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SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant

Opti - Topics

November Business Meeting

A good turnout of 15 Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for this month's business meeting. Al Renz was our caterer today, and we enjoyed some delicious barbeque rib plate Al bought from "O Taste & See BBQ", a standalone portable unit in the corner of a shopping center on the east side of Hughes Rd. just north of the Madison City Hall. We had potato salad, coleslaw, bread and drinks, plus an assortment of pound cakes.

Al fortunately also brought a large package of paper napkins which were greatly needed in the rib eating process. Al remarked later that he had washed his hands three times and they were still sticky.

It was good to see Byrom Goodwin today. Byrom came by to pick up pecans to sell, but didn't stay to eat with us.

Opening

President Al called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Buddy Beck was at today's meeting, too. I asked him how had been—he looked a little thinner than usual. He said his meds often take his appetite away, but today I noticed he put away almost all of the barbeque plate.

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

DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

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Alberto reported that his wife, **Nelly Duarte**, is home, but must take antibiotics for two more weeks to combat the infection acquired during the surgery. The side effects of the antibiotics are taking her appetite away and generally making her miserable.

I went by **Duane Plank's** home after the meeting today, mainly to deliver his quota of pecans, but I had a good visit with him, too. He is able to get around a little with a walker, but said stairs are a big problem. He's going to therapy three times a week for his broken femur. There's a chance he might be able to make our Christmas party next month.

Tom Casteel is still "Silent Tom." The doctor has told him that this was to be expected after his radiation treatments, and it would take two or more weeks for his vocal cords to return to normal function.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz distributed the financial report for October, the first month of our fiscal year. For the month, our revenues exceeded our expenses by \$159.69. We now have 41 members.

Youth Activities Expenditures were \$2,611.30 for the Band Instrument program, and \$72.79 for JOOI Club expenses. We currently have reimbursement requests to the Foundation of \$5,464.09.

The Bank Balance at the end of October was \$2,680.71. Once the reimbursement is received from the Foundation, the Club will have a Cash Position of \$8,283.45

Committee Reports



Chairperson Gay Pepper reported that she has finalized the date and location of the Club's **Christmas party**. The affair will be **at the Cooper House on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 p. m.**

She needs to know the number of members and guests who plan to attend, and passed around a sign-up sheet. If you weren't at the meeting and plan to attend, **please call or e-mail Gay**.

Gay also announced we will do our traditional **Dirty Santa** gift exchange. All those who care to participate must bring a wrapped gift costing no more than \$10. Gay suggested you bring something you'd be willing to take home yourself.



Al Renz reported that as of today, **only three JOOI Clubs**, Columbia High School, Williams Middle School and Randolph High School, have turned in their paperwork. Grace Lutheran's JOOI Club is up and running (Alberto has installed their officers), but are delinquent in turning in their lists of members and officers to Al.



Foundation President Alberto Duarte reported that the **Foundation's assets** as of yesterday were \$857,738 with Regions Bank, plus a CD with First Commercial. He stated the market has been on the upswing our assets are a good bit better than a couple of months ago.



Al Adams, interim chairman of the **Pecan Sale**, announced that all but 4 bags of pecans were in the hands of Club members to sell. Several members owe the Club for pecans already received, and Al asked that they be paid for by the first meeting in December.

New Business



President Al stated that he had a goal of the Club being involved in five new Youth Activity projects during his term. He reported that was advised by the Huntsville Superintendent of School's office of a need at the **Academy of Academics and Arts** school. This was sent by e-mail to all the Club members about three weeks ago. He, Clyde Nevins and Tom Casteel met with Ms. Brenda Levert at the school yesterday to get details of the need.

Ms. Levert said the school's new library has no up-to-date science and technology books. The average copyright date of such books in their library is 1996, making them very much behind the times. The school has created a project to buy about 40 new books for students and teachers that will grow their understanding and assist in the teaching of science and technology. The total cost for the books is \$1,115.86, and all but \$520 has been raised through an account on www.gofundme.com. If the total amount is not raised by January 1, 2016, the gofundme funds will be lost.

Al, Clyde and Tom discussed the various Optimist programs for youth that they would like to see participation in at the school, for which Ms. Levert expressed enthusiasm and a willingness to promote them. Also, she agreed that every book paid for by our Club will contain a sticker advertising the Club's donation.

Motion: Jim Berry moved that the Club fund the entire \$520 needed. Clyde Nevins seconded the motion.

Discussion:

There was a good bit of discussion on the motion. Bill Clarke and Alberto Duarte felt this more properly belonged in the Community Service Grants; however, these grants will not be available until months after the January 1 deadline for the gofundme funds.

Treasurer Al Renz noted that there is \$1,350 in our budget for projects such as this, so the \$520 would take a fair-sized chunk of it.

Clyde Nevins said that we have had good cooperation with the Huntsville City School Superintendent's office, and this is a way of showing our support when there is an opportunity to do so. He thought it was a much better use of money than the \$1,000 we sent to the City for the Fishing Rodeo for many years.

Rebecca Billings said we should try to get publicity for the donation—such as a photo and write-up in a local paper. [Since the *Huntsville Times* is hardly a “local paper” anymore, this might be restricted to *Speakin' Out News*, where we have had success in the past]

President Al Adams said he would be following through with the school on their recruiting contestants for our contests and starting a JOOI Club.

The Vote

President Al called for a vote, and the motion carried by a vote of 12 for and 3 against.

Closing

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

Clyde Nevins

Al Renz had emailed Bob Martin:

We miss you. Is there any news about Nancy that I can pass on to the club tomorrow?

Bob Martin replied after the meeting today:

Yesterday Nancy had some surgery on her arm to make dialysis a little easier. She will be in dialysis 3 times a week for the rest of her life. We are still trying to recover her weight loss after weeks of radiation. We remain optimistic and her physical therapy to do that has begun. She still cannot stay on her feet very long and can fall so my instinct is to shadow her most of the time and prepare meals. Give the gang at the club my regards and thank you all for your concern.

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world.”

~Jack Layton

CALENDAR

- 11/26 Thursday **No Meeting**
Happy Thanksgiving
- 12/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 12/3 Thursday 6:00 pm Mullin’s Restaurant
TBD – Gay Pepper
- 12/8 Tuesday 6:00 pm **Christmas Party**
Cooper House
- 12/10 Thursday
NO MEETING – REPLACED by CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 12/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)
- 12/24 Thursday
NO MEETING – CHRISTMAS
- 12/31 Thursday
NO MEETING – 5th THURSDAY / NEWS YEARS
- 1/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 1/7 Thursday 6:00 pm Mullin’s Restaurant
TBD – Richie Myers

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



Huntsville Optimist Club
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: