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Opti - Topics

December –Business Meeting

Twelve Optimists, including two of our newest members, braved the bitterly cold wind to assemble at the Optimist Recreation Center for this month's business meeting. Jim Roe was the caterer for our lunch today, and we enjoyed a choice of a barbeque pork or a roast turkey sandwich, with sides of coleslaw, potato salad and baked beans. Christmas cookies and ice tea, too.

One of our new members, Eureka Battie, distributed a Christmas greeting card, complete with a candy cane and hot chocolate packet, to all the attendees. See, you should have been there.

Opening

President Vastell Williams called the meeting to order. He asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

It was good to see Secretary/Treasurer Al Renz in attendance today after recently undergoing cataract surgery on both eyes. Al said both eyes are doing fine, and he can now drive without glasses (but still needs reading glasses).

We were told that Buddy Beck missed the Club's Christmas Party because of a fall. The good news is that Buddy was not seriously injured. He spent a short time at the hospital, but was released to go home and was able to attend church last Sunday.

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

3rd & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 a.m.
Optimist Recreational
Center

DIRECTORS

2 YEAR

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Tom Casteel received a letter from **Carl Winkler**, one of our elderly members who resides at the Regency Retirement Village. Carl reported he has now both president and treasurer of the Living Residents' Council there. We're glad Carl had time to write and keep us up to date.

George McDonough reported that he is moving to Magnolia Trace Retirement Community as of the first of the year. His new address is:

1 CLUBHOUSE AVE SW APT 1313,
HUNTSVILLE AL 35802-5015

Announcements



We're No. 1! The latest AL-MS Optimist District Newsletter announced that the Optimist Club of Huntsville was the **Number One Club in the AL-MS District** last year. We were also an Honor Club. The Club's newsletter, Opti-Topics, was named the best newsletter in the District. A big thank-you to Al Renz who made sure the Club's Awards and Achievement points all got reported.



President Vastell announced that at our next meeting, the evening of the first Thursday in January of next year, there will be a **New Member Installation**. There are several new members who need to be officially sworn into the Club. If you are one of those needing installation, please plan on making this meeting at the Blue Plate Café on January 5.

President Vastell announced that due to the proximity to New Years Day, the Club's **Board of Directors Meeting** will be on the second Tuesday of January rather than on the normal first Tuesday. That's January 10, 4:00 p. m.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer **Al Renz** presented the Treasurer's report for the first two months of the Club's fiscal year. Highlights of his report were:

- We have a net income so far of about \$500 from our Pecan Sale fund raiser. There are quite a few payments still outstanding, and the expectation is that we will exceed last year's income from the sale.
- Youth Activities and Community Service Expenditures for the period were for the Band Instrument program (\$1,836), JOI Club chartering (\$1,300) and STEM Grants (\$3,000).
- Receivables from the Foundation have been slow; reimbursements for last fiscal year and the first two months now total \$8,722.99.
- There are also receivables due from members for meals from last quarter.

Our current bank balance is about \$1,500 due to the outstanding reimbursements listed above. With these paid, our potential cash position is \$11,308.95.

Committee Reports



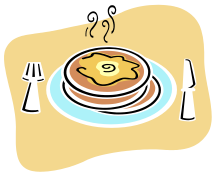
Alberto Duarte reported that the "ROC," **Randolph High School's JOI Club**, had its officer installation ceremony on November 29th at the school. Alberto and Jim Roe attended, and took the opportunity to promote our Oratorical and Essay Contests. The ROC has 58 members, making it the largest JOI Club we have chartered.



Pecan Sale Chairman George McDonough reported that some pecans are being redistributed to Club members from those who had unsold bags. He said with this redistribution and with both he and Treasurer Al Renz accepting money for the Pecan Sale, it has "resulted in the usual turmoil."



Essay Contest Chairman George McDonough reported he had been in contact with Ms. Courtney Bragg at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library about partnering with us in the Essay Contest. The offer was for the Library to promote the contest through her organization if the Club would announce the contest winners at the Library. George agreed. Alfred Adams reported he is promoting the contest at his church. Essays are due February 7.



Pancake Breakfast Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that the date has been set for our annual pancake breakfast to support the Hawthorne Conservatory. The date is **February 4**, 2017, the first Saturday in February. Students from the Hawthorne Conservatory will again be performing during the morning of the breakfast. First breakfast to be served at 7:30 a. m., as usual.



STEM Grant Committee Chairman Clyde Nevins reported that there was a total of eight STEM Grant applications received, and the Committee's recommended funding has been approved for four of them. The last of the eight presentations was at Madison County Elementary School in Gurley after today's meeting, clearing the way for a final distribution of the budgeted funds to the remaining four applications. Vastell Williams reported that one of our new members, Tom Rumph, Jr., of Rumph and Associates, has pledged up to \$1,500 in support of an Optimist project, and that the STEM Grants could be the likely recipient. This would help the STEM Committee grant close to the requested amounts for all the four remaining grant requests.

Foundation Report



Foundation President Alberto Duarte reported it has been "a very unusual month" in the stock market, and hopefully this will continue after the January 20 inauguration. The Foundation now has \$878,000.64 with Regions, and \$149,281.44 with Synovus.

Closing

President Vastell led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: The presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."

~Burton Hillis

CALENDAR

12/22 Thursday **NO MEETING**

CHRISTMAS



12/29 Thursday **NO MEETING**
NEW YEARS



1/5 Thursday **6:00 pm** Blue Plate Cafe
New Member Installation– Vastell Williams

1/10 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting

1/19 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (TBD)

1/26 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
TBD-

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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Huntsville, AL 35804-2230

TO:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE