



## **PRESIDENT**

**Alfred G. Adams**

502-541-6469

alfredg.adams@gmail.com

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

**Vastell Williams**

256-886-1344

VHV.Williams@yahoo.com

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

**Jim Roe**

256-883-8950

j\_m\_roe@yahoo.com

## **SECRETARY TREASURER**

**Al Renz**

256-772-7929

optimist3480@aol.com

**Club meets**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**

**At 6:00 pm**

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

**At 11:45 am**

**88 Buffet**

# Opti - Topics

## **Today's Meeting at 88 Buffet Restaurant**

Twelve Club members attended our meeting at the 88 Buffet today. We also had in attendance three guests. In addition to Nell Berry, wife of Jim, we had two prospective members with us: Patrick Zink, guest of Jim Roe, and Daniel Horton, guest of Richie Myers. Patrick is a retired educator from South Africa, now residing in Harvest, and Daniel works as a Technical Administrator for CDI. We were happy to see Bubby Beck with us, too.

## **Opening**

President Al Adams was wearing his Optimist Distinguished President award watch today, and showed it off. He asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and we again used our small flag for saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Optimist Family News**

Jim Berry rose to announce that today was **Nell's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday**. He had bought and brought a beautiful (and tasty) birthday cake for the occasion (see photo section). He said this was to have been a surprise, but he was asking attendees to go light on the 88 Buffet desserts so they could enjoy her cake.

**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**

#### **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

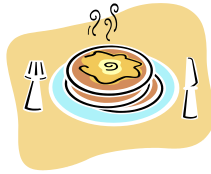
## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

#### **Clyde Nevins**

256-881-8215

clyde.nevins@Juno.co

## **Announcements**



Project Chairman Albert Duarte rose to thank all those who devoted their Saturday morning to help in the cooking, serving and eating at the Club's annual **Pancake**

**Breakfast.** He said it was a wonderful time, and it is a wonderful thing we are doing for the Hawthorne Conservatory. He reported that the Conservatory now has 98 students, and have rented an additional building where dance is taught.

Alberto asked all Club members to **turn in receipts from ticket sales and/or their donations to Treasurer Al Renz soon** so we can write a check to the Conservatory. He wants to invite Ms. Tiffany of the Conservatory to come to a Club meeting in the next week or two to get the proceeds. Tom Casteel reported that **photos of the event are on our Club's web site.**

## **Community Service Grant**

Executive Director **Melvin Allen of the Harvest**



**Youth Club** attended our meeting today to receive the Club's Community Service Grant. Melvin passed out brochures which highlight the HYC's various

facilities and programs. He said HYC's primary focus is for kids to get the education they need. In his 30 years' experience, he has learned that with education kids can become just about anything they want to be.

The Harvest Youth Club meets from 3:00 to 6:00 p. m. every afternoon during the school year. Melvin said this is a critical time for many kids because they are out of school but parents are not home from work. Left to their own devices, they often get into trouble rather than do their homework. He was proud to say that 70% of the 300 kids, ages 5-13, at the HYC have made the A/B Honor Roll, and 40% have made the A Honor Roll at their school.

Melvin reported that the Community Storm Shelter on their grounds has been well used during storms since 2011. The Club has a web site, [www.harvestyouthclub.com](http://www.harvestyouthclub.com).

In closing, Melvin thanked our Optimist Club for being a friend and a big part of the success of the HYC. President Al Adams presented Melvin the Club's check for \$2,500 to the HYC that from last year's Community Service Grants.

NOTE: The **Application for this year's Community Service Grants is on the Club's web site**. President Al asked Club members to spread the word to any non-profit organization that would care to apply for a grant. Any 501(c)3 corporation is eligible for consideration; however, those serving the youth or the underprivileged are generally awarded our grants.

## **Program**

Rev. Jim Berry introduced our speaker for today, Dana Bullard. Jim said Dana was his #2 daughter (chronologically). She was speaking today in lieu of her daughter, Kelly, who was unable to get away from her studies at UA in Tuscaloosa during the day.

Kelly was instrumental in getting our JOOI Club established at Hazel Green High School. President Al told how Kelly had worked in his office one summer, and during her time there managed to get things organized. Kelly will be an intern at the National Archives this summer, and if all goes well, plans to extend her stay there. Her long-term goals are to get Masters and Doctors degrees in Library Science. While in Tuscaloosa, besides being a full-time student she is involved in community service, being a tutor/reader in an elementary school there.

Ms. Bullard said she would not give the speech that Kelly had planned because she didn't want to spoil Kelly's opportunity to tell us in person one day. Instead, she told us about her own work. She is a Special Education teacher at the Madison Cross Roads Elementary School. She spends half her school day with the special education students and half with regular students who are struggling.

Ms. Bullard said that the HEALS Clinic that our Club supports is "the best thing ever." Many parents in that area do not drive, nor do many even own a vehicle. Consequently, their children have not received routine medical and dental check-ups. She said the convenience of the HEALS Clinic has been a real blessing for the students. Most come back from their check-ups with big smiles on their faces. The "Shoe Closet" of the HEALS program is also making a big difference in kids' self-esteem.

## Closing

President Al gave our speakers a tile with the Optimist Creed on it. Ms. Bullard drew for the winner of our attendance prize: Willie Brunetti and Alex Chu both missed out, and President Al Adams won it on the third draw.

Dr. Bill Clarke led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“The greatest challenge in life is discovering who you are. The second greatest is being happy with what you find.”**

*~Unknown*

- PHOTOS -

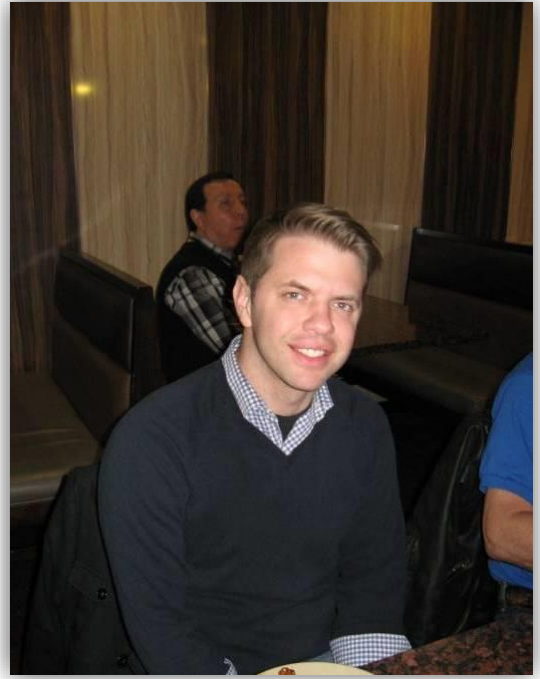


**Nell Berry with Her Birthday Cake**





**Patrick Zinc, Guest Of Jim Roe**



**Daniel Horton, guest of  
Richie Myers**



**President Al presents check to  
Melvin Allen of the Harvest Youth Club**



**Our speaker, Dana Bullard,  
No. 2 daughter of Jim Berry**



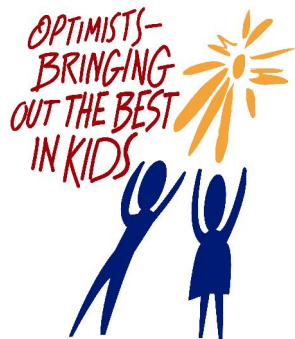
**Buddy Beck**



**Tom Casteel and President Al Adams with Huntsville Multicultural Affairs Officer, Kenneth Anderson**

# CALENDAR

- 2/18 Thursday 11:45 am  
Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Berry)**
- 2/25 Thursday 11:45 am 88 Buffet  
**Karen Ouriel Mockensturm – Executive Director of Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater and Academy**
- 3/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm  
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 3/3 Thursday 6:00 pm TBD  
**Alberto Duarte – TBD**
- 3/10 Thursday 11:45 am TBD  
**Alberto Duarte – TBD**
- 3/17 Thursday 11:45 am  
Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)**
- 3/24 Thursday 11:45 am TBD  
**Alberto Duarte – TBD**
- 3/31 Thursday **NO MEETING – 5<sup>th</sup> THURSDAY**
- 4/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm  
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**



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

**TO:**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## **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