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Opti - Topics

**Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville
Volume 72, Number 15 – MAY 24, 2018**

May Business Meeting



A rather sparse turnout of eleven Optimists and one guest assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center today for the Club's May Business Meeting. Several members were absent due to attending one of the several school graduations in progress today.

President Eureka, for example, was attending the graduation of her daughter Alexis.

Al Renz was our caterer today, and we had plenty of Popeye's fried chicken (either mild or spicy) to eat, along with biscuits, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh veggies and fruit. Dessert was miniature pound cakes, and we had an assortment of drinks to choose from.

Opening

In the absence of President Eureka Battie and both of the Club's Vice Presidents, Jim Roe presided at today's meeting. Jim opened the meeting by asking Jesse Lang to bring the opening prayer, and Tom Casteel led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guest today was **Ms. Tiffany Martin** from the Hawthorne Conservatory.

Optimist Family News



Secretary/Treasurer Al Renz announced that our Club now has its second 50-year member: **Nate Showers** (our first was the late Carl Winkler).

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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To give you an idea of how long Nate has been a member, he was a member and has a name plate on the plaque commemorating the dedication of the Optimist Recreation Center on May 22, 1976 (see the photo section).

Nate was an active member and newsletter editor for many years back when the Club met *every* Thursday. He changed his membership to Reserve status a few years ago and was playing a lot of bridge last time I saw him.

We appreciate Nate's long service to the Club and his keeping his membership for half a century. Congratulations, Nate!

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer **Al Renz** gave his 7-month Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2018. He reported that the net cash flow (revenue minus expenses) for the months was \$1,859. Youth Activity and Community Service Expenditures totaled \$25,703.40 for the six-month period.

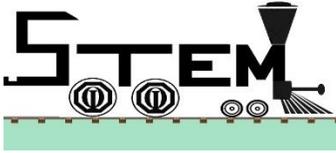
The Club's bank balance at the end of March was \$5,953.92. With receivables from the Huntsville Optimist Foundation, and with the payment outstanding meal charges, the Club had a potential cash position of \$15,629.72 at the end of the 7 months.

Committee Reports



Alberto Duarte reported that the officer installment for the JOI Club at **Whitesburg Middle School** was held this week, but he was unable to attend.

Al Renz reported that **Eureka Battie** had obtained the registration forms for the **Chapman Middle School** JOI Club, but he hadn't received the completed forms yet.



In the absence of Committee Chairman Tom Rumph, **Vastell Williams** reported that the STEM Grant Committee gave two additional grants which completed the allocation of the full \$10,000 budgeted amount. The two additional grants went to: (1) Jones Valley Elementary School for scholarships to Space Camp this summer, and (2) to the AAMU Community Development Corporation in support of their “STEM Oriented” Summer Camps.

Al Renz reported that the Club has received a letter from the Huntsville Superintendent of Schools thanking us for the STEM grants to the various schools in Huntsville this past school year.

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 May 23, 2018. The Foundations account at Regions is now worth \$901,920, and the account at Synovus is worth \$168,408. This is down a little from last month, but not nearly as much as the \$13,000 the Foundation reimbursed the Club for Youth Expenses.

Reel Optimism Contest



Congratulations to **Al Renz** who spearheaded our entry into OI’s Reel Optimism Video Contest. Our video made the top five in the U. S. and is now in 3rd place in the nationwide voting on the optimism.org web site. The two entries above ours are dueling it out at a frantic pace, and both have garnered about twice the number for our video. **You can help our club by going to <http://www.optimist.org/reeloptimism> Look for the Heals emblem, click on it, scroll up and click on the button that says VOTE. You may do this once a day from one IP address through May 31st.**

Old Business



At long last, we were able to get **Ms. Tiffany Martin**, Director of the Hawthorne Conservatory to attend one of our club meetings to accept the money our Club raised for the Conservatory at last February’s Pancake Breakfast. Pancake Breakfast Committee Chairman **Alberto Duarte** presented Ms. Martin a check for a little over \$1,300.

Ms. Martin thanked the Club profusely for the many years we have supported the Conservatory. She gave a brief report on what the Conservatory is doing. Here are a few of the statistics she gave:

- There are 146 students this year, compared to 93 last year
- About half of the students are being reached by mobile outreach teams that go to remote sites for the instruction
- Eighty-seven of the 146 students were on full scholarship (they “did not pay a dime”) for their instruction
- Ten students were on partial scholarships
- Student’s ages range from 5 years of age to 18 years of age, with the core group being 8 to 12 years old (There have also been a few adults).

Perhaps the most interesting of the mobile instruction sites is the one at the Downtown Rescue Mission. The instruction team went to the Women’s and Children’s Shelter thinking that they would be instructing the children. As it turned out, the women are the greater majority of the students, and they have learned enough music to lead in the DTR worship services.

Ms. Martin says she currently has a goal to teach “proper” dance to teen-age girls. She recounted how she had witnessed a half-time dance routine by teen-aged girls that was quite immodest. She wants to bring both excellence and modesty into public dancing.

There was a brief discussion on how we (both the Club and the Church) might increase the ticket sales for the pancake breakfast. Suggestions included better participation by church members and changing the day from Saturday to a holiday (e. g., President’s Day) morning.

Closing

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“... my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country.”

~ John F. Kennedy

CALENDAR

- JUNE 5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- JUNE 14 Thursday **6:00 pm** Huntsville Country Club
NOW (New Optimists Welcomed) Meeting
Bring a potential member. (The club picks up their meal cost)
- JUNE 28 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Bob Hirschbuehler)

Photos



**Alberto Duarte with
Ms. Tiffany Martin**



**ORC Dedication Plaque
Nate's name plate is in the
upper right-hand corner)**



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 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