



# Opti - Topics

Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville  
Volume 72, Number 14 – APR 26, 2018

## April Business Meeting

### PRESIDENT

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### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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Sixteen Optimists and three guests assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center today for the Club's April business meeting.

Eureka Battie arranged our meal today, and we enjoyed a selection of gourmet sandwiches from Steak-Out. Vegan meals were also supplied. Of course, we had dessert--chocolate chip cookies and ice tea.

President Eureka distributed a colorful agenda with a special theme of "Lights! Camera! Action!" plus small bags of popcorn to be enjoyed during the review of a new video about our Club entitled "2018 Reel Optimism Video." For more on this video, see below.

### Opening

President Eureka Battie welcomed everyone to the Club's April business meeting. She asked Alfred Adams to bring the opening prayer and lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. President Eureka then asked for guest introductions, which were:

- **Guest Russ Medley** retired from the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command and is now working with a mission in Zambia and Malawi called *Mustard Seed School Ministries*.
- **Guest Steven Conway** is a retired Army helicopter pilot who is now a Life Insurance Specialist with Business Networks International.

**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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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Clyde Nevins**  
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- **Guest Jessie Harris** was one of the judges for the Club's Oratorical Contest. She is a senior at UAH majoring in Corporate Marketing along with a minor in Communications.

**Announcements**



Remember! Next month, the **Respect for Law banquet** will displace the Club's meeting at the Huntsville Country Club. The banquet will be held on **Monday, May 7**, at the Trinity Methodist Church on Airport Road. You need to **sign up with Eureka** as to whether you will be attending or not. Cost of the meal will be \$17.50, which is less than we pay at the Country Club. Tentative speaker at the banquet is District Attorney Robert Broussard.



President Eureka asked all Band Committee members to e-mail her the schedules for **Spring Band Concerts** for the schools where we have band instruments. She wants these to be advertised to all Club members so other members can attend these, not just the member who is working with the school.



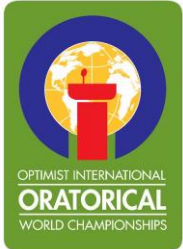
Treasurer Al Renz gave his 6-month Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2017. He reported that revenue for this period was a little over \$1,600 below budget, and expenses for the period were about \$1,300 below budget. Youth Activity and Community Service Expenditures totaled \$20,882.59 for the six-month period, which was about \$3,400 over budget.

The Club's bank balance at the end of March was \$10,996.79. With receivables from the Huntsville Optimist Foundation and a few outstanding meal receivables, the Club has a potential cash position of \$15, 314.78.

## Committee Reports



**Pancake Breakfast** Chairman Alberto Duarte reported that he has the profits from the Pancake Breakfast in hand to give to the Hawthorne Conservatory, and had hoped to present the check to the Conservatory at our May Club meeting. Ms. Tiffany Martin had been invited to attend today's meeting but had a conflict. Alberto will try to arrange a mutually satisfactory date for the donation.

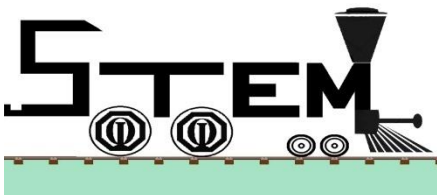


Alberto Duarte reported on the **Regional Oratorical Contest** that was held in Birmingham. He said our Club's two entrants did very well but were not selected by the judges to advance to the District Contest. He reported that he considered the Regional Contest to have been poorly run, both in the accommodations and the judging. Alfred Adams reported he had brought this matter to the attention the District and was assured that changes will be made for future Regional contests.



Alberto Duarte reported on the officer installment for the Elementary School **JOI Club at Whitesburg School**. The school sponsors selected the time of 3:15 p.m. which proved to cause problems in getting the pizza paid for, and also shortened the time for attendees could stay due to their other after-school activities. He asked that the future installation for the Middle School JOI Club be held at a regular club meeting to avoid similar problems.

Eureka Battie reported that "the fire is still lit" at **Chapman School** for starting a JOI Club. Holding things up is the recruiting of JOI Club membership which now numbers about 10. The Club Sponsor is working to bet more members, including the many in the band who are recipients of our band instruments. The school has committed to start a JOI Club before the end of the school year.



In the absence of Tom Rumph and Vastell Williams, President Eureka reported that she had received a report from the **STEM Committee** that two more applications for grants had been received and are in the process of being evaluated. The committee has \$3,000 remaining on their budgeted amount for grants.

## 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 April 25. The Foundations account at Regions is now worth \$913,522, and the account at Synovus is worth \$166,146. This is down a little in a market that is currently fluctuating. He noted the total is still well above \$1 million in spite of the recent volatility in the market.

## Lights! Camera! Action!



President Eureka reported that the video our Club is entering in the Optimist International **"Reel Optimism"** contest has now been completed and will be premiered at today's meeting. Our Club's unofficial I.T. expert, Tom Casteel, cued up the 3-minute video that was "filmed" by a Lee High School student and edited for our Club by Rumph and Associates. The video documents a history of our Club and the many projects accomplished to improve our community. The voice-overs in the video were performed by Eureka and Al Renz. Tom said he will put the video on our Facebook page.

Optimist International will award a \$1,500 grant to the winning video. The top 5 finalists of the videos submitted by Optimist Clubs across Optimist International will be announced May 11<sup>th</sup>, and the winner will be determined by an on-line vote of Optimist members during the time period of May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>. You will get more information on how you can vote later.

## New Business

Clyde Nevins asked for the floor to make a motion, as follows:

"I move that Section 6.5.2 of the Administrative and Procedures Manual of our Club be amended to add the following policy:

**Unbudgeted expenditures less than \$500 may be approved by the Board of Directors. Any unbudgeted expenditure of \$500 or more shall be submitted to the Club at a business meeting."**

The motion was seconded by Alberto Duarte. This issue arose because of the recent expenditure by the Board of over \$900 to fund the attendance to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center of the all the attendees at the recent JOI Club District Convention in Huntsville. Clyde said he was not necessarily opposed to that

expenditure, but it raised the question of how much the Board could spend without bringing the matter to the Club membership.

Clyde reported that there is currently no guidance in either the Club’s bylaws or the Administrative and Procedures Manual of our Club that determines the authority of the Board to spend unbudgeted expenses. The \$500 amount seems like a reasonable division for approval.

With little more discussion, the motion passed by voice vote with one member dissenting.

### Closing

President Eureka led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“Start each day with a positive thought and a grateful heart.”**

*~ Roy T. Bennett*

## CALENDAR

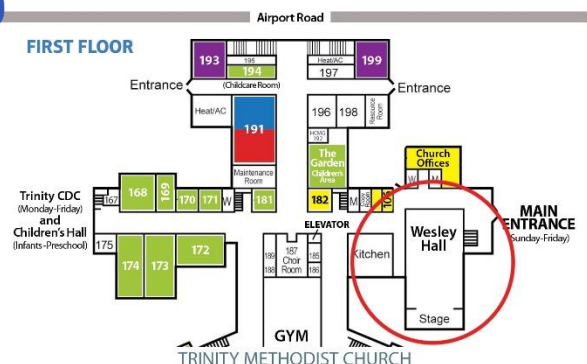
MAY 1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**

MAY 7 Monday **6:00 pm** **Trinity Methodist Church, Wesley Hall**  
607 Airport Rd SW, Huntsville, AL

### Respect for Law Banquet

MAY24 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

### Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)





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



**TO:**

### **THE OPTIMIST CREED**

**P**romise 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