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# Opti - Topics

## **October Evening Meeting**



**HUNTSVILLE  
COUNTRY CLUB**

A fine turnout of 19 Optimists and 2 guests, in addition to our 3 speakers for the evening, greeted our new president Eureka Battie at the Huntsville Country Club. Alfred Adams had arranged for us to meet at the HCC on a trial basis in order to ease the problems some Club members have been experiencing in getting to the Blue Plate Café for our monthly evening meeting. It was good to see several members attending the meeting that we've been missing lately.

The meal served by the HCC was certainly filling: salad, turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans, a dinner roll, and a large bowl of pudding for dessert. Plenty of iced tea, too.

## **Opening**

President Eureka Battie welcomed everyone and asked for our guests to be introduced. Our guests were "Milo" (no last name provided) and Marlene Renz (Al's wife). Milo was Alberto Duarte's guest. He's a student at University of California / Berkeley and was in Huntsville briefly on a project with NASA.

President Eureka called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer and lead the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Announcements**

### **Dues and meal reimbursements are due.**

Treasurer Al Renz has your dues statement for the October-December quarter. Al itemizes the costs of all the meals you ate last quarter and adds this to your Optimist dues to get what you owe. Bring your checkbook to the next meeting.



**Club meets**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**  
**At 6:00 p.m. at**  
**Huntsville Country**  
**Club**

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

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The Club's **committee sign-up sheet** was circulated at the meeting, and if you weren't there, the specific needs for chairpersons I saw on the sheet are:

- **Fellowship and Meeting Chairman** to provide leadership for the Club's events, especially arranging for the food. Contact Eureka Battie to sign up for this vacancy.
- **CAFY Chairman** to arrange for the Club's \$50 award to the City's monthly recipient of the Outstanding Youth, and to present the award at the designated City Council Meeting.

Sign up to work on a committee, too. You don't have to be the chairperson to contribute.



**Pecan Sale** Chairman Alfred Adams announced he had ordered the pecans for our fall fund raiser. He expects them to be available at the Club's business meeting on October 19, so you will need to bring your checkbook for your 10 (or more) bags.



Alberto Duarte is inviting all Optimists to attend the installation of officers at the Grace Lutheran High School's ceremony on Thursday, October 12 at the school. Our Club will provide refreshments for the event, and the JOI Club there has requested pizza. Alberto will also deliver the \$500 donation that the Board of Directors voted to give the school for their "Snowflake" fundraiser later this year.

**Program**

President Eureka introduced our speakers for tonight:

**AAMU**  
**CDC**

Iesha Watts, Samar Misra and Keaires Roberson of Alabama A & M University's Community Development Corporation (CDC). In introducing them, Eureka also announced that all three have signed up for Club membership.

The first speaker, Executive Director Iesha Watts, began by presenting Eureka a bouquet of flowers to honor her first meeting as president of the Club (see photo).

Ms. Watts gave a brief history of the CDC, a 501c3 non-profit corporation. It was initiated by Alabama A & M University as an organization in 1996 by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and became a not-for-profit corporation in 1999. The organization's mission is "To promote and assist citizens and local governments in revitalizing neighborhoods and in building viable and safe communities."

Ms. Watts described the three main activities of the organization to meet their mission: after school programs for kids, summer camp, and neighborhood revitalization projects. Most of these activities are located in the Emerson Heights neighborhood which is adjacent to the A & M campus. After school programs, costing \$5 per child per week, aim to give kids help with their school work and provide mentoring and other wholesome activities. Summer camp, which costs only \$40 for the entire summer, featured STEM activities, drum line, a visit to the Showers Center, skating, bowling and swimming.

Neighborhood revitalization projects were designed to help the elderly and disabled people to maintain their homes. A & M students volunteered to revitalize 5 homes in the area, doing such activities as cutting grass and clearing trash. Adults were also introduced to the Calhoun Community College's GED and Work Readiness programs. The CDC has also arranged for the Library's Bookmobile to come by every two weeks to encourage reading.

Ms. Watts introduced Samar Misra who spoke briefly on his role of recruiting volunteers for the after-school program. He also works with the technical support people in creating flyers and the organization's newsletter.

The last speaker, Kearies Roberson, began with CDC as a volunteer, and became so sold on the program that she is now working with it. She said she likes working with kids, and said "It's been exciting to see what's been done in the Emerson Heights neighborhood."

In conclusion, Ms. Watts answered a few questions. In response to these she reported that the CDC gets its funding from donations, sponsorships and grants. They are not a part of the Combined Federal Campaign (or United Way). They will be having an Angel Tree program for the Christmas season, and would welcome donations and/or sponsors for this project.

## **Closing**

President Eureka gave Ms. Watts one of our Optimist Creed tiles, and thanked her for her presentation and for joining our Club. She asked Samar Misra to draw for our attendance prize, and he had to draw five names before Jim Berry finally won. Those missing out were: Justin Jordan, Charlene Higgins, Danielle Barnes and Bob Martin. Eureka led the recitation of the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.**

*~ Marianne Williamson*

Photos = Photos - Photos



**From L to R: Iesha Watts (our speaker), Club President Eureka Battie, Kearies Roberson, and Samar Misra.**



# CALENDAR

- 10/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Eureka Battie)**
- 10/26 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Eureka Battie - TBD**
- 11/2 Thursday 6:00 pm Huntsville Country Club  
**Alberto Duarte- TBD**
- 11/7 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**
- 11/16 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food – (Alberto Duarte)**
- 11/24 Thursday **NO MEETING**  
**THANKSGIVING**



**Website: [hsvoptimists.org](http://hsvoptimists.org)**

## 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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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**TO:**