



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

PRESIDENT

Tom Casteel
256-882-9380
tom@leetsac.net

VICE PRESIDENTS

George McDonough
256-534-2591
gfmcdonough@yahoo.com

Fabiani Duarte
256-468-9848
fabiani.a.duarte@gmail.com

SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz
256-772-7929
optimist3480@aol.com

Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

**Downtown Holiday Inn
Huntsville, AL**

Opti - Topics

Twenty-five Optimists and 2 guests (plus our speaker) attended the regular meeting of the Optimist Club of Huntsville today. Attendance has been excellent the past few weeks - keep it up! It was good to see Milt Williams back from his snow-bird trip to Florida (including a Disneyworld cruise with his grandchildren), and Jim Roe, back from some Austin-Peay alumni work in Tennessee for the past few weeks. Jim Berry reported that Al Adams was due to be released from Huntsville Hospital today after successfully undergoing double by-pass surgery, let's keep him in our prayers during his recovery.

Our returning guest was likely new member, Guy Kubic, and first-time guest Jim Vandever (guest of Alberto).

Opening

President Tom Casteel asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation, and John Inman to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim took the opportunity, on this last day of Black History Month, to thank the Club for their welcoming of Al Adams and Jesse Lang (members he has sponsored) into our Club.

Announcements

Tom asked the JOOI Club Points of Contact to meet with him after the meeting closed to discuss plans for the upcoming JOOI Club District Convention on March 9.

**Our business meeting
is held on the 3rd
Thursday of the
month at the Optimist
Recreation Center on
Oakwood Avenue**

DIRECTORS

Connie Gipson
256-534-1384
cfgipson@yahoo.com

Matt Hancock
256-990-0077
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

Jim Roe
256-883-8950
j_m_roe@yahoo.com

Alfred G. Adams
502-541-6469
alfredg.adams@gmail.com

Byrom Goodwin
256-881-3113

Bob Martin
bmartin12@bellsouth.net
256-722-8062



Alberto Duarte also asked the JOOI Club Points of Contact to be sure their JOOI Club sponsors at the schools inform their contestants in our Oratorical Contest to be at the Cooper House at 8:00 a. m. on March 9th.



Youth Appreciation Week Chairman, Bob Martin, announced that the Club's Youth Appreciation Banquet has been scheduled for April 4. An application form for prospective honorees is attached.



Fabiani Duarte gave a reasonably brief report on the JOOI Clubs. Our twelfth JOOI Club has been founded and officers installed at Columbia High School. There was a meeting this week with Lee High School representatives to discuss founding a JOOI Club there. The Lee High JOOI Club may possible include a sports broadcasting initiative, subject to private investment needed to furnish a broadcast studio. Fabiani has also heard from Madison Academy that 41 students have signed up as charter members of a JOOI Club there, and a tentative launch date of March 27 has been set.

Another upcoming JOOI Club event is the "Healthy Living Day" on March 15 hosted by Columbia High School. Among the activities will be a yoga instructor and a cooking demonstration.

Optimist International has requested an article from our Club documenting how our outstanding success in forming new JOOI Clubs came about. John Inman will write and submit the article.



Chairman Al Renz announced the winners of the recently concluded Essay Contest.

The winners were:

First Place: Jennifer Walker, age 16,
Westminster Christian Academy

Second Place: Ashwin Shulka, age 16,
Randolph High School

Third Place: Ellis Vest, age 15,
Randolph High School

Program



Milt Williams introduced our speaker for today's meeting, Ms. Lee Marshall. Ms. Marshall is the founder of Kids to Love Foundation, a non-profit agency established to meet the needs of foster children in Alabama and parts of Tennessee.

Ms. Marshall is a former foster child in Tennessee. She was blessed to have been placed with a "Forever Family" at an early age, and she wants other foster children to experience similar love, stability and a sense of belonging.

Her crusade to care for these children began in 2004 on a local TV channel, WHNT. Her "Kids to Love" reports have introduced children waiting to be adopted. To date, 225 kids have been profiled and 195 of these have found their "forever families." Kids to Love profiles are shown on WHNT, channel 19, during the 5 p.m. newscast on Mondays.

The mission of the Kids to Love Foundation is to meet the needs of foster children while they wait for permanent homes. Since 2004, the Kids to Love Foundation has directly impacted the lives of more than 75,000 foster children.

One of the most important projects of Kids to Love is to provide school supplies for foster children. This project began in the garage of Ms. Marshall's home in 2005, and has now grown to where it requires large warehouse space and trucks (both of which are fully donated) to distribute these supplies. Last year over one million dollars in in-kind of support was received.



Another important project was starting the web site “See Meth Stop Meth.” The web site takes tips on where meth labs are known or suspected to be operating. This project was begun because of the frequency of foster children coming from homes containing meth labs. To date, over 3,000 tips have been received from 37 states and Australia. Ms. Marshall said she had resisted offers of law enforcement take-over of this site because she wants to keep the focus on removing children from meth lab environments.

Another project provides Christmas gifts to over 1,000 kids each year. Kids to Love publishes a Christmas “Wish List” every year, and volunteers sign up to fill the needs. Also, 300 college scholarships have been sponsored by the organization

A short questions-and-answer session followed Ms. Marshall’s talk. She described the screening process for foster parents, the limited ways that young people can volunteer, and the amount of money foster parents receive for each child taken into their home (\$12 per day). The organization’s web site is: www.kidstolove.org.

Closing

Dr. Sidney Sandridge won the attendance prize on the first drawing. Dr. Carl Winkler led in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Photos



Lee Marshall



**Fabiani Discusses JOOI Clubs
with Milt and Lee Marshall**

Optimistic Quote of the Week

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

~Nelson Henderson

CALENDAR

3/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

3/7 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Mary Flynn – Hawthorne Conservatory

3/9 Saturday 9:00 am Cooper House

Club Oratorical Contest

3/9 – 3/10 Saturday-Sunday Meridian, Mississippi

JOOI District Convention

3/14 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Gay Pepper

3/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)

3/28 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Gay Pepper

OPTIMISTS-
BRINGING
OUT THE BEST
IN KIDS



Attention Student Advisors

TOPIC: " Youth Awards Banquet" Given by the Huntsville Optimist Club sponsored by Optimist International

PARTICIPANTS: Students who excelled in any of the following categories: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Community Service, or Leadership. Leadership may include President or Vice President of the JOOI. Students must be under the age of 19 who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent and who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean.

Banquet: The Banquet will be provided by the Huntsville Optimist Club on April 4, 2013. Advisors may send the Nomination Form (Attached) with name of the nominee to Bob Martin Optimist, 274 Vine Cliff Dr. Harvest AL, 35749 or ph 256 722 8062 or emailed to bmartin12@bellsouth.net. Forms are due March 15, 2013. Be sure to include a paragraph explaining why the nominee should be honored. Advisors and Parents should come to the Banquet and accompany the honoree.

Youth Appreciation is one of the most popular programs sponsored by Optimist International with more than 2000 clubs participating each year.



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL



OPTIMIST CLUB OF HUNTSVILLE

YOUTH APPRECIATION NOMINATION FORM

Return To: Huntsville Optimist Club

c/o Bob Martin at bmartin12@bellsouth.net or 256 722 8062

274 Vine Cliff Dr.

Harvest, AL 35749

Nominations Due March 15, 2013

Nominee Name and age _____ grade _____

Nominating School or Organization and address _____

Advisor's Name _____

Advisor's email and phone _____

Will sponsor and nominee be able to attend the Huntsville Optimist's Youth Appreciation Banquet on April 4, 2013?

Enclose a brief explanation of the need to honor this person. Examples are (his/her) optimism or leadership abilities, community service accomplishments or academic achievements.

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 of 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 too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International



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



TO: