



## **PRESIDENT**

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

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

**Vastell Williams**

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## **SECRETARY TREASURER**

**Al Renz**

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## **Club meets**

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

**At 11:45 am**

**Check Website for  
location**

**hsvoptimists.org**

# Opti - Topics

## **Tonight's Meeting Mullins Restaurant**

If the turnout for tonight's meeting is any indication, meeting at night looks to have a very positive effect on attendance. Tonight fifteen Optimists and two guests attended. We welcomed two new members, Marilyn King-Jordan and Dr. Willie Brunetti, and it was good to see Kathy Anderson with us. In addition to our frequent guest Marlene Renz, Marilyn King-Jordan brought guest Margaret Hall, a potential member.

The menu and prices at Mullins for the evening meal were the same as for lunch, but they had run out of peach cobbler. Service was good.

## **Opening**

Vice President Vastell Williams, our presiding officer for the night, called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, but Jim relayed the honor to new member Willie Brunetti. Clyde Nevins led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Optimist Family News**

I talked with **Tom Casteel**, and learned that the biopsy on the growth on his vocal cord revealed it to be cancerous. In a couple of weeks he will begin radiation treatments at Crestwood Hospital, 5 times a week for 6 weeks. Keep Tom in your prayers.

**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**

**Tom Casteel**

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**1 YEAR**

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Clyde Nevins**

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Old timer **Alberto Duarte** will have cataract surgery on both eyes, the first being next Tuesday; the second one week later.

## **Announcements**



Al Renz has arranged the caterer for the **Installation Banquet** (the last Club meeting in September), and he said we will be able to choose either baked chicken or barbecued spare ribs (or both) along with side dishes and desert. Newly elected District Governor Tolanda Beal will install the new officers and also swear in our recent group of new members. The banquet will be held at the Optimist Recreation Center. **Please sign up** to indicate your attendance (or not) and how many guests you will bring.



Vastell passed around a sign-up sheet for the **Club Picnic on Sept. 12** at Ford's Chapel UMC in Harvest. **The picnic will start at 3:00 p.m.**, but a few members are asked to come a half hour earlier to bring chairs from the church to the pavilion. All members are urged to indicate if they will attend, and if coming, how many guests they will bring.

Al said that the format for the picnic would be the same as last year. The Club will provide the meat, and **Club members are to bring side dishes and deserts**. Buddy Beck has contacted Sheriff Dorning, and **the Sheriff agreed to provide barbecued chicken** as he has done in the past.



If you need more than your quota of 10 bags of pecans to sell for the Club's **fall fund raiser**, please sign up for them soon. A sheet was passed around at the meeting for this purpose, but if you weren't there, please make your wishes known by informing George McDonough, chairman of the pecan sale.

## Program



Vice President Vastell Williams reported that the Board of Directors had adopted a “fluid agenda” for the evening meetings. For tonight’s meeting, Al Renz had volunteered to bring a presentation on JOOI Clubs, with emphasis on how to start a new one. It is hoped that members will step forward to help start a JOOI Club in a school once they “know the ropes.”

Al began his presentation by showing a promotional DVD from Optimist International on JOOI Clubs. There are 17,000 youth in 650 JOOI Clubs in Canada, Mexico, and the U. S. A. There are three basic levels of JOOI Clubs:

- **Alpha Clubs**—kids aged 6 to 9. These clubs are in elementary schools. They are primarily run by the club’s advisor
- **Junior Optimist Clubs**—kids aged 10 to 13. These clubs are aimed at kids in middle schools and junior highs. These clubs are run by the students with necessary guidance by the club’s advisor.
- **Octagon Clubs**—Ages 14-18. These clubs are aimed at high schools, but can also be in middle schools. These clubs are run by the students themselves with only a little guidance from the club’s advisor.

Al next showed the steps that are needed to start a JOOI Club at a school. He outlined the various meetings, the fees and expenses paid by our Club, the materials available to each JOOI Club, and the forms that are needed to be filled out. He stressed that in the membership form it is essential that the name, sex and birth date be provided for each member. This is required by OI in order to have a JOOI Club member covered by liability insurance.

Another thing Al stressed is the need to keep our terminology straight:

- **Advisors** are either teachers or counselors at a school who volunteer to work with the JOOI Club.
- **Coordinators** are Optimist Club members who work with the school to get a JOOI Club started, and then provide whatever assistance and support that will be needed during the school year.
- **Sponsor** is the Optimist Club of Huntsville.

Al completed his talk by giving some anecdotes about the JOOI Club started at Columbia High School.

Tom Casteel added some information on higher level JOOI Club organization. The JOOI Clubs have a District, much like a regular Optimist Club, and hold District Conventions annually. Our Club has voted to pay the expenses of JOOI Club officers to attend this Convention.

## **Closing**

V.P. Vastell gave a tile with the Optimist to Al Renz, who promptly offered it to our prospective new member, Margaret Hall, who readily accepted it. Vastell asked Margaret to draw for the attendance prize. Just before she drew the name, Jim Berry, sitting nearby, said to her, "It's Berry, Jim Berry." Guess who's name was drawn? Right! Jim Berry!

Vastell led us in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

**"Enthusiasm is the mother of effort, and without it nothing great was ever achieved."**

~Ralph Waldo Emerson



**V.P Vastell Williams Presides At Our First Evening Meeting**





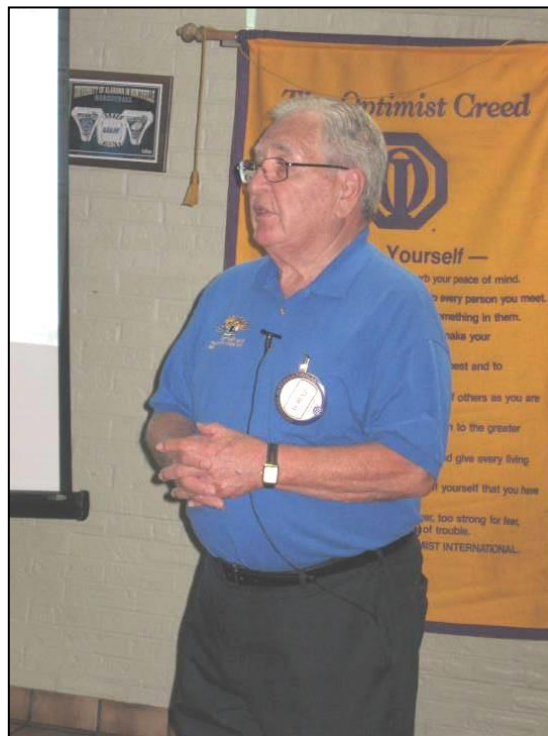
**New member Dr. Willie Brunetti  
(sorry, Willie, not my best photo)**



**Guest Marlene Renz**



**Margaret Hall,  
Guest of Marilyn King-Jordan**



**Our speaker, Al Renz**

## CALENDAR

- 9/10 Thursday  
**NO MEETING – Replaced by Club Picnic on Saturday**
- 9/12 Saturday 3:00 pm - Ford's Chapel, 280 Ford Chapel DR, Harvest, AL  
**Annual Club Picnic**
- 9/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)**
- 9/24 Thursday 6:30 pm Optimist Recreation Center  
**Installation Banquet**  
**Special Guest – Governor Tolanda Beal**
- 10/1 Thursday **6:00 pm** Mullin's Restaurant  
**TBD –**
- 10/6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 10/8 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant  
**TBD –**
- 10/15 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)**
- 10/22 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant  
**TBD –**
- 10/29 Thursday  
**NO MEETING – 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

## **Steps to Starting a JOOI Club**

### **1. With the aid and approval of the school's Principal, recruit a teacher or counselor to be the JOOI Club Advisor.**

Being JOOI Club Advisor is a volunteer job. He/she should be willing to spend additional, non-teaching time with the club. He/she should be energetic, enthusiastic, and optimistic. An information packet will be provided to the Advisor by the Coordinator from the Optimist Club of Huntsville (the sponsor). This will help the Advisor get started.

### **2. Recruit students to be members of the club.**

The Coordinator will supply brochures, a bulletin board poster and a package of membership forms to help in the recruiting. A minimum of 8 members is needed to start a JOOI Club. I recommend 25 because history has shown that most of the clubs that fail started out with less than 25. Although it is not the most important thing, we do not get A&A points (3,000) unless the club starts with 20 or more. Each member is to fill out a Membership Application Form, which must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The signed membership applications should be turned in to the Advisor. Dues for the club members will be paid by the Optimist Club of Huntsville, along with the Charter Fee and the Registration Fee. This should be emphasized to the members and the Advisor.

### **3. Choose a day, time and place for the Club to have its first meeting.**

The day, time and place should be chosen by the club Advisor to be compatible with his/her schedule and the availability of the students. The Coordinator should volunteer to lead the first meeting.

### **4. Hold the first meeting of the club to firm up the membership roster.**

The first order of business should be to select a club name. The club name will generally include the name of the school, but it is not a requirement. Next fill out the Charter Application with the names of the charter members. The Charter Application along with the Member Applications should be given to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Optimist Club of Huntsville.

Announce a time and place for the second meeting of the Club, at which time the Officers will be elected. New members added in the meantime can vote in the election and/or run for an office, provided they have been added to the membership roster. All members, including the Advisor and the Principal, will receive a JOOI Club pin, compliments of the Optimist Club of Huntsville.

### **5. Hold a second meeting of the Club.**

At the second meeting of the club, officers will be elected. Typically, the officers elected are: President, one or more Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. If desired, the Coordinator or other members of the Optimist Club of Huntsville can assist in the election process. After the election, fill out the Officer Information Sheet/Election Report form and give to the Secretary/Treasurer. The officers will receive an officer pin (different from the JOOI Pin), compliments of the Optimist Club of Huntsville. (the Historian will receive a VP pin since OI does not have Historian pins).

## **6. Have an installation ceremony for the club officer.**

After the officers have been installed by a member of the Optimist Club of Huntsville, and installation ceremony may be held to honor the elected officers. The ceremony may be held immediately after the elections or at a subsequent meeting. The Optimist Club of Huntsville will provide cake and refreshments.

## **7. Conduct the first regular meeting of the club.**

The Optimist Club of Huntsville will provide a custom made banner for the club, which will have the Club name on it.

Bylaws of the club should be the next order of business. The bylaws put in writing the duties of each officer and how the club should operate. A sample set of bylaws can be found at the Optimist International website: [http://www.optimist.org/Documents/JOOI\\_Suggested\\_Club\\_Bylaws](http://www.optimist.org/Documents/JOOI_Suggested_Club_Bylaws).

Finally and very important, the club should discuss and select projects that it will undertake during the School year. Examples of projects undertaken by other clubs include:

- a. Donut sale to raise money for a charity
- b. Talent show to showcase talent in the school
- c. Community Service Projects
  - (1) Manna House volunteering
  - (2) Collecting toys for Toys for Tots program at Christmas
- d. Marching in parades
  - (1) Veterans Day
  - (2) Thanksgiving or Christmas
- e. Tutor younger children

These are just examples. The club may consider any worthwhile project that benefits their school, their Community, or their Country.



# Preparing for Peace

*A Community Conversation about  
the Importance of End of Life Planning*

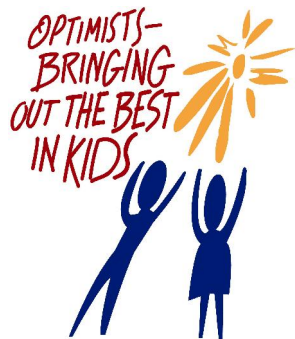
**When**

**Where**

- Do you know who would make decisions for you if you became unable to do so for yourself?
- What about your healthcare? Have you talked with loved ones about what you do and do not want?
- Planning ahead increases emotional opportunities at the end of life. Come learn how.

Come hear Dr. Monica Williams-Murphy, Huntsville Hospital Emergency Physician and nationally-known author, speak about the importance of **talking** honestly and openly about the end of life.





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

**TO:**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## **THE OPTIMIST CREED**

**P**romise 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