



PRESIDENT

Alfred G. Adams

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Vastell Williams

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SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

**Check Website for
location**

hsvoptimists.org

Opti - Topics

Today's Meeting at the ORC

Opening

The Optimist Club of Huntsville held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting at the Optimist Recreation Center today with a sparse turnout of only 12 Optimists.



Duane Plank was our caterer today, and we enjoyed a delicious chicken and pork barbeque meal from Granville's Barbecue. With the two entrees came sides of scalloped potato salad, baked beans,

coleslaw, a huge pan of banana pudding and iced tea and lemonade.

President Al asked George McDonough to give the opening prayer, and Al led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

No one was able to report on the status of **Rev. Jim Berry**. President Al said he had been by to see him, but no one was home. George McDonough said he had tried calling several times, but no one answered and his voice mail box was full. Al said he would keep trying to contact him.

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

DIRECTORS

2 YEAR

Tom Casteel

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1 YEAR

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

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Tom Casteel reported that **Al Castelli**, longtime member of the Club, who was twice Club President and also the District Governor, passed away last Friday at the age of 95. Al was living with his daughter in Mahomet, IL, at the time of his death.

The President's Minute



President Al Adams said he had two things he wanted to highlight to begin our meeting today. First, he asked everyone to sign on the **Pecan Sale survey** that was going around.

Everyone is expected to sell 10 bags of pecans this fall, but those wanting more than 10 bags are to sign up for them on the survey sheet.

The second thing, Al said, was his concern about the **recent poor attendance at meetings**. He encouraged all Club members to make a special effort to be at Club meetings, and asked for those in attendance to encourage the absentees also.

Announcements

President Al said the **Health Fair** to be held at Alabama A & M had been rescheduled from September to October 3. The Club plans to have a booth at the fair.

Duane Plank urged everyone to attend **next week's meeting** to hear a thoroughly entertaining talk by Dr. Andrea Batt. Dr. Batt is a physical therapist who treats both children and adults with special needs.

Treasurer's Report



President Al asked Treasurer Al Renz for his **Treasurer's Report**. Al's report covered the first eight months of this fiscal year—through May 31, 2015. Highlights of Al's report are:

- The total revenue (income) for the period was \$11,581.10.
- We continued to receive Jeff Klimek's monthly payment of \$150, which now totaled \$1,200 for the year.
- The Club's expenses for the period totaled \$8,362.80, excluding Youth Activities and Community Service Expenditures.
- Youth Activities and Community Service expenses for the period were \$15,794.76. About half of this expense was for the Band Instrument Project. The Community Service Grants are still to be made for this year.
- Our bank balance at the end of March was \$1,529.48, with \$7,365.38 reimbursement receivable from the Foundation. There was also \$329 receivable in outstanding dues and \$24 for guest meals, giving us a potential cash position of \$9,247.86.
- Treasurer Al Renz also presented to the Club a **Membership Analysis of the Club** in considering our dwindling ranks. He distributed a chart which gave the following breakdown: The Club's membership is currently down to 35 members (includes one new member), of which only 17 are active members. Another 5 members attend some meetings and five more are inactive (rarely or never attend). There are 7 Associate Members. Further, Al stated that in our Club Membership are five members over age 80 and four in their 70s.
- Al Renz also distributed a chart listing **number of members required** to staff the various projects and duties of the Club. The total number of members needed to staff a year's projects and duties is 105 for the anticipated number projects for one year. This means every active member (17) would have to have about 6 different duties to perform during the year.

Committee Reports

Band Instrument Committee



Chairman Tom Casteel reported that almost all of the Club's band instruments are at Southeast Music to be repaired and reconditioned. There are still a few missing instruments, but 3 instruments missing last year were turned in. Also, Tom reported that our promotion on WLRH is still paying dividends. A trombone, clarinet, and a French horn were donated to the Club recently as a direct result.

Community Service Awards Committee Chairman Al Renz reported that he has all but one of the evaluation sheets from the committee doing the grant allocation evaluation. When the missing one is received, he will be able to present the results to the Foundation for their review and payment.



Alberto Duarte, president of the **Optimist Foundation** reported that the Foundation's assets totaled \$884,425 as of today (June 18). This Foundation recently paid out \$20,000 for Club Youth projects, but is only down about \$10,000 because of profits from the Foundation's investments.

Tom Casteel reported that the information on the **Essay and Oratorical Contests**, topics and application forms for next year's contests will be on the Club's web site this week.

Old Business



There was a long discussion about **Membership**. President Al began by saying, "I don't want the Club to die on my watch." He announced that Dr. Willie Brunetti, who recently spoke to the Club, will be joining the Club.

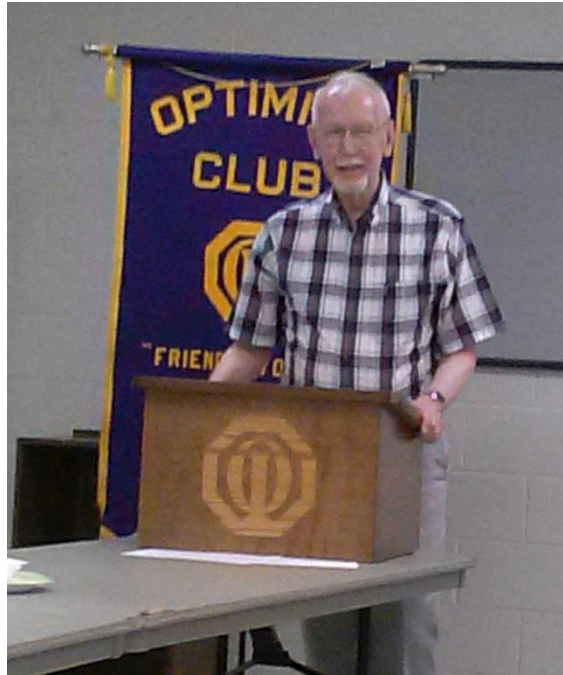
There was a lengthy discussion on what the Club might do to garner some new members. Among the suggestions were:

- Tom Casteel suggested that we "Don't bother to get someone's approval before giving his/her name to him for invitation to the NOW banquet." You never know what a person's response will be.
- Carl Winkler suggested contacting large businesses in the city, such as Coca Cola, banks and automobile dealers. He related how Al Castelli was very aggressive in doing this, and it paid off in many new members. Some thought that those in this category are more attracted to the Rotary Club.
- Duane Plank suggested that the parents of contestants to our Essay Contest and Oratorical Contest be invited (though that wouldn't be much help this past year).
- Carl Winkler suggested we contact the Jaycees in Huntsville for members who, as far as he knows, "age out" when they turn 36. The Club used to get several members this way. Tom Casteel thought that the Jaycees no longer had an age limit.

The final admonition: "If the Club isn't growing, it's dying."

New Business

President Al Adams called on Clyde Nevins for a special presentation. Clyde reminded the older members of a folding lectern he had made for the Club about 10 years ago. It got lost or stolen some time later when stored at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Clyde said he has noted there is still an occasional need for a lectern at some of the Club's eating places and functions, so he made a new one. After showing and demonstrating it, he said he would keep this one at his home, but it would be available for any Club function.



Clyde With the Lectern He Built and Donated to the Club

Closing

Dr. Carl Winkler led us in the reciting the Optimist Creed.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.”

~Noam Chomsky

CALENDAR

- 6/25 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Dr. Andrea Batt – Physical Therapist
- 7/2 Thursday
NO MEETING - Independence Day Holiday
- 7/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 7/9 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Jim Roe
- 7/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Roe)
- 7/23 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
TBD – Jim Roe
- 7/30 Thursday
NO MEETING - 5th Thursday
- 8/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 8/6 Thursday 6:00 pm TBD
NOW Banquet
- 8/13 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
**Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr.
President, Alabama A&M University**
- 8/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)
- 8/27 Thursday 11:45 am TBD
Libby Parker – HOPE Leadership Academy

Sponsor Guest List

Sponsor: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Guest Prospects:

1. Name: _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Brief Personal Introduction _____

Optional: E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

2. Name: _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Brief Personal Introduction _____

Optional: E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

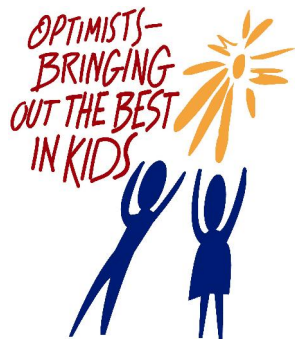
3. Name: _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Brief Personal Introduction _____

Optional: E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____



Huntsville Optimist Club
P, O, Box 2230
Huntsville, AL 35804-2230

TO:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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