



PRESIDENT

Alfred G. Adams

502-541-6469

alfredg.adams@gmail.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Vastell Williams

256-886-1344

VHV.Williams@yahoo.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Roe

256-883-8950

j_m_roe@yahoo.com

SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

256-772-7929

optimist3480@aol.com

Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant

Opti - Topics

December Business Meeting

A good turnout of 15 Optimists and one guest assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for this month's business meeting. Our guest was George Reynolds, brought by Jim Berry. George is an instructor of the balance program Jim and George McDonough participate in, and is a potential Optimist. It was good to see Buddy Beck with us today.



Gay Pepper was our caterer today, and we enjoyed an assortment of grilled sandwiches from Steak-Out with all the fixings, chips and drinks. Gay also brought a cake to celebrate today's birthday of President Alfred Adams.

Opening



President Al called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Al led the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Al thanked Gay Pepper for a lovely Christmas party and for today's lunch. We all joined in to sing **Happy Birthday to Al**, who didn't give his age.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer Al Renz distributed the **financial report for October & November**, the first two months of our fiscal year.

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

**DIRECTORS
2 YEAR**

Rebecca Billings

256-426-3999
rebecca.billings@gmail.com

Joyce Brown

478-954-5583
jrue48.brown@gmail.com

Clyde Nevins

256-881-8215
clyde.nevins@Juno.com

1 YEAR

Tom Casteel

256-715-8772
tom@leetsac.net

Richie Myers

256-658-6343
rickfish19@gmail.com

Gay Pepper

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

256-881-8215
clyde.nevins@Juno.com

For this period, our revenues exceeded our expenses by a whopping \$2.67 (with some caveats).

Youth Activities Expenditures were \$3,354.30 for the Band Instrument program, and \$565.84 for JOOI Club expenses. We currently have reimbursement requests to the Foundation of \$1,236.05.

The Bank Balance at the end of November was \$6,762.73. Once the reimbursement is received from the Foundation, the Club will have a Cash Position of \$8,362.72.

Treasurer Al reported that we have chartered **only 2 JOOI Clubs**, and clubs must be chartered by January 15. Grace Lutheran's JOOI Club is operating but has not turned in the necessary paperwork to become a chartered club. Al summarized the decline in the number of JOOI Clubs: We sponsored 18 JOOI Clubs four years ago, and it has declined each year since then to the current two clubs.

Treasurer Al next presented data on meal costs for the nine members paying \$120 in quarterly dues. For October through December, the Club lost over \$200 due to the meal costs exceeding the \$102 available from the dues. Since this quarter generally has fewer meals due to the holidays, our Club stands to lose well over \$800 for the year with the current dues structure.

As a consequence of the Club's losing money, Al reported that the Board of Directors had passed a **proposed change in the dues structure:**

Motion: Al Renz moved (no second required) that the Club's \$120 dues option be eliminated and that all members are to pay \$35.00 per quarter plus the cost of their meals. The only exception is that members having their dues paid by a corporation may pay a flat fee of \$150.00.

President Al called for discussion.

Alberto Duarte suggested that members could pay for their own meals individually on the days they eat at Mullins, but Al Renz stated that this would cause a long line at the cash register. Another consideration is that he (Al) pays with the Club's credit card, and we get a rebate on the expense.

Clyde Nevins asked what the method of payment is for those who switch from the \$120 per quarter to the \$35 plus meals. Al replied that members are to pay the \$35 dues for the quarter in advance, and pay for the accumulated cost of all meals at the end of the quarter (at which time the dues for the following quarter will also be billed).

There being no further discussion, President Al called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Tom Casteel moved that the Club's **Policy and Procedures Manual** be revised to reflect the above motion. Clyde Nevins seconded the motion.

There being no discussion, President Al called for the vote. The motion carried without dissent.

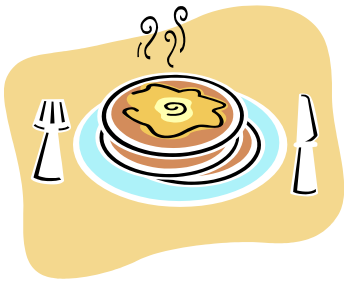
Committee Reports



George McDonough, chairman of the **Essay Contest**, reported he is continuing to recruit contestants for the essay contests. He said is trying a new approach of having a school alumnus go to his former school and tout the program. He has talked to a lot of people, as well. Marilyn King-Jordan said from her experience with her sons it takes continual "encouragement" to get kids to enter such a contest. It was also reported that the DAV also sponsors an essay contest with generous prizes that competes with our contest.



Alberto Duarte said his status on the **Oratorical Contest** is pretty much the same as George's. He has sent out a lot of e-mails. He hopes that in January after the holidays interest in the contest will pick up



Alberto Duarte reported that thanks to Al Renz he now has the tickets for the Club's **Pancake Breakfast**. He has given 280 tickets to Tiffany at the Hawthorne Conservatory, and will give Club members their allotment of 10 tickets to sell in January. Tickets will continue to be \$5 each. The Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 6, at the Cooper House from 7:30 to 11:30 a. m.



Dime-A-Day

Tom Casteel announced that the Club will again be supporting the OI Foundation's **Dime-A-Day program**.

He is asking each Club member to donate \$36.50 to this program, which goes to help programs sponsored by Optimist International. You will receive a nice pin for your lapel for your contribution as well as the satisfaction of helping kids. Tom joked that if you wait until next year you will have to pay \$36.60 since 2016 is a leap year.



Tri-Star Basketball chairman Jesse Lang asked for a good turnout to support the contest on January 17. It takes a pretty large crew to keep up with a bunch of kids with basketballs. President Al said he had sent out 21 e-mails to basketball coaches of elementary schools and middle schools in the city and county announcing the contest.

The contest was also featured in this week's news letter from the City's Multicultural Affairs newsletter.



Clyde Nevins reported that he had attended an exceptionally good **Christmas concert** at Westlawn Middle School on Tuesday evening. We have seven instruments on loan in their band. The school's band director, Reginald Pearson, did a fantastic job in organizing and directing the concert, along with the school's new choir director. He passed around the program from the concert.



Foundation President Alberto Duarte reported that the **Foundation's assets** as of yesterday were \$833,005 with Regions Bank, plus a CD with First Commercial. He also reported that the Foundation had unexpectedly received a check for \$1,300 from Regions as a result of a settlement on an old class action suit.



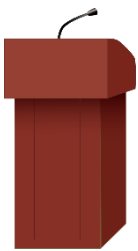
George McDonough, chairman of the **Pecan Sale**, announced that he and President Al had a handle on who still owed for their allotment of pecans, and outstanding payments are dribbling in. He expects to close the books on the pecan sale by the first meeting in January. **If you haven't paid for your pecans, send your check to George ASAP!**

New Business

President Al Adams announced that it is time for the Club to **elect a representative to the Foundation Board**. He reported that the Club's current representative in this slot, George McDonough, had agreed to continue to serve in that capacity. He asked if there were other nominees (twice). There being none, he asked for a motion to elect George by acclamation.

Motion: Tom Casteel moved that George McDonough be elected one of the Club's Foundation members by acclamation. Jim Roe seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

President's Minute



President Al reminded those present that he had sent out earlier this week information on the cost of attending the **District Meeting** to be held January 22-24 at Orange Beach. The cost is for staying at the Hilton Garden Inn is a very reasonable \$74 per night, which includes breakfast. Al said he would like some more company on the trip to Orange Beach besides Tom Casteel (but no offense, Tom).

Closing

Alberto Duarte led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting. We missed you, Carl.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashion or modern, is very simple: loving others.”

~Bob Hope

CALENDAR

12/24 Thursday

NO MEETING – CHRISTMAS



12/31 Thursday

NO MEETING – 5th THURSDAY / NEWS YEARS

**New Year
2016**

1/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.

Board Meeting

1/7 Thursday 6:00 pm Mullin's Restaurant

LaRonda Conley – Missile Defense Agency STEM Outreach

1/14 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant

Michelle Reavis and Kim Davis – Steady for Life

1/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (Richie Myers)

1/28 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant

Pam Clagens – Development Director, HEALS, Inc.

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

TO:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE