



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

88 Buffet

Opti - Topics

Today's Meeting at 88 Buffet Restaurant

After a short lay off due to the fifth Thursday and a canceled meeting due a threat of severe weather, it was good to be assembled with other Club members tonight. Twelve Club members attended, and we had two guests. Our guests were Daniel Horton, guest of Richie Myers, and Pat Lang, wife of Jesse.

Opening

Vice President Vastell Williams presided tonight, and he asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer. President Al Adams still has our small American flag, so we said the Pledge of Allegiance without it tonight.

Announcements

Charlene Higgins, Chairperson for the Club's participation in the **Greenpower USA Race**, announced that she is seeking 5 or 6 volunteers to serve as race officials in the race on Saturday, April 23. There is a training session next Wednesday at 5:30 p. m. at Whitesburg Middle School for the volunteers. Charlene said it is important that the Club give to the community, and this is a good way to do it. She said she "is good at drafting people," so you may get a call or e-mail from her to fill her quota.

**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

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



Treasurer Al Renz passed out the **Dues Statements** for the quarter. He explained that the statements contain a complete record of the meals eaten (and need to be paid for) during the past three months. Al has included a printout that gives the dates you ate and the cost of the food, including whether you had a drink. **Please pay your dues promptly.**



Alberto Duarte announced that our **Oratorical Contest winners**, Devan Davis from Lee High School, and Bradliegh Herwig from James Clemens High School both plan to compete at the Regional Oratorical Contest in Birmingham this Saturday. The contest will be held at the Birmingham YWCA. Alberto plans to attend.

Program



Vastell Williams introduced Ms. Jerilyn Johnson, Executive Director of New Futures, Inc. Ms. Johnson joined New Futures in 2012 as a volunteer case manager after graduating from college. Later, she left a paying job to take on the (poorly) paid job of Executive Director at New Futures because "That's where my heart is."

New Futures, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves families of all compositions that do not qualify for any other shelters in the Madison County area. The basic difference in New Futures is keeping together non-traditional families such as single fathers with children and families with older (from 12 to 18 years) children. The shelter operates in the Marilyn Mabry Family Lodge, with an 8- room dormitory and two suites. The current facility is too small. There is a long waiting list, and some families have been waiting for 8 months.

At this time there are 30 residents at New Futures, and all but one family have a job. The average stay time is 9 months.

The facility has an all-volunteer staff, other than Ms. Johnson. She said they do everything they can to save money, including making their own laundry soap. They get some support from HUD, but only as reimbursement for approved expenses. Manna House provides canned food, and the Downtown Rescue Mission has begun providing evening meals. Residents pay as much rent as they can once they are employed, and they are expected to do chores such as cleaning and minor repairs.

Besides providing basic living accommodations, New Futures provides tutoring for the children at the facility. Ms. Johnson said that homeless children are typically 2 grade levels behind their peers because of constant moving and changing schools. Volunteers from Oakwood and Alabama A & M come to the facility to tutor children every evening, especially in math, and a lady comes once a week to teach science. New Futures recently received a donated van, and Ms. Johnson is planning a summer program of outings to enrich the lives of the children there.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome at New Futures—to teach, to mentor, or to teach a trade to the adults. Eighty percent of the adult residents do not have a high school education. Ms. Johnson would also like to find an organization to provide health care and dental care.

There will be a fundraiser for New Futures at the Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison on Friday evening, April 2. The program features Henry Cho, a comedian (reported to be very funny). Tickets are \$20 and are available at Asbury, any Top Line Tire store, the Mellow Mushroom, and through the New Futures web site: www.keepingfamiliestogethernf.org.

Al Renz encouraged Ms. Johnson to submit a grant request form so the Club could consider giving a grant from our Community Service Awards fund.

Closing

Vice President Vastell gave our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed on it. Our speaker drew names for the attendance prize:

Jeff Sandridge, Becky Billings, Debbie Hyder, **Winner** - Jim Berry

We closed the meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting without benefit of our Creed Banner, and did quite well.

Clyde Nevins



Our Speaker Ms. Jerilyn Johnson

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

~Carl W. Buechner



Web Site: hsvoptimists.org

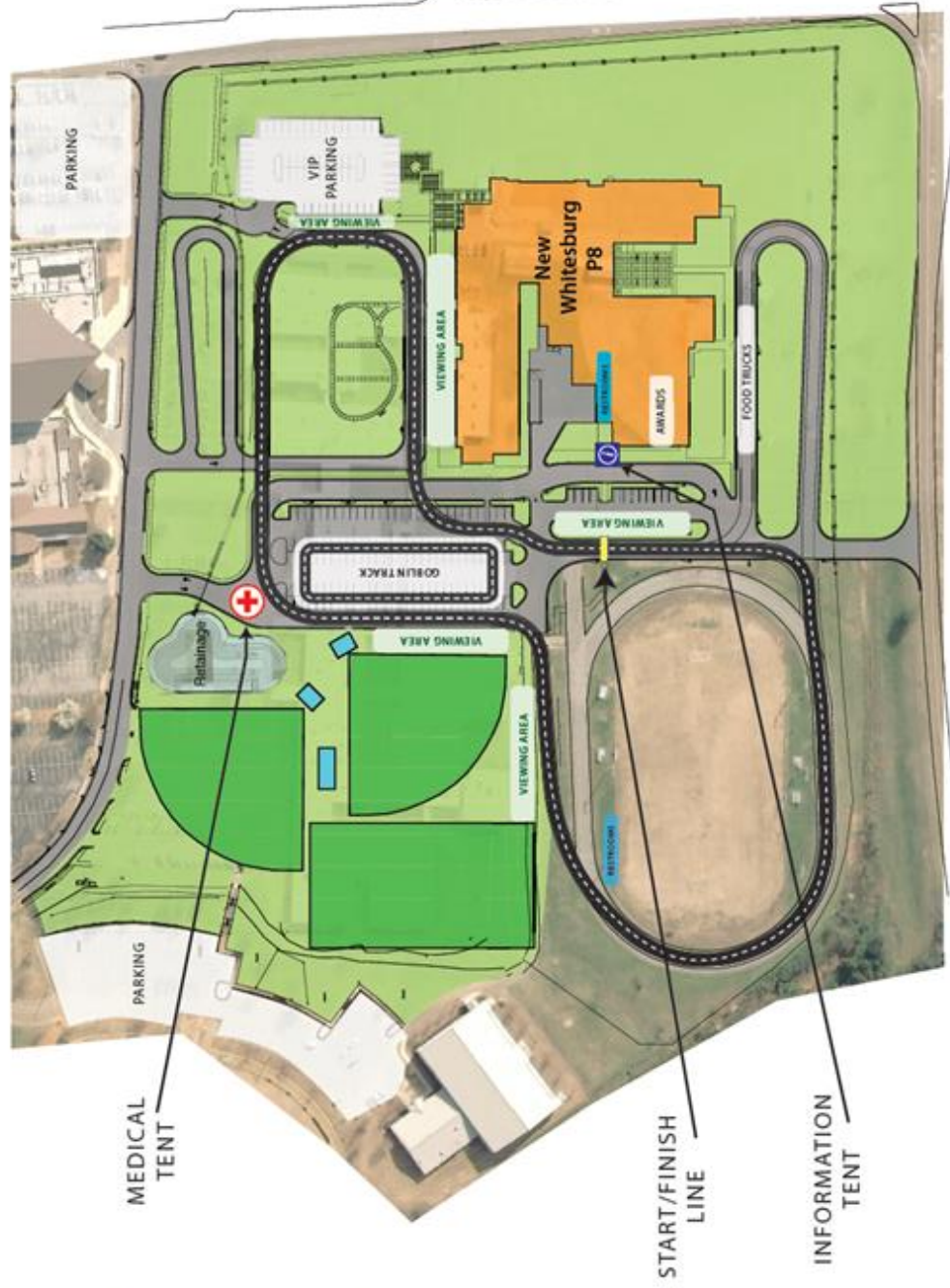
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleOptimistClub/>

CALENDAR

- 4/14 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
George Baker – DAV-Department of Veteran Affairs
- 4/21 Thursday **11:45 am**
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Vastell Williams)
- 4/23 Saturday **10:30am - 4:30pm** Whitesburg P-8
107 Sanders Road, Huntsville, AL (Off Whitesburg DR)
Greenpower USA Race
- 4/26 Tuesday **6:00 pm** Brahan Spring Recreation Center
3770 Ivy Ave SW, Huntsville, AL
Youth Appreciation Banquet
- 4/28 Thursday - **NO MEETING**
Replaced by Youth Appreciation Banquet
- 5/2 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 5/5 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet
Al Renz – TBD
- 5/9 Monday **6:30 pm** Trinity United Methodist Church
607 Airport Rd SW, Huntsville, AL
Respect for Law Banquet
- 5/12 Thursday - **NO MEETING**
Replaced by Respect for Law Banquet
- 5/19 Thursday **11:45 am**
Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)
- 5/26 Thursday **11:45 am** 88 Buffet
Dorothy Havens – Kids to Love

Event Schedule Saturday April 23

9:00AM.....Parade Walk
9:45AM.....Goblin Games
11:00AM.....Goblin Awards
11:45AM.....F-24 Qualifying
1:00PM.....F-24 Heat Races
5:00PM.....F-24 Awards



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