



Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 72, Number 9 – JAN 25, 2018

January 4th Thursday Meeting

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Sixteen Optimists assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center for our regularly scheduled 4th

Thursday luncheon meeting for the month. We had no visitors at today's meeting. Gay Pepper arranged for our lunches, and we enjoyed a choice of Steak-Out sandwiches with fixin's and chips, along with a selection of pound cakes and iced teas. Vegan meals were also provided

Opening

President Eureka Battie welcomed everyone to our Club meeting. She asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements



Don't forget! **Starting in February, the Club will meet only twice each month:** on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. The 2nd Thursday meeting will be an evening meeting at the Huntsville Country Club, and the 4th Thursday meeting will be a business meeting at lunchtime at the ORC. Tom Casteel has sent out a postcard by snail mail to each member as an additional reminder.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at
Huntsville Country
Club

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

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Pancake Breakfast Chairman Alberto Duarte asked all who could to help with the pancake breakfast. It will be held Saturday, February 3 at the Cooper House. Each Club member has an allotment of 10 tickets to sell at \$5 each. Alberto asked you to give your payments to check to Treasure Al Renz. You can make out your check to the Hawthorne Conservatory for unsold tickets and get a tax deduction. He urged everyone to come and help cook, serve, or just socialize with our patrons. Be there at 7:30 a. m.



Note: Tom Casteel said he has two or three **Optimist aprons** (pancake colored) for anyone needing protection while helping with the breakfast. Call Tom if you would like one. Cost is \$13.00.



Tom Casteel reported on the **Club awards received at the Alabama/Mississippi District Meeting** in Hattiesburg, MS, on January 19-21. We did not make Honor Club last year (because of not meeting the membership requirements), but we ranked first in Achievement and Award points, both in our membership category (40 and above) and over all categories.



Tom Casteel also announced that the **District's JOI Club Convention** will be held in Huntsville (for the first time) on March 10 & 11. The event will be at the Airport Sheraton Hotel. We will be contacting our local JOI Clubs to encourage them to attend. The Club's policy is to pay the way for any JOI Club member who wishes to attend.

New Member Installation



President Eureka reported we had six new members that needed to be installed, and three of them were in attendance today. She asked each new member to come forward to take the Optimist Club oath. The three installed were:

- Jack Burwell, sponsored by Jim Berry
- Keaires Roberson, sponsored by Eureka Battie
- Iesha Watts, sponsored by Eureka Battie

Program



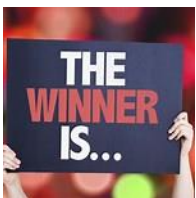
Today's program was a talk by newly installed member **Jack Burwell**. Jack's topic was his how he became interested in **investing**, and what he has learned about investing since his first stock purchase at the age of 13.

Jack said as a very young lad his favorite game was Monopoly. Since his father worked in photography, his first investment was two shares of Polaroid. He recounted the ups and downs of this investment, which he finally sold to buy a used (smoking) station wagon as he went off to Duke University. He eventually went to Law School and specialized in Tax Law.

Jack handed out a sheet which gave a year-by-year accounting of what \$100 would be worth up to today if invested in 1928. The sheet showed that stocks by far outperformed T Bills and T Bonds, and Jack also compared returns if the investment had been in either gold or silver.

In summing up his experience, Jack said for 98% of us who don't have the time or skill to do the necessary research, investing in the S & P 500 was the way to go. There will be ups and downs, for sure, but the trend has always been for the S & P 500 stocks to outperform the "safer" investments in the long run.

Closing



President Eureka had to leave a little early, so Tom Casteel presided over the drawing for the attendance prize. Six Optimists (Joseph Lee, Tom Rumph, Byrom Goodwin, Angela Debroy, Matt Hancock, and Denise Watson) missed out. The seventh name and pot winner, was **Alberto Duarte**.

Tom Casteel led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Always find opportunities to make someone smile, and to offer random acts of kindness in everyday life.”

~ Roy T. Bennett

PHOTOS



**Our Speaker
Jack Burwell**



**Eureka Presenting New
Member Jack Burwell
to the Club**



Eureka Presenting New Member Keaires Roberson to the Club



Eureka Presenting New Member Iesha Watts to the Club

CALENDAR

- FEB 3 Saturday 7.30 am to 11:30 pm **Cooper House**
Pancake Breakfast
- FEB 6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- FEB 8 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club
Matt Clarke- TBD
- FEB 22 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Matt Clarke)
- MAR 3 Saturday 10.00 am to 2 pm **John Hunt Park**
Kite Festival
- MAR 6 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- MAR 8 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club
Tom Casteel- TBD
- MAR 10 Saturday 9.00 am **Cooper House**
Oratorical Contest
- MAR 17 Saturday 9.00 am to 11:00 am **Optimist Recreation Center**
TRI – Star Basketball
- MAR 22 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)
- APR 2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- APR 12 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club
Charlene Higgins - TBD
- APR 26 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Charlene Higgins)



Huntsville Optimist Club
P.O. Box 2230
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TO:



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 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, and stay, happy for the presence of trouble for

Optimist International