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Opti - Topics

March Business Meeting

Seventeen Optimists attended the Club's March business meeting at the Optimist Recreation Center today. We had one guest, Donald Myers, Richie's dad, who is visiting him from Auburn, NY, for 10 days or so. It was good to see Daniel Horton with us today—he's been missing for a while.

Marilyn King-Jordan and Denise Watson arranged for our lunch today, and we enjoyed sub sandwiches, chips, cookies and iced tea. Marilyn and Denise also had a St. Patrick's Day treat for us, a little gift bag of "green things" including a pack of Wrigley's Doublemint gum, a green tea bag, and a small can of Canada Dry Ginger Ale.

Opening

President Vastell Williams asked Rev. Jim Berry to open the meeting with prayer and Jim also led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Optimist Family News

Alfred Adams reported that the trip to visit the Ft. Payne Club had been cancelled due to the weather conditions on that day. He is still working with the Ft. Payne Club to have a Zone Picnic there in June.

Al Renz reported that the wife of the late Dallas Clark, a past president of both our Club and the Gurley Optimist Club, had died.

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

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

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Jim Roe reported that Sidney Sandridge had been in rehab for about 2 weeks but was now home and doing better.

New Member Installation

President Vastell asked Zone Lt. Governor Alfred Adams to come forward to officiate the installation of new member Denise Watson. Denise has been member since last fall, but this was the first opportunity for her installation.

Marilyn King-Jordan was the sponsor for Denise, and she introduced her to the Club. Marilyn said that Denise was a “Jack of all trades and master of most.” She is an excellent seamstress, plays piano and flute, rides a motorcycle, and, most of all, wants to be a blessing to people.

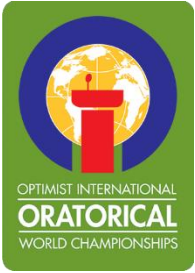
Treasurer’s Report



Treasurer Al Renz gave us his report for February. He said there was not much activity in the month, but gave us these highlights:

- The Club’s Pecan Sale netted over \$200 more than last year’s sale
- Youth Activity expenses included the normal Band Program fixed expenses for storage and maintenance, a donation of \$500 to the Grace Lutheran JOI Club’s Youth Cancer Project, and three \$25 gift cards for our award to the CAFY Young Citizen of the Month.
- The first 5 months of our fiscal year have resulted in a net increase of about \$1,500.
- The Club’s bank balance is about a \$10,000, and we have a potential cash position of \$12,924.

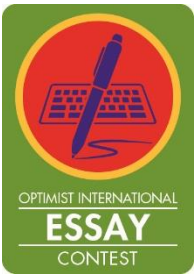
Committee Reports



Al Renz reported on last Saturday's **Oratorical Contest**. There was a disappointing turnout of only 3 contestants: 2 young ladies and one young man, but a good showing of Club members. Al said since there is only one other Club in our Zone holding an oratorical contest, there will be no Zone contest. Our winners will go directly to the District Contest in Athens on April 8.

Jim Roe recommended that next year's contest not be held during Spring Break week to increase participation

Jim Berry commented that the Cooper House is not the best place for the contest. It's too large and intimidating, and the acoustics are not good.



Essay Contest Chairman George McDonough reported that judging of the essays is complete, and he's ready to have the winners come to a meeting to read their essays. Alfred Adams suggested the last meeting April, which currently has no speaker



Band Committee Chairman Tom Casteel reminded Committee members that is nearing time to alert our band directors to provide the name (and instrument played) of their Outstanding Band Member, and to provide dates for their Spring Concerts where the award will be presented.



Alberto Duarte was absent today, but Tom Casteel gave a report for the **JOI Club Committee**. Tom said he had attended the District JOI Club Convention in Athens on March 11. This year's convention had 70 kids, the largest in 10 years. Tom related that in the Convention's election for JOI Club District Governor, there was a tie vote between a young lady from Muscle Shoals, and a young man from Selma. To resolve the tie, attendees agreed to have Co-Governors for the year.

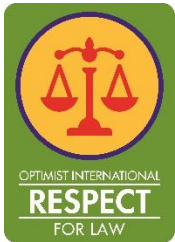


Tri-Star Basketball Chairman Jesse Lang reminded everyone about this Saturday's contest at the ORC. He's hoping for a good turnout of members, including ladies, to run the contest.



Al Renz gave a brief report on the assets of the **Foundation**. At the end of February, the Foundation had assets valued at about \$155,300 at Synova, and about \$899,000 with Regions, a total of about \$1,055,000.

New Business



Lt. Governor Alfred Adams reported that there was a new date for the **Respect for Law Banquet**. The new date is May 8 (was May 1). It will be held at the Trinity United Methodist Church on Airport Road. Al said the new date should make it easier to get a caterer at a reasonable price.



Gay Pepper agreed to contact the Sheriff's Office to name our Club's awardee. This has been done for the past several years by Duane Plank, and we will miss his enthusiasm in the presentation of our award at the banquet.



Gay Pepper reported there has been no action taken by the Zone to firm up plans for the **Respect for Educators Banquet**. This is a new program proposed by the Huntsville South Optimist Club for the Zone.



Alfred Adams reported that he had brought the suggestion of buying a table at the **Harris Home for Children Fund Raiser** concert to the Club's Board of Directors (The cost for a full table is \$1,000). The Board's preference was to make a direct donation to the Harris Home in lieu of buying a table.

Closing

Just prior to closing the meeting, President Vastell thanked Al Renz for subbing for Alberto Duarte in chairing the Oratorical Contest, and to Tom Casteel for spearheading our efforts at the Kite Festival.

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Every optimistic path will take you farther, faster, and to greater altitudes than any road of pessimism.”

~ Wes Fesler

CALENDAR

3/23 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center

Denise Watson –



**Al Adams Presents Denise Watson
her Member Certificate.**

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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



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PLACE
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TO: