



**OPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL**

*Friend of Youth*

**PRESIDENT**

George McDonough  
256-534-2591

gfmcdonough@yahoo.com

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Alfred G. Adams  
502-541-6469

alfredg.adams@gmail.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

John Inman  
256-425-8022

inman\_john@hotmail.com

**SECRETARY TREASURER**

Al Renz  
256-772-7929

optimist3480@aol.com

**Club meets**

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

**At 11:45 am**

**Mullins Restaurant**

**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

The Optimist Club of Huntsville held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting at the Optimist Recreation Center today. Only sixteen Optimists attended the meeting, an unusually small number. It was a pleasant surprise to have Fabiani Duarte with us today. He is on break from his studies at Mercer Law School.

Jim Berry was our caterer today, and he provided a nice assortment of Subway subs along with potato chips, cookies and drinks.

President George McDonough asked Fabiani to give the opening prayer, and Jim Roe to lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Treasurer's Report

President George asked Treasurer Al Renz to elaborate on his monthly Treasurer's Report that was provided to all attendees. Al's report covered the 9 months ending on June 30, 2014. Al covered these highlights from the report:

- ❖ Our income from membership dues is about half of the budget amount, due to not bringing in the expected new members and for the loss of three full-dues members (Chev Kellogg, Zack Thompson and Milt Williams). We are under 40 members for the first time.
- ❖ The Club has received Jeff Klimek's 3<sup>rd</sup> monthly payment in the amount of \$150. So far, Jeff has repaid \$455.

## DIRECTORS

Don Holder  
256-881-4655  
don\_holder@comcast.net

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

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

Gay Pepper  
256-288-4321  
gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com

Jim Roe  
256-883-8950  
j\_m\_roe@yahoo.com

## PAST PRESIDENT

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

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins  
256-881-8215  
[clyde.nevins@Juno.com](mailto:clyde.nevins@Juno.com)

Mailing Address:  
Huntsville Optimist Club  
P.O. Box 2230  
Huntsville, AL 35804

- ❖ Our budgeted expenses are nearly complete for the fiscal year. More spending is forecast only for the Band Instrument Program and for our contribution to Heals, Inc.
- ❖ The Bank Balance at the end of June was \$3,173.11

## Optimist Family News

President George McDonough reported that Swapna Kikani, the young lady who spoke to our Club last year, has successfully undergone surgery to transplant a small intestine. If you remember, she was born without a small intestine, but has led a full life—including playing varsity tennis at Randolph School—fed only by liquid nutrition carried in a back pack. George reported she has enjoyed her first “food” taken by mouth—a grape popsicle.

A “Mr. Hughes” had brought to the ORC a photograph taken in 1947 of the Charter Officers of our Club. It was passed around for everyone to see, and I have scanned it and attached it for those of you who missed the meeting.

## Old Business



President George reported that Club’s Board of Directors had approved a recommendation by the **Band Instrument Committee** to cancel the contract with Robbins Music Co., and contract instead with Southeastern Musical Service for the refurbishment of our band instruments. Committee Chairman Al Adams reported that Robbins had lost their instrument repairman, resulting in substandard quality and slow service in refurbishing our instruments. Southeastern has 5 well-qualified repairmen, and had assured the committee that the instruments could be refurbished/repared before the start of school.

The new contract with Southeastern will require a payment of \$7,100 upon completion of their work on our instruments. Al Adams understood that this money had been approved by the Foundation Board in a meeting last week. Ralph Caneer reported that he was at the meeting, and that didn't happen. Al Renz, reported that this item was on the agenda for the Foundation's meeting and they did approve it. Gay Pepper wrote the minutes of the meeting, and since she was not present, the issue was not resolved. George said we have no option but to pay Southeastern if we are to continue with our Band Instrument Project.

**Motion:** Jim Berry moved that the Club pay Southeastern the \$7,100 and that this amount of money be requested from the Foundation. Alberto Duarte seconded the motion, and after a little more discussion, President George called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously. Ralph Caneer said he would be in favor of the Foundation allocating the money when it is properly requested.

President George reported that the Club's Board of Directors had also approved a **memorial for Zack Thompson**, in addition to the special meeting we held last month. The Board's proposal is to send a cash donation to Optimist International, the amount to be \$100 for each of the 46 years Zack served in Optimism. The \$4,600 would, again, be asked of the Foundation.

**Motion:** John Inman moved that the Club send \$4,600 to Optimist International in the memory of Zack Thompson, and that this amount is to be requested from the Foundation. Al Adams seconded the motion. There was a question on whether such a gift would be in accordance with the bylaws of the Foundation. Foundation Board Member John Shirey said that any 501(c)3 organization is eligible to receive money from the Foundation. John said he has the Foundation bylaws on his computer, and would be happy to send them to anyone who would like to see them.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.



President George asked for a **critique on Terranova's** as the Club's regular meeting place. He said he personally was not favorably impressed. He said it was a "nightmare" for the speaker, and his service had been poor. On the plus side, he said the food was pretty good, and the room was quiet enough.

Alberto Duarte said that Terranova's was a nice place to take your family, but not suitable as a meeting place. Clyde Nevins said he would not want to tackle the University traffic and eat Italian food three times a month. Also the room was quite dark. Richie Myers said he didn't like the food, but thought Terranova's was an improvement over Mullins.

**Motion:** Jim Berry moved that the Club continue to look for places other than Mullins or Terranova's. Duane Plank seconded the motion. Alberto volunteered to return to Trinity UMC and see if they could waive the \$150 room fee. John Inman asked what would be the date for trying out the next restaurant (Beauregard's), another of our possibilities. August 14 appears to be the best choice. John will check to see if Beauregard's to see if this is possible. President George McDonough, wielding his presidential power, tabled Jim's motion.

## New Business



Jim Berry proposed that the Club investigate starting “**Senior Optimist Clubs**” in the various assisted living facilities in Huntsville. This would give our older citizens a way to be involved in the community. They could have weekly meetings, and even sponsor a program or two for our youth. Time was running late, but there were a number of favorable comments on his proposal. Al Renz suggested we contact Optimist International to see how many members would be needed to start such a Club. A regular Club needs a minimum of 25, and a JOOI Club needs a minimum of 15. No further action was taken.



Clyde Nevins asked whether the Club plans to continue to provide **school supplies to Morris Elementary School** as we have done in past years. Fabiani said the kids there certainly need them and would appreciate them. There was no formal action taken, but President George recommended that Club members should do this.

## Closing

President George asked if Fabiani would like to speak a few words to the Club. Fabiani agreed, and said that everything was going well with him at Mercer. He loves the college. He said it was good to be back, and he misses us.

Dr. Carl Winkler led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

*~Mother Theresa*

## Calendar

- 7/24 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**TBD- Gay Pepper**
- 7/31 **NO MEETING**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Thursday**
- 8/7 **NO MEETING**  
**Replaced by Picnic on Saturday**
- 8/9 Saturday Time TBD Ford's Chapel UMC's Pavilion  
**Annual Picnic**
- 8/14 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**Dr. David Copeland – Madison County School Superintendent**
- 8/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Duane Plank)**
- 8/28 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**Blake Dorning – Madison County Sherriff**
- 9/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**



Charter Officers of the Optimist Club of Huntsville, May 7, 1947

From left to right: Tom Jones, Jr.; John Lowe; Ed Dickey; Jeff Smith; Tom Dark; Dr. Jack McCowan

(Note that all are wearing three-piece suits and that 3 of them have lit cigarettes in their hands)



## 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



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



**TO:**