



# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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Fifteen Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for the July business meeting.

### Opening

President Tom Casteel announced a new opening sequence to provide a smoother transition and to give more prominence to our recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance after the opening prayer. From now on, he will ask one member to give the opening prayer and another member to lead in the recitation of the Pledge. That being said, Clyde Nevins opened the meeting with prayer, and Alberto Duarte led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We then enjoyed a delicious meal of barbecued chicken and pork with all the fixings including either chocolate or lemon pie. This excellent meal was provided by Alberto Duarte.

### Announcements

Tom reported that Al Renz and Milt Williams would miss today's meeting to attend the funeral of Milt's father-in-law.

Sidney Sandridge is now at home, and he is mobile. He had an in-home medical appointment that prevented him from attending today's meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Al Renz, Tom presented the Financial Report for the period October 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Two questions arose on the report:

1. John Shirey asked how the expenditures compared with the budget amounts. Tom answered in a general way, saying the only expenditure item he knew of that was close to budget would be that for Youth Activities.

## **DIRECTORS**

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2. Zack Thompson asked how much money was still to be repaid to the Foundation. The answer to this question was in the report, \$2,995.00

## **New Business**

Tom reported on a very productive meeting, lasting nearly 2 hours, with Huntsville's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Casey Wardynski, and newly hired Director of Operations, Dr. Jeffery Wilson. Attending for the Optimist Club of Huntsville were Al Renz, Milt Williams, and Tom Casteel. Also attending the meeting were representatives of Still Serving Veterans, including Fabiani Duarte. The meeting was called to discuss the benefits and participation of these two organizations working in our City schools.

The meeting resulted in two primary conclusions: (1) A more structured curriculum is needed for defining the community service projects to be done by JOOI Clubs. One good possibility is to choose from monthly projects outlined by GenerationOn (see their web site: [www.http://learningtogive.org/](http://learningtogive.org/)), and (2) There is a need for the city to provide a stipend for teachers who take on the added responsibility of being a JOOI Club Sponsor. The suggested stipend was \$2,500 per year, and Dr. Wardynski asked his Director of Operations to see if his budget could accommodate this expenditure.

## **Committee Reports**

Tom reported on the Band Committee. All of our 125 instruments have now been through the cleaning and necessary repairs at an expense of about \$7,000. Tom has been negotiating with Robbins Music on how we can reduce this large expenditure, and a tentative agreement has been reached. For a flat fee of \$4 per month per instrument, Robbins will clean and repair (as many times as are needed) all of the Club's musical instruments throughout the year. This is well below the cost they normally charge, \$6.40 per month per instrument, since Mr. Robbins likes what we are doing. This new agreement would start in October.

No other committee reports were forthcoming. New criteria on the Essay and Oratorical Contests should be available at the District Meeting in August.

Tom announced he will begin contacting members for next year's committee assignments soon.

### **Schedule Reminders**

Duane Plank urged a good turnout next week to hear Dr. Copeland's talk on the status of Madison County Schools.

The District Meeting is August 9-12 at Tuskegee. Motel information for the meeting is on the AL-MS-La website. If you plan to attend, let Tom know. He is leaving early to teach some training seminars.

Fabiani Duarte is Program Chairman for August. Dr. Wardynski and Dr. Wilson are tentatively scheduled for one of the August meetings.

There will be no meeting on August 30, the fifth Thursday in August.

### **Closing**

Carl Winkler led the recitation of the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

**Don't Forget: WE NEED MORE MEMBERS! Invite someone to our July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Clyde Nevins*

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

**If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a child's life.**

*~Tom Casteel*

## CALENDAR

7/26 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**Dr. David Copeland**

**Superintendent of Madison County Schools**

8/2 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD - Fabiani Duarte**

8/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

8/9 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD - Fabiani Duarte**

8/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Fabiani Duarte)**

8/23 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD - Fabiani Duarte**

8/30 **5TH THURSDAY - NO MEETING**

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise 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



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**TO:**