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# Opti - Topics

## **January Business Meeting**

A good turnout of 15 Optimists assembled on a rainy day at the Optimist Recreation Center today for the Club's monthly business meeting. Our chef for lunch today was Gay Pepper, who brought a variety of delicious sandwiches from Steak-Out, along with sandwich condiments, chips and drinks.

## **Opening**

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

## **Optimist Family News**

Al Renz reported that he had planned to bring **Buddy Beck** with him to the meeting today, but Buddy called him just before the meeting to say he couldn't make it. We miss you, Buddy, and hope you can make a meeting soon.

## **New Member Installation**

President Vastell asked **new member Eureka Battie** and her sponsor, Alfred Adams to come forward. He asked Alfred to introduce Eureka, and then proceeded to lead her in the Optimist member oath and attach her membership pin (see photo below).

Eureka made a brief speech saying how she appreciated the warm, welcoming members in our Club.



**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**

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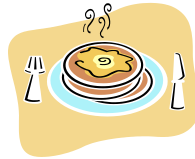
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## **Announcements**



Tickets for the Club's annual **Pancake Breakfast on February 4** are now printed and being distributed to all Club members. Each of us gets 10 tickets to sell for \$5.00 each for the event, and are expected to return \$50 to the Club in exchange. For those you don't sell, you can make out a check to the Hawthorne Conservatory for a tax-deductible deduction.



The **Al-Ms District Meeting** is in Gulfport, MS, on January 27-29. Tom Casteel and Alfred Adams are going. I didn't hear if President Vastell was going to make it—he mentioned a possible conflict at the Club's Board of Directors Meeting.



Jessie Lang reminded everyone that the **Tri-Star Basketball Contest** will be coming up in March. He has scheduled the competition this year to not be in conflict with the youth basketball games that caused cancellation of this event last year.



Zone Vice President Alfred Adams announced that the Zone will be hosting a **Zone-wide get-together** of all Optimist Clubs in Ft. Payne on the first Saturday in June, June 3. The event will be a picnic at the new city park that was a project of the Ft. Payne Optimist Club. Logistics and carpools for the event will be announced later.



Zone Vice President Alfred Adams announced that the zone has formed a committee to work out plans for an **"Outstanding Educator Banquet."** The project was put forward by the Huntsville Evening Club. Gay Pepper is our Club's representative to the committee.



Tom Casteel announced that he is ready to send off another order for the Club polo shirts. If you want one, let Tom know ASAP. The cost of the shirt is \$15. If 4 or more of you would like a dress-style Club shirt, they can also be ordered, but will cost you \$25.



Treasurer **Al Renz** presented the Treasurer's report for the first quarter of the Club's fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2016. He compared the revenues and expenses with the Club's budget for the quarter, but said that most revenues and expenses are not uniform through the year.

Highlights of his report were:

- The budget for revenues was based on 4 meetings per month with members billed for all four meals, but the Club has gone to only 3 meetings per month, and on one of those members pay individually. He is considering redoing the budget for the new meeting schedule.
- Youth Activities and Community Service Expenditures for the period were for the Band Instrument program (\$2,909), JOI Clubs (\$1,341) and STEM Grants (\$4,322).
- The Club is not currently owed any Receivables from the Foundation.
- There are delinquent dues and meals revenue from a few members for last quarter. One member who owes has resigned, and the amount of his delinquency is likely to be written off.
- Our current bank balance is about \$10,586.31, and Al said this is the first time our balance has exceeded \$10,000. If all delinquent dues and meal charges were paid, our potential cash position is \$11,507.31.

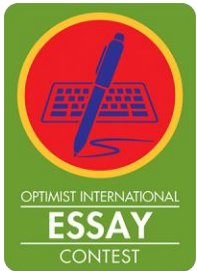
## Committee Reports



**JOI Club Committee** Chair Alberto Duarte was absent, but new member Eureka Battie reported she is working to get our former JOI Club at Columbia High School re-chartered. She is also trying to get an appointment with the principal at Jemison High School to discuss starting a JOI Club there.



**Pecan Sale** Chairman George McDonough reported that the sale is pretty well wrapped up. There is still \$50 outstanding to pay for pecans, but he knows who owes it. He said that next year he would like to hold the sale earlier if he's chairman because it runs into the Essay Contest activities of which he is also chairman.



**Essay Contest** Chairman George McDonough reported he is very optimistic about the number of entries in this year's contest. Several members, including Tom Casteel (contacting Heirs, a home-school organization) and Eureka Battie (working at Jemison High School) are promoting the contest. George said he "is pretty happy about" the way the number of contestants seems to be lining up. NOTE: George has moved his residence, but he still collects mail at his old address, so contestants can still mail their essays as shown on our web site.



Associates.

**STEM Grant Committee** Chairman Clyde Nevins reported that the committee has pretty well wrapped up the program. All grant checks have been mailed to the principals of the schools with the exception of the donation by Rumph and

Six out of eight schools that submitted grant applications received 100% of their grant request, and all of the teachers were extremely happy and thankful to get their grants. Grants went for a variety of purposes, from buying science hardware, robotics hardware, academic curricula, a field trip to the Alabama Space and Rocket Center, and travel expenses for a Greenpower race team. He reported also that the *The Huntsville Times* had an article on the Club's STEM grants in the January 18 edition. A copy is at the end of this newsletter.

## Foundation Report



Foundation President Alberto Duarte wasn't at the meeting, but he had left a brief report with Foundation member Al Renz. Al reported that at the end of December, the Foundation's assets were about \$1,030,000. This was thought to be more than at the beginning of last year, even though the Foundation had funded many of our youth programs in the mean time.

## Closing

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

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“For the record, I am not a nut. I am an optimist. That's exactly like a nut except with a better attitude.”**

*~Scott Adams*

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**President Vastell Williams Pins Member Pin  
on New Member Eureka Battie**



Friday, January 18, 2017

## Huntsville.

### Optimist Club Gives STEM Grants.

The Optimist Club of Huntsville recently issued grants totaling \$11,500 to schools in Huntsville and Madison County for the purpose of enhancing science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education.

Three schools in Madison County and three schools in Huntsville received the eight grants, which ranged from \$880 to \$2,800. Funding for the grants was supplied by \$10,000 from the Huntsville Optimist Foundation and a donation of \$1,500 by Rumph and Associates.

Grants were awarded in support of a variety of uses, including hydroponic garden hardware, robotics hardware, mathematics competition books, a field trip to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, and travel expenses for a Greenpower race team. This was the initial year for the STEM Grant Program by the Optimist Club of Huntsville. Club President Vastell Williams said the success of the program this year makes it likely it will be continued.

## CALENDAR

- 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-**
- 2/2** Thursday **6:00 pm** Blue Plate Cafe  
**TBD - Richie Myers**

## 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**  
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**TO:**