



## **PRESIDENT**

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## **SECRETARY TREASURER**

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**Club meets**

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

**At 11:45 am**

**Mullins Restaurant**

**Huntsville, AL**

# Opti - Topics

## **Opening**

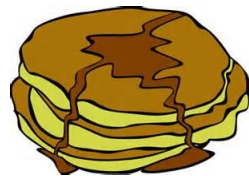
The Optimist Club of Huntsville assembled today at Mullins Restaurant for a regular Club meeting on yet another cold Thursday. We had 21 Optimist members, 3 guests, plus our two speakers in attendance today.

One of our guests was a prospective member, Miss Joyce Brown, guest of President Al Adams. We were also happy to have Elaine Plank and District Governor Tom Howell with us as guests.

President Al Adams, asked Rev. Jim Berry to open the meeting in prayer, and Al Adams led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Announcements**

**Pancake Breakfast** Committee Chairman Alberto



Duarte reminded everyone that the pancake breakfast will be held at the Cooper House **this Saturday at 7:00 a.m.** Alberto will be there at 6:30 a. m. Serving will begin at 7:30 a. m.

All Club members are expected to sell 10 tickets @ \$5.00 each for the event. Alberto will accept only \$50—no return of unsold tickets. You may make your check to either the Optimist Club of Huntsville or directly to the Hawthorne Conservatory (a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation).

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

## **DIRECTORS**

**2 YEAR**

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Clyde Nevins**

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Committee Chairperson Gay Pepper announced that the **Luncheon Meeting Search Committee** will be trying out two prospective places for moving our meeting location. **Any member is welcome to join the committee** in these tryouts. The schedule is:

- ❖ February 10, 11:30 a. m., **88 Buffet** on University Drive
- ❖ February 23, 11:30 a. m., **Sunny Street Café** on Highway 72 at the intersection with Slaughter Rd.
- ❖



Tom Howell, Governor of the Alabama-Mississippi-Louisiana District was a guest at our meeting today. He thanked Tom Casteel for his service at the District level.

## **Program**



This month's Program Chairman, Jim Berry, introduced our speaker for today, Mrs. Catherine Courtney, Development Director of the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville. She was assisted in her presentation by Miss Caroline Nelson, Development Campaign Coordinator for the NCAC.

Mrs. Courtney opened her talk by reviewing how then District Attorney Bud Cramer began the NCAC in 1985. At that time there was no coordination among the then up-to-five agencies involved in child sexual abuse cases, forcing an abused child to repeat his/her testimony many times. Mr. Cramer developed a multidisciplinary team to both investigate and treat abuse cases at a central location and to bring a minimum of stress to the child.

Huntsville's NCAC became the model for the now 850 Child Advocacy Centers across the globe. She stressed that although there is the word "National" in our center's name, the NCAC strictly a local service, not a headquarters for other advocacy centers in the country. The only national aspect to the center is the training done here, and that is paid for by the trainees' home organizations.

Mrs. Courtney reported that the NCAC has both intervention and prevention services. The intervention services, which are provided at no cost, are:

- ❖ Forensic interviews
- ❖ Therapeutic services (for as long as needed)
- ❖ Medical & mental health examinations

The prevention services provided by the NCAC are:

- ❖ "Healthy Families" A home visitation service
- ❖ SCAN-Stop Child Abuse and Neglect
- ❖ Partnership in Parenting (Getting both mother and father involved in raising a child, even if separated or divorced)

Mrs. Courtney distributed brochures to the attendees. She said the brochures included the most recent statistics on child abuse, but is currently being updated. The brochure also provides information on how to be involved with the work of the NCAC, either by financial donations or by volunteering. She said the organization is "an extremely good steward" with their funding. Whereas the standard for a good non-profit is for 75 % of funding to go directly to program operations, 87% of funds in the NCAC go toward programs.

## **Q & A Session**

**Q:** Is there still Federal funding going to the NCAC as it did when Bud Cramer was a Congressman?

**A:** No. Up until January of 2012, the Federal Government provided \$384,000 per year, but this has since stopped. The Dept. of Justice does pay for some training done here, but that's currently the only Federal funding.

**Q:** Is the child abuse problem getting worse or better?

**A:** It's hard to say. There are generally more cases reported, but this could well be because of more children being made aware of what to report and how to report it.

**Q:** In light of the \$700,000,000 deficit in the State of Alabama, how did the NCAC make out in the budget?

**A:** The State's budget gives the NCAC the same funding as in previous years. This is considered a "win" situation, since many other agencies have been cut.

## **Closing**

President Al Adams gave our speaker and her assistant each a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, and asked Mrs. Courtney to draw for the attendance prize. Kathy Anderson missed out, but Matt Hancock's name was drawn next, and he was in attendance. Al Renz, our Treasurer, said he would like Matt to win more often because he always donates the attendance prize to the Club when he wins.

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

*Clyde Nevins*

## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**"If someone listens, or stretches out a hand or whispers a kind word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen. "**

*~Loretta Girzartis*



**Pancake Breakfast sign in front of the Central Presbyterian Church**



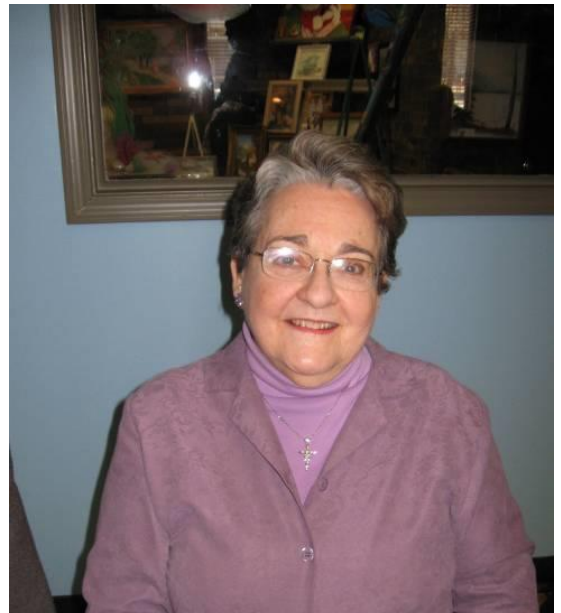
**Catherine Courtney (L) and  
Caroline Nelson (R) of the NCAC**



**Miss Joyce Brown,  
guest of Al Adams**



**District Governor Tom Howell**



**Elaine Plank, guest of  
Duane Plank (who else?)**

# CALENDAR

- 2/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**Sonnie Hereford – Chip Bowen**
- 2/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Berry)**
- 2/26 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**Councilman Bill Kling – Huntsville City Council**
- 3/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 3/5 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. – President, Alabama A&M**
- 3/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**Mr. Carlton Wright – Director of Bands, Alabama A&M**
- 3/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Alfred Adams)**
- 3/26 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**Mr. Jerry Mitchell – Executive Director  
North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce**
- 4/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 4/7 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant  
**TBD – Alberto Duarte**

## 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**  
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Huntsville, AL 35804-2230

**TO:**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE