



Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 72, Number 13 – MAR 22, 2018

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March Business Meeting



I'm glad I made the meeting today, because Tom Casteel catered one of my favorite lunches—taco salads. Tom ordered all the makings for the salad from Guadalajara Restaurant for both chicken and beef taco salads. He also brought a crock pot of vegetable chili for our vegan members to top their salads. Accompanying our salads were Easter decorated cupcakes, a selection of pound cakes and assorted drinks.

We had a good turnout today, 19 members and two guests. **Len Worlund** was the guest of Jack Burwell. Len is a retired NASA engineering manager who specialized in propulsion. He lives near the ORC and was a member of the Noon Optimist Club.

Our other guest was no stranger to us: **Lt. Governor Tom Howell**. Tom is our Zone Lt. Governor this year, and he came to make a special award to one of our members (see below).

Opening

President Eureka Battie welcomed everyone to the Club's March business meeting. She asked Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. President Eureka then asked for guest introductions, and then recognized our newest member (as of today) **Jeannette Jones**. Jeannette was sponsored by Keaires Roberson. She is a care giver and is starting a non-profit organization called *15 Plus*.

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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Announcements

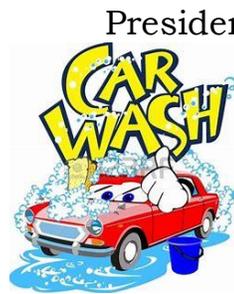
Optimist Family News

We were informed of two “Ides of March” birthdays today. Both **Alberto Duarte** and **Jack Burwell** were born on March 15—notorious as the date of the [assassination of Julius Caesar](#). Alberto commented that it was also the date Columbus gave his report to Queen Isabella on his voyage to the New World. Tom Casteel’s 75th birthday is tomorrow on March 23rd.



Lt. Governor Tom Howell hand delivered a letter of appreciation to President Eureka, which she read to the Club. The letter thanked Club member **Matt Clarke** for filling in at the last minute to be a judge at the Zone Oratorical Contest on March 17.

Announcements



President Eureka announced that she still has some unsold **car wash tickets** for getting your car washed at Lee’s Magic Tunnel on Memorial Parkway. This is a fund raiser for the South Club in which we are invited to support. You will get \$15 worth of car washes for \$10—just in time for the dreaded “yellow car syndrome” we get at this time of the year.



Tom Casteel needs to know if you need an **Optimist Shirt**. He has a few in hand but plans to order more for those who need a size that’s not “in stock.” He’s sent out an e-mail to everyone asking for inputs. **Please respond to Tom’s request** ASAP if you need a shirt.



A very successful **New Member Orientation** was held just prior to today's meeting. Five new members attended and received a comprehensive briefing on Optimism in general, our Club's operation and projects, and how to get involved. Tom Casteel and Al Renz did most of the briefing and your editor had a small part.

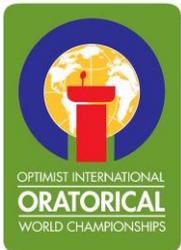
Committee Reports



Pancake Breakfast Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that he has received no additional money from members' ticket sales to the breakfast, so he has calculated the total profit to be \$1,312.42. This isn't the lowest amount made on this project but is a good bit lower than last year. Alberto said the ticket sales in the Central Presbyterian Church were partly responsible for the decline. He is inviting Ms. Tiffany Martin, Director of the Hawthorne Conservatory, to an upcoming meeting to present a check for this amount to her.



Tom Casteel reported on the Club's participation in the City's annual **Kite Festival** on March 3. There was near perfect weather for kite flying, and there was a good crowd. Tom gave out and estimated 250 or 300 of our balsa wood gliders to attendees. Several people expressed interest process in what our Club does and were invited to attend a meeting.



The **Oratorical Contest** was held on March 10 with a somewhat disappointing number of contestants. There were only two young ladies and one young gentleman as contestants. Contest Chairman Alberto Duarte thanked the several members who turned out to support the contest. Our Club winners participated in the Zone contest on March 17. Since there were only 4 contestants at the Zone contest, all four were sent forward to the Regional contest.



Tri-Star Basketball Chairman Jesse Lang was not present today, but Tom Casteel reported on the Tri-Star basketball competition held March 17 at the Optimist Recreation Center. He said only one contestant showed up: a nine-year old boy. Tom said that moving the contest date from February to March is largely responsible for the low turn-out, but that the Club was asked to make the date change by the ORC management.

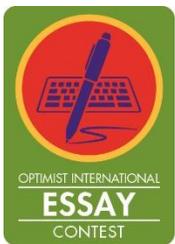


Chairperson Gay Pepper reported that everything is set for the **Youth Appreciation Banquet** on April 12, except that there is a need for more youth to be awarded. She said this is always the hardest job in putting on this project. She expects several nominees more from our JOI Clubs, but asked members to seek nominees for awards from their church or other youth groups in which they are involved. Our Essay Contest winner will be recognized but will not read her essay. **You (and any guests) need to sign up for this event so the caterer will know how many to prepare for.** Call or e-mail Gay if you didn't get your name on the sheet that was circulated at today's meeting.

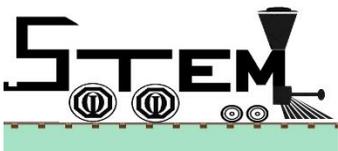


Our **JOI Club** at Whitesburg School is now official! They finally got their paperwork in to Al Renz so they can be reported to Optimist International. There is a potential to have another JOI Club at the school in the elementary grades.

There is interest in starting a JOI Club at Marin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. Keaires Roberson has been in contact with the school. Also, Iesha Watts is working with the Lincoln Academy to see if they have interest in starting a JOI Club there.



Chairperson Annie Sandusky reported on the Club's **Essay Contest**. There were 16 essays submitted, which is a great improvement over last year's participation. The first-place winner's essay has been submitted to the District for judging at that level. The winner will be invited to attend our Youth Appreciation Banquet but will not be asked to read his/her essay.



Treasurer Al Renz reported that the **STEM Grant** checks to the schools were all cashed within two days of their receipt—likely showing their immediate need. A great majority of the grants this year went to schools who were participating in the Greenpower racing competitions. There is still money available from the project's budget, and the committee was reported to still being receptive to new grant requests.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer February 28, 2018. Highlights from his report were:

The revenue for the month consisted mostly of \$900 collected for dues and meals, and a check for \$150 received from Jeff Klimek.

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- Expenses for the month were new member dues to the District and to International, about \$500 for meal expenses and \$86 in postage.
- Expenditures for the Band Instrument Program for the five-month period total \$7,858.22.
- The Club's bank balance at the end of the month was \$5,572.46. With outstanding receivables, the Club has a Potential Cash Position of \$15571.06.
- There is still \$243 outstanding from Club members in payment for October-December meals.

Huntsville Optimist Foundation Report



Foundation President Alberto Duarte gave a report on the Foundation's investments as of the close of the market's close on March 21. The Foundations account at Regions is now worth \$918,442, and the account at Synovus \$167,801. This is after reimbursing the Club for \$12,000 for youth expenses. He noted the total is still well above \$1 million in spite of the recent volatility in the market.

Alberto gave special thanks and recognition to Treasurer Al Renz, who is also a board member of the Foundation. Al recently completed completing the Foundation's Tax Return for last year, and he donated the fee for this effort, \$1,750, to the Club. Alberto said Al was a "unique and really valuable" member of the Foundation.

New Project



Al Renz reported that a new project was under way. Our Club is competing for an Optimist International \$1,500 grant for the best 3-minute video covering the accomplishments of an Optimist Club. Tom Rumph and Vastell Williams volunteered to take on this project and have been videotaping some of our Club's outstanding projects, such as the Handicap Playground. Rumph and Associates has a professional video editor who will do the final editing before our entry is submitted.

Closing

President Eureka led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting. By the way, despite the very full agenda the meeting was over by 12:45 thanks to Eureka's moving it along at a good pace.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“A child can teach us three things:

- 1. Always be curious.**
- 2. Be happy for no reason.**
- 3. Fight tirelessly for what we want.”**

~ Wright Thurston

CALENDAR

APR 2 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting

APR 12 Thursday **6:00 pm** **Brahan Spring Recreation Center**
3770 Ivy Avenue SW, Huntsville, AL

Youth Appreciation Banquet

APR 26 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Charlene Higgins)



Huntsville Optimist Club
P.O. Box 2230
Huntsville, AL 35801-2230

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, no matter what the presence of trouble for

Optimist International