumph presented **President Eureka Battie** with a Swazi Candle that he had purchased while on a recent trip to Swaziland. These are beautiful, hand-made candles, and are greatly prized.

Announcements



Pancake Breakfast Chairman asks that all Club members get their \$50 from ticket sales (whether you sold any or not) to Al Renz by the next Club meeting. He has sent e-mail reminders to a list provided by Treasurer Al Renz.



Our Club will again participate in the City's annual **Kite Festival** on **March 3** from 11 a.m. to 3 p. m. at the Jaycee building in John Hunt Park. Tom Casteel needs some help to man our booth at the festival and give out our Optimist balsa wood gliders and do some recruiting in the process. Come for an hour or two.



The **Oratorical Contest** is coming soon: It will be held at the Cooper House on **March 10**, beginning at 9:00 a. m. You will note that this

is the same day as the beginning of the JOI Club Convention, but there should not be conflicts with the great majority of our membership. Please plan to attend and interact with the contestants and their parents. We've recruited new members from this project in the past.

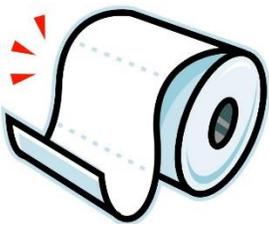


attendees

The Alabama-Mississippi District's 10th annual **JOI Club Convention** will be held in Huntsville this year (for the first time). It will be at the Sheraton Hotel at the Jetport on **March 10 & 11**. Our Club will pay registration and room charges for any local JOI Club members who attend. We are also tasked to **provide door prizes** for



Tri-Star Basketball Chairman Jesse Lang reminded Club members of the Tri-Star basketball competition to be held **March 17** at the Optimist Recreation Center. He needs several Optimists, both male and female, to help score the events. Flyers for the event are available to promote the contest to boys and girls from age 8 through age 13. The contest will begin at 9:30 a. m. Jesse reported that the contest has been advertised in *Speakin' Out News*, a local newspaper catering to the African-American community.



President Eureka Battie announced that she has started **Project Roll Goal** to support the Hazel Green HS JOI Club's project (see Committee Reports). She's challenging Club members to bring at least **30 packages of toilet paper** by next month's business meeting.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz distributed his financial report for the four-month period ending January 31, 2018.

Highlights from his report were:

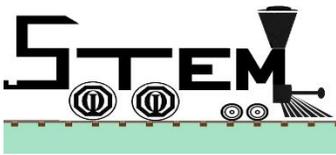
- The revenue for the month consisted mostly of \$1,500 collected for meals, and a check for \$600 received from Jeff Klimek for 4 months' debt payments.
- Expenses for the month were mostly dues to the District and to International (\$700), and \$500 for meal expenses.

- Expenditures for the Band Instrument Program for the four-month period were \$6,800.92.
- The Club's bank balance at the end of the month was \$12,982.06. With outstanding receivables, the Club has a Potential Cash Position of \$15530.36.
- There is still \$875 outstanding from Club members in payment for October-December dues.

Committee Reports



Becky Harris reported she had attended a **JOI Club** meeting at **Hazel Green High School**. Unfortunately, the meeting was scheduled the same day as a basketball game by Hazel Green's highly ranked team so only 6 members attended. Those who did displayed a lot of interest in our youth projects and were disappointed to have missed entering the Club's Essay Contest. She thanked them for helping with our Pancake Breakfast and promised to promote their upcoming toilet paper drive within our Club (see announcements).



Chairman Tom Rumph reported on the results from the **STEM Grant Committee**. The committee had sent out 23 letters announcing the STEM grants and asking for applications by mid-January. Only 4 applications were submitted. As a result, the committee awarded only \$7,000 of the budgeted \$10,000 for the project. Awardees were:

- \$2,500 to Whitesburg School for Greenpower racing
- \$2,000 to Monrovia Middle School for Greenpower racing
- \$2,000 to Madison County Elementary School for iPad STEM applications
- \$1,500 to Meridianville Middle School for Greenpower racing

Huntsville Optimist Foundation Report



Foundation President Alberto Duarte reported that the Foundation's investments got off to "a very rocky start" for the year, but have now rebounded to where the effects are not so bad. The Foundations account at Regions is now worth \$930,610, and the account at Synovus \$168,585. He noted the total is still above \$1 million.

He also reported that Bob Martin has resigned from the Foundation's Board of Directors, and that the Board will be filling his position in accordance with the Foundation's bylaws.

Closing

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

When I despair...I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. Think of it ... always.

~Mahatma Gandhi



CALENDAR

- 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
Fire Forensics – Huntsville Fire Department
- MAR 10 Saturday 9.00 am **Cooper House**
Oratorical Contest
- MAR 10 Saturday 10.00 am **Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport**
District Junior Optimist (JOI) Convention
- 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)
- APR 2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- APR 12 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club
Charlene Higgins - TBD
- APR 26 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Charlene Higgins)

Website: hsvoptimists.org



Huntsville Optimist Club
P.O. Box 2230
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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, no matter what the presence of trouble for

Optimist International