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**Club meets**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Downtown Holiday Inn  
Huntsville, AL

Our business meeting  
is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the  
month at the Optimist  
Recreation Center on  
Oakwood Ave

# Opti - Topics

## Opening

Nineteen Optimists and one member-to-be (Andrew Driver) assembled at the Downtown Holiday Inn for our regularly scheduled meeting. We ate from the buffet, today, as the Hotel was hosting an English tour group. Past President Tom Casteel was absent, reportedly visiting his grandchildren.

President George McDonough asked Dr. Sidney Sandridge to give the invocation, and Zack Thompson to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Announcements



Remember that there will be an election of two Directors for the Optimist Foundation at the next Business Meeting (October 17). A Nomination Committee chaired by Tom Casteel has nominated Al Renz and Alberto Duarte to continue as Directors. Additional nominations will be allowed at the Business Meeting, but any such nominees must be contacted and agree to the nomination prior to the meeting.



Alberto Duarte reported that during his forced vacation from NASA he has used part of his time to check on the three JOOI Clubs for which he serves as point of contact. He announced that the Grace Lutheran School JOOI Club will have their installation ceremony tomorrow (Friday, October 11) at 12:50 p. m. This club has 14 members.

## **DIRECTORS**

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Clyde Nevins  
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He also visited the Whitesburg JOOI Club. He said the Club is off to a rousing start with 45 members under a new faculty sponsor, Mrs. Anderson. They will have their installation next week.

Alberto also reported he had run into Mida Barnett, a former member of the Arab Optimist Club. Ms. Barnett said the Arab Club was being or had already been dissolved. An Arab Club member, Ken Gibbs, has traditionally provided the BBQ buffet for the Respect for Law banquet. Some of the Arab Club members had moved to Huntsville, and Alberto suggested someone recruit them to our Club.

## **Program**

Program Chairman Tim Vander Veer introduced our speaker for today, Ms. Susanna Leberman, Archivist at the Huntsville/Madison County Library. Ms. Leberman's talk was on the Occupation of Huntsville during the Civil War. Ms. Leberman began her talk by saying she was a true daughter of Huntsville; her father worked in the Space Program, and her mother was the daughter of a cotton farmer. She read what she said was her 30-minute talk, which she illustrated profusely with pictures from the Library's archives using a video projector.

Ms. Leberman said Antebellum Huntsville was quite the place, with every home in what is now known as the Twickenham District having a ballroom. The most famous citizen of that time was U. S. Senator Clement Clay. He participated in the walk-out of the Southern Senators, including Sen. Jefferson Davis, from the U. S. Congress in January of 1861. Later, Huntsville's Leroy Pope Walker became the Secretary of War under President Jefferson Davis in the CSA. President-to-be Davis toured the South on a tour with the Memphis and Charleston RR, and was roundly cheered at his stop in Huntsville.

Ms. Leberman walked us through, year-by-year, on what was happening in Huntsville during the Civil War. The city was occupied by Union soldiers for the great majority of the war years, with as many as 35,000 Union troops stationed here. The first occupation was by a Union army that marched south from Fayetteville, TN, in April of 1862. Near the end of the War in 1865, General William Tecumseh Sherman used Huntsville as a staging area for his march through Georgia.

Ms. Leberman made extensive use of archival material in her talk, quoting extensively from journals and letters of the period. Of particular interest were the quotes from Union soldiers who wrote letters home describing the beauty of Huntsville's homes and gardens as well as Big Spring and our surrounding hills. The city was likely spared massive destruction by Union troops because of its beauty.

Ms. Leberman closed by saying she had brought some books for sale for \$5.00 each. Proceeds from the sale of the book, *Changing Huntsville—1890-1899*, by Elizabeth Humes Chapman, go to support the Huntsville Historic Foundation, Inc. Several members bought a book or two.

## **Closing**

President George asked Ms. Leberman to draw for our attendance prize. The first name drawn was Guy Kubic, the second was John Inman. Finally, and at long last, she drew the name of Clyde Nevins, who took home the money (actually, I used the money to buy two of her books). Dr. Carl Winkler led those present in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

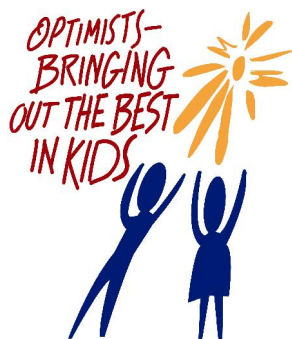
## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**“Set out each day believing in your dreams. Know without a doubt that you were made for amazing things.”**

*~Josh Hinds*

## CALENDAR

- 10/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Tim Vander Veer)**
- 10/24 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Jane Orton – Clinical Director**  
**National Children's Advocacy Center Huntsville**
- 10/31 Thursday **No Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> Thursday)**
- 11/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 11/7 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBD – Gay Pepper**
- 11/14 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBD – Gay Pepper**
- 11/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)**
- 11/28 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBD – Gay Pepper**



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



**TO:**

## **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