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# Opti - Topics

**Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville  
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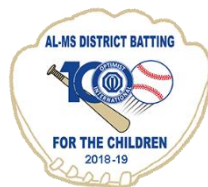
## **August Evening Meeting**

Eighteen Optimists and two guests assembled at the Blue Plate Cafe for our August Evening meeting. President Eureka Thompson was getting her daughter settled at her college in Mobile, so 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Joseph Lee called our meeting to order. Richie Myers gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Opening**

Our guests were Jesse Lang's wife, Pat and our speaker Curtis Vincent.

## **Announcements**



Joseph announced that our District meeting will be held at the Best Western Plus Madison-Huntsville Hotel, located at 9035 Madison Blvd this coming weekend.

Training will be on Saturday, August 17, and the District Board Meeting+ will be on Sunday at 9:30. Our club is responsible for staffing the hospitality room Friday evening after the family dinner until 10 pm. Let's support our president and join in the fellowship and training at the District Convention.

We have an opening on the **Huntsville Optimist Foundation**. The only requirement is that you are a member in good standing and have been a member of the Club for three years. Please let Eureka know if you are interested.

**Club meets  
2nd Thursday  
At 6:00 p.m. at  
Blue Plate Cafe**

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

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**Band Program**



Tom Casteel reported that with Al Adams moving to South Alabama, we need someone to take over two schools: Huntsville Jr. High and Chapman School. Please let Tom Casteel know if you are interested in helping. You do not need to be a musician to perform the duties for this program.

**Speaker**

Matt Clark introduced our speaker for the evening, Curtis Vincent, Region Engineer, Alabama Department of Transportation, North Region.

The Department is organized into five geographic regions: North, East Central, West Central, Southeastern, and Southwestern, with a Central Office located in Montgomery, AL.

The Central Office is organized into the Office of the Transportation Director and the Office of the Chief Engineer. The five Region Engineers report to the director and Deputy Director, Operations.

The Department's mission is to provide a safe, efficient, transportation system for all users, especially the taxpayers of Alabama and to facilitate economic and social development and prosperity through the efficient movement of people and goods.

Curtis said that the Department manages 1.2 billion dollars for roads. Costs are increasing every year. It costs \$1,250,000 a mile to resurface a two-lane road. When a project begins, right-of-way must be purchased, utilities moved, a lot of engineering work must be performed, then bids requested.

One current local project is on Memorial Parkway, Sparkman Drive to north of Winchester Road.

## Closing

Joseph had Curtis draw our 50-50 name. Gay Pepper was the winner. Joseph then led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Tom Casteel*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty. Act with integrity. The greatest problem with communication is we don’t listen to understand. We listen to reply. When we listen with curiosity, we don’t listen with the intent to reply. We listen for what’s behind the words.”**

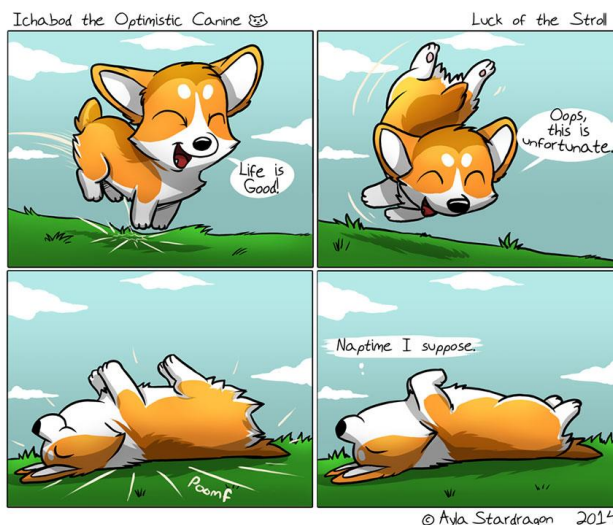
*~ Roy T. Bennett*

## CALENDAR

September 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday **4:00 pm** Synovus Bank – 4650 Whitesburg DR  
**Board Meeting**

September 12<sup>th</sup> Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting (Food – Vikki Moore)**

September 26<sup>th</sup> Thursday **6:00 pm** **Drury Inn & Suites Huntsville  
at the Space & Rocket Center  
93 Wynn Dr NW, Huntsville, AL 35805**  
**Officer Installation Banquet**





**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
P.O. Box 2230  
Huntsville, AL 35801-2230



**TO:**

### **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