



### **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.com

# Opti - Topics

## **January 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting**

A nice turnout of 18 members assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center today for our regular scheduled luncheon meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Gay Pepper was our caterer today, and we enjoyed a choice of pulled pork or turkey breast sandwiches with sides of coleslaw, beans and potato salad. We also had a choice of lemon, coconut or chocolate meringue pies and drinks.

## **Opening**

President Vastell Williams gaveled the bell and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called on Jesse Lang to bring the opening prayer, and Rev. Jim Berry led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Induction of New Members**



President Vastell asked Tom Rumph to come to the front to be inducted as the newest member of our Club. Vastell, himself, was Tom's sponsor, and he gave us Tom's impressive resume as Founder and Managing Partner of Rumph and Associates, a firm doing specialized accounting for the CDC and other Federal and State agencies in the U. S. and Africa.

**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**

**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**

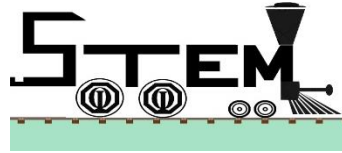
**Kathy Anderson**  
256-679-9704  
bamasax80@gmail.com

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

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

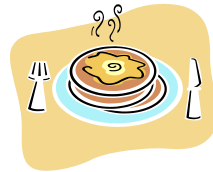
After his induction, Tom gave a short speech thanking Vastell for his kind introduction and especially his invitation to join our Club. He said he was looking forward to help the Club “bring out the best in kids.”

## **Special Presentation**



President Vastell asked STEM Grant Committee Chairman Clyde Nevins to come forward for a special presentation. Newly inducted member Tom Rumph, Jr., presented Clyde with a check for \$1,500 that is designated to go to the Club’s STEM Grant program. The check is made out to the Huntsville Optimist Foundation and a new check from the Foundation will be sent to the school that is to be the recipient.

## **Announcements & Committee Reports**



**Pancake Breakfast** Chairman Albert Duarte encouraged everyone to support our annual fund raiser for the Hawthorne Conservatory is just around the corner: **February 4** at the Cooper House. Cooks need to be there about 7:00 a. m. to have food ready for the 7:30 beginning. Ten tickets for the breakfast have been given out to Club members to sell, and Alberto said, “I do not take any tickets back.”



STEM Grant Committee Chairman Clyde Nevins announced that all Optimists in our Club have been invited to attend a **Robotics Contest at Hazel Green High School**. The contest is to be held **this Saturday** (January 28), with qualification competitions starting at 9:00 a. m., and finals in the afternoon at 1:30 p. m. Meridianville Middle School, one of our STEM Grant recipients, will be the only local school in the competition. Lunch will be available at the school.



Tom Casteel announced that the **Junior Optimist District Convention** will be held at Athens State University on **March 11 and 12**. The registration fee is \$20, and motel rooms holding up to 4 attendees will be available at \$69.99. Club contacts should make sure our JOI Clubs know of the convention. The registration form is attached to the end of this newsletter.

## Program



Our speaker for today's meeting was Mr. Joseph S. Vick, Museum Education Director and Homeschool Program Director for the U. S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.

Mr. Vick has been with the Center for 10 year. After attending Space Camp twice as a youngster, Mr. Vick became enthusiastic about space, studied to be an educator and grabbed the opportunity to join the staff at the USRRC.

**History:** Mr. Vick began by giving a little history of the Space and Rocket Center. The Center was the brainchild of Wernher von Braun, and was dedicated on March 17, 1970. It is affiliated with the Smithsonian Museums and is the largest space museum in the world. The Center's outstanding Space Camp began in 1982, and has since graduated over 700,000 campers. About 20% of kids attending Space Camp come from foreign countries. Mr. Vick said there is no way to teach kids rocket science in one week, but they are taught the importance of math, science, teamwork and leadership. Many return to their homes and schools with a new love for education in these areas.

**Currently:** The Center is refurbishing many exhibits, especially the rockets and missiles in Rocket Park that badly needed repainting after decades of exposure to the elements. Next month, beginning February 21, a new exhibit will open that promises to be quite spectacular. It will be a multimedia presentation of our Solar System telling the properties of all the planets as well as the probes that have explored them.

**Future:** An extravaganza is planned for 2019 which will combine the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alabama as a State, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing mission. Another long-range project is in work with Redstone Arsenal. When approved, this project will add about 1,000 acres of "green space" to the Center. This green space will connect with other green spaces in the area, and will feature hiking, walking and bicycle trails as well as rides (e. g., bungee jumping) appropriate to green spaces.

## Closing

President Vastell gave our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed, and then asked him to draw for the winner of our attendance prize. The first name drawn was Eureka Battie, a regular attendee.

By the way: Al Renz and I went through all the tags in the tin containing names for our attendance prize before the meeting to be sure no one's name was missing and no one's name was there more than once.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“The American, by nature, is optimistic. He is experimental, an inventor and a builder who builds best when called upon to build greatly. Arouse his will to believe in himself, give him a great goal to believe in, and he will create the means to reach it.”**

*~ John F. Kennedy*

## CALENDAR

- 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**
- 2/4** Saturday **7:00 am** Cooper House  
**Annual Pancake Breakfast for Hawthorne Conservatory**
- 2/16** Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Richie Myers)**
- 2/23** Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**TBD- Richie Myers**

# Photos



**President Vastell Williams Installs  
New Member Tom Rumph**



**Tom Rumph Presents Clyde Nevins  
a \$1500 Check for the STEM Program**



**Alabama-Mississippi District**  
**Optimist International**  
**JOI District Convention**  
**March 11-12, 2017**

## **Athens State University, Athens, Alabama**

**Sleep Inn, 1115 Audubon Lane, Athens, Alabama (256-232-4700)**  
**Hotel Room (Up to 4 allowed per room)-----\$69.99+tax (\$79.39 total)**  
**Call hotel by March 4<sup>th</sup> and ask for Optimist Block**

### **REGISTRATION**

**Club Name and Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee(includes Lunch and Dinner)**

**Total #** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$20.00 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount remitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-registration closes March 4<sup>th</sup> to guarantee meals (No time to waste)**

**Checks Payable to AL- MS District JOI**

**Mail Registration Form including Registration Fee to:**

**AL- MS District**

**P.O. Box 91**

**Athens, Alabama 35612**

## 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  
Huntsville, AL 35804-2230

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**TO:**