



# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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President Jim Pepper opened the meeting promptly at 11:45 p.m. by asking Clyde Nevins to lead the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Eighteen Optimists were present. The delicious food for the meeting, barbeque chicken (or pork) with all the trimmings, was arranged for by Fabiani Duarte.

Jim asked Treasurer Al Renz to cover the highlights of the **treasurer's report** which had been distributed to all attendees. Al reported that report covered the last quarter of 2011. Included in the income for this period were a \$115.90 refund for the Club's credit card and \$80 for two Friends of Optimist registrations. The funds receivable from the Optimist Foundation for Youth Activities and Community Service stands at \$6,333.89, of which \$2,597.26 is due from the Club's 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Fabiani Duarte reported on the **JOOI Clubs**. The meeting held with the Middle School principals is bearing fruit. He reported that he had met with Chapman MS last week and will meet with them again tomorrow to help get its club started. Morris Elementary School, our first JOOI club in an elementary school, is also ready to start a club and they hope to launch on Feb. 6. Our Whitesburg JOOI Club is organizing a talent show. Fabiani stated that Points of Contact (POC) are still needed for some schools. A tabulation of where we stand on JOOI clubs is attached at the end of the newsletter.

Fabiani stated he will put together a check list for Points of Contact to guide them in their duties. If any Optimist is willing to take one of the unassigned schools, or to partner with the schools that have only one Optimist POC, please notify him.

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Jack Fauble reported on the **essay contest**. He reported that “seeds have been sown” (Jack is a farmer) on getting entrants. He has contacted all the previous entrants who are still eligible. He will follow up again soon. Essays are due February 6, leaving 2 ½ weeks for judging. Jack has four committed judges, George McDonough, Sidney Sandridge, Al Renz and Jim Roe. He is hoping for a good many more than the 18 essays received last year.

There was some discussion about honoring the essay contest winners at the Youth Appreciation Banquet. Since the YAB awardees are middle school students, and the essay contests are high school students, it was thought this might not be a good combination. Also, the combination of awards would water down the recognition for the outstanding middle school students who will get awards.

Alberto Duarte reported on the **oratorical contest**. He announced that the Cooper House has been approved for use for the contest. The contest will be held at 9:00 a. m. on March 10. Alberto asked for all points of contact in our JOOI clubs to contact the school sponsors to promote the contest. Remind them that there are very nice local prizes (\$200 for first, \$100 for second, \$50 for third) and the opportunity to compete for a \$2,500 scholarship. If POCs cannot contact the sponsors, please let Alberto know and he will do it. Alberto still needs judges for the contest. The Communications Departments at UAH and Alabama A&M and the Toastmasters clubs were suggested.

Al Renz reported that he had ordered the **medallions** for both the essay and oratorical contests. He reported that OI has a new supply operation for ordering supplies, but unfortunately JOOI club supplies are not stocked as yet.

Alberto asked the attendees to give a hand of **appreciation to Carl Winkler** for his long service as bulletin editor.

**Fund raising** was on the agenda for discussion. Al Renz reported that no one had shown any enthusiasm for any of the three possible fund raising activities he had found. As a result he recommended that none of them be considered.

Bill Clarke gave the **Foundation report**. He stated that the current foundation balance was \$723,915. There has been action on getting our 501(c)3 status reinstated. The

Foundation's accountant has heard from the IRS giving the Foundation two options: (1) Automatic reinstatement as of the date of our recent application, or (2) Reinstatement retroactive to the loss of our 501(c)3 standing (sometime in 2006). Bill stated that option (2) would likely take 2 to 6 months of pleading our case, while option (1) would leave the Foundation open to paying back taxes. The Foundation Board has voted unanimously for Option (1). At this time, our accountant is awaiting a form from the IRS which he understands when received must be signed and returned within 5 days. The Foundation Board will meet with Regions next week to review the Foundation's account.

The meeting was closed at 1:10 p.m. with the reciting of the Optimist Creed.



### **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**“We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends. “**

*~ Mary McLeod Bethune*

### **CALENDAR**

1/26	Thursday 11:45 am	Downtown Holiday Inn <b>TBA - Fabiani Duarte</b>
1/26	Thursday 2:00 pm	Regions Bank <b>Foundation Board Meeting</b>
2/2	Thursday 11:45 am	Downtown Holiday Inn <b>TBA - Byrom Goodwin</b>
2/7	Tuesday 4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank <b>Board Meeting</b>

## JOOI Club Status

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>POINTS OF CONTACT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Randolph High School	Alberto Duarte & Clyde Nevins	Going strong
Grace Lutheran MS	Alberto Duarte & Jim Roe	Going strong
Whitesburg Middle School	Gay Pepper & Connie Gipson	Going strong
Hazel Green Middle School	Jim Pepper & Jim Berry	Going strong
Sparkman High School	Bob Martin & Jack Fauble	?
Madison Academy Elementary	Al Renz & Gay Pepper	To start soon
Madison Academy MS	None assigned	Newly organized
Madison Academy HS	None assigned	Newly organized
Morris Elementary	Jessie Lang	To start soon
Mountain Gap Middle School	Tom Casteel	
Chapman MS	Alford Adams	To start soon
Challenger MS	Tom Casteel	To start soon
Hampton Cove MS	Unassigned	Awaiting Club Action
Williams MS	Unassigned	
Davis Hills MS	Unassigned	
Westlawn MS	Unassigned	