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# Opti - Topics

## **January – Evening Meeting**

Twelve members and one guest assembled at the Blue Plate Café this evening for our regular scheduled evening meeting on the first Thursday of the month. The turnout wasn't too bad considering the cold weather, traffic congestion on South Parkway and it being the Club's first meeting after a long layoff. Our waitress, Tosha, did her usual fine job of getting us fed.

## **Opening**

President Vastell Williams gaveled the bell and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called on Alberto Duarte to bring the opening prayer, and we then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guest was *Pat Lang*, wife and chauffeur of Jesse Lang.

## **Optimist Family News**

Secretary-Treasurer **Al Renz** is still having problem with high blood pressure which began as a side effect from medication following his recent cataract surgeries. It was reported that he now has also been diagnosed with diabetes. Please keep Al in your prayers.

**Tom Casteel** missed our meeting tonight because of the death of his younger brother in Louisiana. Tom was on his way back from the funeral at meeting time.

## Announcements & Committee Reports

**Club meets**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**  
**At 6:00 p.m. at Blue**  
**Plate Café**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**  
**At 11:45 a.m.**  
**Optimist Recreational**  
**Center**

### **DIRECTORS** **2 YEAR**

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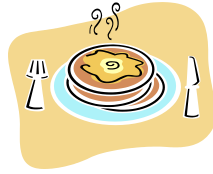
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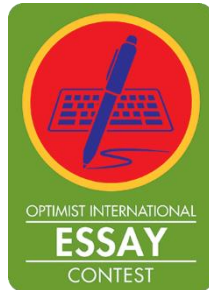


**Pancake Breakfast** Chairman Albert Duarte reminded us that our annual fund raiser for the Hawthorne Conservatory is just around the corner: **February 4** at the Cooper House. Cooks need to be there in time to have food ready for the 7:30 beginning. Tickets for the breakfast will not be given out until the Club's business meeting, so that gives a short time to sell them.

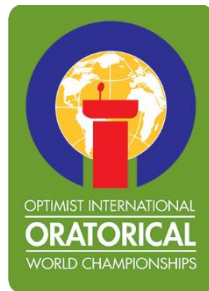


Lt. Governor Alfred Adams encouraged our Club's members to register and attend the **District Meeting** in Gulfport, MS, on January 27-29. Our Club will be receiving several honors at the meeting, including being the No. 1 Club, having the No. 1 newsletter, and being an Honor Club. See the District Web Site, [www.amoptimists.org](http://www.amoptimists.org), for how to register.

*(Note: The new logos below have just been adopted by OI for the two contests)*



**Essay Contest** Chairman George McDonough said there had been some confusion on the deadline for submitting essays for the Club's contest, but the date on our web site is correct. Essays must be submitted to George by 6:00 p.m. on February 4.



**Oratorical Contest** Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that the contest will be held at the Cooper House on March 11.

He will be out of town, and Al Renz has agreed to step in for him to emcee the contest. Alberto expects several entries from Randolph School.



**Pecan Sale** Chairman George McDonough reported that the sale wrap-up is in progress. He said he knows where the money is, and can compute the profit. He said he has “lost” 3 bags of pecans, however.



**STEM Grant** Committee Chairman Clyde Nevins reported that the last of the schools’ STEM presentations to the committee was just before the Christmas holiday. The committee is now allocating the available funds to the four outstanding grant requests. The remaining \$5,678 for grants has been augmented by a generous donation of \$1,500 from Rumph and Associates [Tom Rumph is one of the new members of our Club] to the grant request of the Academy for Academics and Arts. The recommended allocations will be presented to the Club’s board of directors at their January 10 meeting.



District Lt. Governor Alfred Adams will be presenting our Club’s award to the winner of **January’s CAFY Award**. The winner is Chelsy A. Robinson, a senior at Lee High School. The Club’s award is a \$25 gift certificate, and the award is to be presented at the City Council Meeting on January 12.

## Committee Reports



Alberto Duarte reported that the “ROC,” **Randolph High School’s** JOI Club, will have its officer installation ceremony on Tuesday, November 29, at 9:35 a. m. at the school. Alberto will be bringing cake and drinks. All Club members are invited to participate.

District Lt. Governor Alfred Adams reported that our JOI Club at **Hazel Green High School** is up and running, but that the Noon Optimist Club is recruiting their students for the Oratorical and Essay Contests. He said he will be working to establish territorial rights for the various Optimist Clubs in Huntsville at the next Zone meeting.

The JOI Club at **Columbia High School** lost their advisor, so they will not be operating until a new advisor is recruited. A meeting with the principal is required.

## Program

Our program scheduled for tonight was the installation of several new members. However, Tom Casteel, who has the installation kits, was out of town. President Vastell said he will reschedule them, perhaps at the business meeting on January 19.

## Closing

President asked Pat Lang to draw for the winner of our attendance prize. Those who missed out were: Matt Clarke, Buddy Beck, and Tom Casteel. Kathy Anderson's name was the first drawn of those present and she took the prize.

Vastell led us in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering,  
'It will be happier.'”**

*~ Alfred Lord Tennyson*



**Alfred Adams Displays the Plaque Given to Our Club at  
The Recent Hawthorne Conservatory Gala**

# CALENDAR

- 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 – (Rebecca Billings)**
- 1/26** Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**TBD- Rebecca Billings**
- 1/27-29** Friday-Sunday Gulfport, Mississippi  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter AL-MS District Meeting-**

[Website Link](#)

[Facebook Page Link](#)



## 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



**Huntsville Optimist Club**  
P, O, Box 2230  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**TO:**