



PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENTS

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SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz
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Club meets
1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 am
Downtown Holiday Inn
Huntsville, AL

Opti - Topics

Opening

The regularly scheduled business meeting of the Optimist Club of Huntsville was held at the Optimist Recreation Center today. Twenty-two Optimists were present. Alberto Duarte was our chef today, providing a tasty selection of barbeques sides, and desserts from Little Paul's Barbeque.

President Tom Casteel asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation and Peggy Otto to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business



Tom passed around a sign-up sheet for the upcoming **Respect for Law Banquet**. The banquet will be held at the Mayfair Church of Christ on May 6th at 6:30 p.m. Duane Plank will introduce our honoree, Deputy Roland Campos of the Madison County Sheriff's Department. Tom needs your RSVP by April 29th so he can provide the Zone with the number of attendees from our Club.

Tom announced that, sadly, Mary Flynn's mother died yesterday. Her funeral will be next Tuesday, 2 p. m. at the Ascension Lutheran Church on Oakwood Drive. Tom asked Club members to keep Mary and her family in your prayers.

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

DIRECTORS

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Treasurer's Report:

Club Treasurer Al Renz presented his report to the Club. Highlights of the report were:

- For the first 6 months (October through March) of this fiscal year, our revenues were \$7,146.00 compared with the 6-month budget of \$8,470. Having 4 new members will improve this deficit.
- The clubs expenses for the same 6-month period were \$7,471.31 compared to the budgeted amount of \$7,700.
- The Youth Activities and Community Service Expenditures to March 30 totaled \$14,112.60. This compares to the annual budget amount of \$20,350.00. Al said this is in keeping with having most of our Youth Activities expenditures in the first half of the year. The Foundation has reimbursed the Club for these expenditures at the time of his report.
- The one item in Youth Activities that was over budget was the JOOI Club line item. This was due to the member registrations and charter fees for the several JOOI clubs not being included in the budget.
- At the end of March, the Club had a potential cash position of \$2,989.68

In response to a question, Al said that the earliest we could expect any payments from Jeff Klimek would be around the end of the year. Jeff has another 1 and ½ months to sell his house, and then reports to prison for 5 months. After that, payments will depend on Jeff getting a job.

The Club gave a round of applause to Al for his excellent service as Treasurer.

Oratorical and Essay Contests

President Tom reported that he will bring to the Board of Directors a proposal to name the chairman for these contests in July rather than October after installation of new Club officers. Tom said the topics are available in early July, and having the chairman contact schools right after their opening would give more time to promote these important projects.

A general discussion ensued, the gist of which was that promoting the contests with our JOOI Clubs could be the most productive approach to getting more participation.

JOOI Clubs



President Tom asked Fabiani to give a 2.6 minute report on JOOI Clubs. Fabiani gave a status on the plans for the upcoming JOOI Club Zone Conference. As reported earlier, the conference will be held at Lee High School on May 11 from noon to 4:00 p. m. If everyone who is eligible to attend actually does so, the attendance could be 400 to 500.

The conference will consist of lunch, “icebreakers,” four Leadership Workshops and an Awards Ceremony. Help from the Club is needed for these activities. Fabiani asked for volunteers for these workshops, and Club members stepped up as follows:

- Public Speaking: Tim Vander Veer
- Member and Volunteer Recruiting: Alberto Duarte
- Building a Sustainable JOOI Club through Projects and Fundraising: Jim Otto
- What JOOI Club membership means for college: Fabiani Duarte
- Icebreakers, games and mixers: Jim Berry

Youth Appreciation Banquet



President Tom thanked Gay Pepper, Bob Martin, Tim Vander Veer, and the JOOI Club committee for making this year’s Youth Appreciation Banquet the best one he had ever seen. The attendance was 101, and there were two hot prospects for new members that came from the banquet. The Club gave a round of applause to the committee for their fine work.

Huntsville Optimist Foundation Report



Foundation President Bill Clarke reported that March was a very good month for the Foundation's investment portfolio at Regions Bank. The Foundations assets rose from \$788,829 at the beginning of March to \$802,351 at March 31. This increase was over and above the approximately \$5,000 reimbursed to the Club for Youth Activities.

Band Instrument Program



Committee Chairman Al Adams reminded the school contacts that the time is now to contact the band directors at the schools where we have instruments. It may take more time to get the plaques made this year because our source, Wholesale Trophies, now has only one store (on Washington Street). They are very experienced in making our plaques, so they just need the name of the school, the awardee's name and the awardee's instrument. Also, Al advised school contacts to get the dates for the band concert or awards ceremony when the plaques and the check for \$100 are to be presented.

4-H Judging



Al Renz announced that he, Bob Martin, George McDonough, Fabiani Duarte, Buddy Beck and Jim Roe will be again participating in the annual competitions sponsored by the Madison County 4-H Clubs. The competitions will be tomorrow, April 19, from 9 a. m. to noon.

President Tom Casteel announced that in accordance with our bylaws, this meeting will conduct elections for next year's officers. The slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee for the next fiscal year was reported in the last issue of Opti-Topics and is:

President:	George McDonough
1st Vice President:	Milton Williams
2nd Vice President:	Alfred Adams
Directors:	Byrom Goodwin
	Bob Martin
	Jim Otto

Tom reported that the nominating committee was never turned down by any of the nominees that were asked to run for office. He said he was proud of how these men stepped up to taking on these responsibilities.

Tom asked three times if there were any further nominations for any of these offices. There being none, Jim Berry moved that these nominees be elected by acclamation. Buddy Beck seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Congratulations to next year's officers!

Closing

President Tom closed the meeting by saying he felt this was the best Optimist Club in our District. Having JOOI Clubs is a big part of that, because they stimulate activity and provide an on-going source of new members. He asked all those present to continue working on recruiting new members.

Dr. Carl Winkler closed the meeting by leading those present in the recitation of the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Nevins

"I'm an optimist. I've always believed the future is going to be better than the past. And I also believe I have a role in that. The great thing about human beings, myself in particular, is that I can change. I can do better. If you can get up every day, stay optimistic, and believe the future is better than the past, those few things get you through a lot of tough times."

~ Jeffrey Immelt

PHOTOS



CALENDAR

4/25 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Nell Berry – Heroes

5/2 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Jason Simpson – Chief Meteorologist - Channel 19

5/6 Monday 6:30 pm Mayfair Church of Christ

Respect for Law Banquet

5/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

5/9 Thursday **No Meeting**

5/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)

5/23 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

Leah Amos –President Junior Achievement of North Alabama

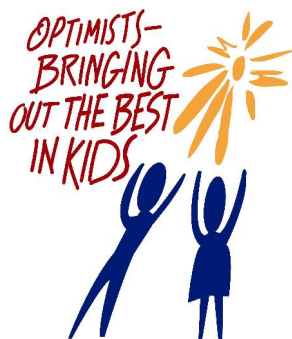
5/30 Thursday **No Meeting (5th Thursday)**

6/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

Board Meeting

6/6 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

TBD – Fabiani Duarte



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



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 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