



PRESIDENT

Vastell Williams

256-886-1344

VHV.Williams@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Roe

256-883-8950

j_m_roe@yahoo.com

SECRETARY TREASURER

Al Renz

256-772-7929

optimist3480@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Alfred G. Adams

502-541-6469

alfredg.adams@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

256-881-8215

clyde.nevins@Juno.co

Opti - Topics

October –Evening Meeting

Eleven members assembled at the Blue Plate Café this evening for our regular scheduled meeting. One of our newer members, Denise Watson was there, along with our frequent guest, Nell Berry, wife of Jim Berry. Nell, you might as well sign up to be a spouse member since you attend so many meetings.

The food at the Blue Plate Café was plentiful and not too bad. The menu was not unlike that at Mullins Café, with an entrée and three vegetables being the norm for about \$10 (including tax). We had good service.

Opening

President Vastell Williams gaveled the bell and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of his administration. He called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer. Tom Casteel's telescoping flag pole was in use to display our American flag, and Jim also led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements



We have scheduled a **New Member Orientation** at the November 3 Club meeting. It was announced that our Club had **5 new members last month**. All the parties who need to be involved in giving the orientation will be on hand that evening. This is a new initiative designed to speed the process of getting our new members involved in the Club's many youth activities.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at Blue
Plate Café

3rd Thursdays
At 11:45 a.m.
Optimist Recreational
Center

4th Thursday
At 11:45 a.m. at Blue
Plate Café

DIRECTORS
2 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

1 YEAR

Kathy Anderson
256-679-9704
bamasax80@gmail.com

Matt Clarke
256-828-3652
clarke.matthew.w@gmail.com

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



There are still a few openings in the

monthly Program Chairpersons for next year. Also, if you have a preference to serve on one of the many **youth activity committees**, President Vastell has a list of them for you to choose. Contact him to



sign up on either of these lists.

Kathy Anderson has signed up the Club for the upcoming **Veterans' Day Parade** again this year. She said it will be held on Friday, Nov. 11. She hasn't heard back, as yet, but she is hoping to get a better position number in the parade than

the one we had last year. More details later on how you can help her.



Clyde Nevins reported that the announcements of the Club's new **STEM grants** have been mailed to all of the middle schools and junior high

schools in Huntsville and Madison County. He has also formed a committee, consisting of Connie Gipson, Daniel Horton and Charlene Higgins, but would welcome any others who would like to be on it (call or e-mail him). Four grant applications have already been received, and committee will meet next week to formulate the evaluation criteria.



Pecan Sale Chairman George

McDonough said he has received many, but not all, responses to the personal message he sent to each of the Club members. He said he is not requiring all members to

order 10 bags (as was the case last year). If you haven't told George how many bags you want to order, do it soon. He needs to place the order right away.

Program

The speaker for our program tonight was the Lt. Governor for Optimist Zone 3, Alfred Adams. Al brought to the Club his vision of his goals for the zone in the coming year. Al began his talk by saying this was the fourth Optimist meeting he had been to this week. It was his third club meeting, including one at Fort Payne, and a Zone meeting which he, himself, had called.

Al distributed a sheet with his goals for the Zone. They are:

- Build a solid working and social relationship among the Zone 3 Clubs.
- Increase participation in the Oratorical and Essay Contests by 25%.
- Earn Distinguished Zone honors.
- Build three new clubs in the Zone.
- Increase membership in each Club by 10 new members.
- Have each Club appoint a Foundation Representative and make an unrestricted donation to the OI Foundation.

He elaborated on these points by saying he wanted the Zone to have more interaction than just the Respect for Law banquet which is about it at this time. We need to get to know each other and work together on more projects. He said that there are three good prospects for starting a new Club: Alabama A & M, Arab, and Guntersville, but he hopes to add two more to the list. He said the District's Club Building Chairman, Tom Casteel, was in our Club, so we have a handy asset for building more clubs.

He especially wants Ft. Payne to feel a part of the Zone. Al said the Ft. Payne Club is very active and is the largest Club in the Zone. They added 15 members last year. With a little help and training in submitting the necessary paperwork to OI, they could easily be an Honor Club.

Alfred made a plea for better attendance at the District Meetings. He noted how one of the Birmingham clubs always has a large number of their members at the District meetings and that they kid him about not having as many members at the meetings. In response to a question on what happens at District meetings, he said it was a combination of social activities and training, with the training sessions tailored to that needed by clubs for the time of the year. Mainly, it is a good chance to interface with other clubs to see what's going on in Optimism in our District.

In closing, Lt. Gov. Al thanked the Club for two good years as president, and he wears his wrist watch and Distinguished Club pin often. He said Zone meetings were open to anyone, and "YOU are invited."

As an added bonus to the program, we heard a few words from the District Club Building Chairman, Tom Casteel. Tom said he has never done this job, but was looking forward to the challenge. He stated that Optimist International had a goal of having

100,000 Optimists by the 100th anniversary of Optimist International in 2019. Since there are only seventy-some thousand members now, it's a big challenge.

Tom is optimistic about founding at least three new clubs. He thinks A & M's club could be operating in the next couple of months. Oakwood College is another potential for club building. Arab once had a club, but the "live wire" in Arab who was to help the restart had left the area. Tom said that invariably the clubs that founded new clubs increased their own membership in the process. One additional incentive, now, is that 4 members may earn the "Builder of Excellence" award instead of the previous 2 members.

Closing

President Vastell didn't give out any Optimist tiles, tonight, but he did ask Tom Casteel to draw a name for our attendance prize. The first name drawn was Al Renz, who hasn't missed a meeting in a long time but did tonight. The next name drawn was Tom Casteel, as luck (?) would have it.

Jim Berry led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect."

~Alan Cohen

CALENDAR

10/20 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food - (TBD)

10/27 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center

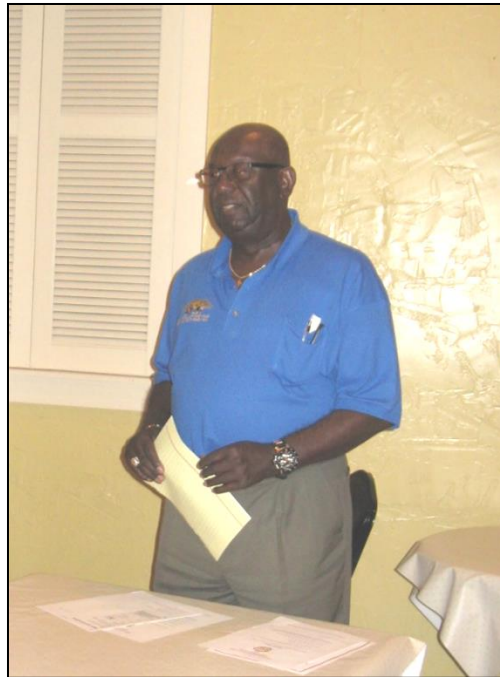
Dr. James Olszewski - Chiropractor

11/1 Tuesday **4:00 pm**

1st Commercial Bank - Whitesburg Dr.

Board Meeting

PHOTOS



Lt. Gov. Alfred Adams Our speaker



District Club Building Chairman, Tom Casteel

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