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Opti - Topics

October –Business Meeting



Fifteen Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for this month's business meeting. Vastell Williams did double duty today; he was our caterer as well as presiding officer at the meeting. Vastell provided a selection of Subway sandwiches, a selection of chips, a selection of pound cakes, and a selection of drinks.

Opening

President Vastell called the meeting to order. He asked Jesse Lang to bring the opening prayer, and Jim Berry led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Vastell announced we had a packed agenda for today's meeting, since he had added a special presentation by Al Renz on how to start a JOI Club.

Announcements



There will be a special Club Meeting at 6:00 p. m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, to conduct a **New Member Orientation** session. Al Adams reported that several new members (we had 5 last month), as well as a few who are not quite that new, had asked for an orientation in what Optimists do, and especially what our Club does. Speakers will cover History of Optimist International, organizational structure of OI, types of programs and the specific programs and projects of our Club. **This meeting will not be a dinner meeting.**

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

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All Club members are invited to attend the upcoming **student presentations** at schools which have submitted STEM grant applications in our Clubs new program. Next week, there are two presentations scheduled. Put these on your calendar, and let's make a good showing at them:

Monday, October 24, 2:00 p. m. at the Academy for Academics and Arts (This is the former Ed White Middle School at 4800 Sparkman Drive)

Tuesday, October 25, 5:15 p. m. at Sparkman Middle School (in Harvest)

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer **Al Renz** distributed the **financial report** for the Club as of September, 2016 (this report covers the Club's entire fiscal year). Al reported that both our bottom-line income and expenses were very close to the budgeted amounts, although there some variations in the various items.

On the *income* side of the ledger, we had unbudgeted income for an Administrative Service Fee, and the pecan fund raiser raised more money than expected. On the *expense* side there were two significant increases: Postage was higher than budgeted due to having to mail many dues statements (instead of handing them out), and the cost of mailing the newsletter was also higher. We also had an unbudgeted expense of paying for our President-Elect to attend a District Meeting for training.

Some Youth Activities expenses were higher than expected, primarily the Band Instrument Program, but the anticipated expense for starting new JOI Clubs was only about half that budgeted.

AI reported that at the end of our fiscal year, the Club's bank balance was \$6,137.97, and our potential cash position was \$10,476.49 (This is the amount the balance would be after the Foundation refunds the Club for youth activity expenses, and all dues and meals are paid up).

Committee Reports



Band Committee Chairman, Tom Casteel, reported that there were several band instruments still available for lending to schools. Some instruments checked out have been returned due to kids moving, and some schools' band directors overbooked what they needed. See Tom if you can use any of these.



Pecan Sale Chairman, George McDonough, reported that he is ready to order 10 boxes (@24 bags per box) of pecans, and his goal is to have them delivered by Nov. 1. He said this is at least as good as what we sold last year. He said there are other varieties of nuts, e. g., mixed nuts or chocolate covered pecans, available, too. He will e-mail a description of these to everyone to see if there is any interest in these. He said we can always submit additional orders, if need be.



STEM Committee Chairman, Clyde Nevins, reported that the Club's STEM Committee was up and running. Six applications for grants have been received thus far, 3 from City Schools and 3 from County Schools. There is a nice variety of STEM projects—robotics, mathematics, rocketry and aquaculture in the ones submitted. The Committee is requiring students who will benefit from the grants to give an oral presentation as part of the evaluation of their grant proposal (see announcements, above). Thus far, the total funding requested by the 6 grant applications is a little over \$11,000, and the budget is \$10,000 for this program.



JOI Club Chairman, Alberto Duarte, reported that “there is no good news” on getting new JOI Clubs established. The principal at Whitesburg Middle School, where we have had a very active JOI Club in the past, has not returned his e-mails. The Randolph JOI Club (the ROC) has a club established, but has not scheduled an officer installation.



Foundation Chairman Alberto Duarte gave the **Foundation Report**. The Foundation's account at Regions as of October 19, 2016, was valued at \$850,376.56. In addition, the Foundation's account at Synovus (an arm of First Commercial bank) was valued at \$148,536.38. The Foundation's board of directors was to have their quarterly meeting with Regions immediately after

today's Club meeting.

New Business



One of Club's goals this year is to establish several new JOI Clubs. To that end, Al Renz gave a special presentation at today's meeting to provide Club members with the basic information they will need to start a JOI Club. He presented several charts taken from information available on line at:

<http://optimist.org/e/member/jooi3.cfm>. Go there to view the resources Al used in his presentation.

Al's main points were:

- There are three types of JOI clubs which generally equate to the three types of schools: Alpha Clubs for Elementary Schools; Junior Optimist Clubs for Middle Schools, and Octagon Clubs for High Schools.
- Our Club receives valuable A & A points for JOI Clubs that have 20 members or more.
- Our Club pays the dues and charter fees for new JOI Clubs
- There are several important forms that must be filled out and submitted to Optimist International.
- There is a comprehensive planning guide on the OI website that gives a lot of good information for use in starting a new JOI Club.

Closing

Alberto Duarte led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“The future depends on what you do today.”

~Mahatma Gandhi

CALENDAR

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

11/3 Thursday **6:00 pm** Blue Plate Cafe

TBD– TBD

11/17 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center

Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)

11/24 Thursday **NO MEETING**

THANKSGIVING



Website – hsvoptimists.org

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



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: