



## **PRESIDENT**

**Eureka Thompson**

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## **1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**Joseph Lee**

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**Vacant**

## **SECRETARY TREASURER**

**Al Renz**

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## **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

**Vastell Williams**

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# **Opti - Topics**

**Official Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Huntsville  
Volume 73, Number 6 – January 24, 2018**

## **January Business Meeting**

Seventeen Optimists and seven guests assembled at the Optimist Recreation Center today for the Club's December business meeting. Keaires Roberson arranged the food today. There was chili, vegan chili, a variety of crackers, salad, dressings, a variety of drinks, and cake for desert. It was delicious.

### **Opening**

President Eureka Thompson called our meeting to order. She asked the Reverend Jim Berry to bless the food and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Our Guests**

We had two guests from the City of Huntsville Parks & Recreation Department, they were Youth Athletics Zone Two Coordinator **Brian Wilson** and Neighborhood Services Superintendent **Ray Greene**.

There were also two guests from Central Presbyterian Church, they were **Jennifer Cash** and **Michelle Bauer**. Michelle is the new Hawthorne Conservatory Director

**Karol Waddell**, the Parent Initiative Assistant Director at Second Mile Development, Inc.

**Tereasa Fletcher**, of the Alabama A&M Community Development Center.

**Club meets**  
**2nd Thursday**  
**At 6:00 p.m. at**  
**Piccadilly Cafeteria**

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

**DIRECTORS**  
**2 YEARS**

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Keaires Roberson**  
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**Michael Vance** was a guest of Joseph Lee. Michael is with Batts and Associates Insurance Agency. When Jesse Lang arrived at the meeting, he was surprised to see Michael, they are old friends and attend the same church.

**Announcements**

**Angel Tree update-** The Optimist Club of Huntsville, supported a few kids from the Edmonton Heights Angel Tree. President Eureka passed around a thank-you letter from the organization as well as a thank-you card drawn by the children that we supported.

**Treasurer's Report**



Secretary – Treasurer Al Renz gave his report. The club is doing well with a bank balance of 12,064.04. Al announced that the Huntsville Optimist Foundation had advanced us just over \$15,000 to cover the checks we are giving out to the STEM projects approved by the STEM committee.

**Committee Reports**

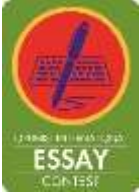


**JOI Clubs-** Edmonton Heights is building a JOI Club, the club will be up and running soon. It will be a community JOI club. Joseph Lee will be the advisor.



**Tri-Star Basketball** - We have had issues with scheduling and publicity for this contest over the last two years. Thanks to the hard work of President Eureka the contest will be held in March of this year. She contacted Brian Wilson and Ray Greene of the City of Huntsville Parks & Recreation Department and they will be helping the Club with publicity and scheduling. They have the contacts with all the coordinators of the basketball events and will help to make this a successful program.

## Scholarship Contests



Annie Sandusky said that the essays are due to the Club **Essay Contest** Chair by February 2, 2019. Please publicized the program with any organization you know. An application for the contest may be found at:

[http://www.hsvoptimists.org/forms/18-19\\_Essay\\_Application.pdf](http://www.hsvoptimists.org/forms/18-19_Essay_Application.pdf)



Alberto Duarte reported on the Club **Oratorical Contest**. The Club contest will be held at the Cooper House in Downtown Huntsville (405 Randolph Avenue). The contest starts at 9:00 a.m., March 16th, 2019. Please help publicized the program. An application for the contest may be found at:

[http://www.hsvoptimists.org/forms/18-19\\_Oratorical\\_Application.pdf](http://www.hsvoptimists.org/forms/18-19_Oratorical_Application.pdf)

## STEM



Vastell Williams reported that checks for all the **STEM** applications have been received. The committee will be presenting the checks to the groups at the schools in the coming weeks. President Eureka asks that Club members attend these presentations as they are able. We need to have representation besides the committee members.

## Fundraiser



Al Adams has received most of the money for **Pecan Fundraiser**. Once all of the money is turned in, we will have raised more than last year. Great job Al.

**Home Sweet Dorm** project- January and February we will be donating items to the Pearls young ladies that are going to college. Our member, Viki Moore, has provide a list of items needed. There are ten young ladies this year. Let's give them a great sendoff and help make college life a little easier.

## Member Installation

President Eureka installed our newest member, **Beverly Jones – Durr**. Beverly pledged to support Bringing out the Best in Children. Welcome, Beverly.

See photo in photo section.

## 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 December 2018. The Foundations account at Regions is now worth \$837,300 and the account at Synovus is worth \$165,635. Bringing the total out to be, \$1,002,935.

### Future of the Club

Our club has been active in our community for almost seventy-two years. During this time period only five presidents have repeated their term as president. This is one reason that our club has been consistently number one in the Alabama-Mississippi District. New leaders bring in new ideas and excitement.

Joseph Lee has consented to be our President for the 2019-20 Optimist year following Eureka. We need someone to step up and fill the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President this year, continue as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the 2019-20 year, and finally as President for the 2020-21 year. The Optimist fiscal year starts on October 1 of each year.

This will give the individual two years to gain familiarity with the operation of the club before becoming President.

There are benefits to being President besides guiding the Club activities providing service to the children of our community. First the Club provides the President's meals at meetings and they cover the President dues. The President is encouraged to attend the four District conferences during their term. The Club covers transportation, registration, meals, and hotel room for these meetings.

So, if you are interested, please contact President Eureka, Al Adams, or Tom Casteel and let us know that you are interested. We will be glad to discuss the commitment requirements with you.

One nice thing about this club is that there are many experienced Optimists that provide support to our President.



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

*Tom Casteel*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”**

*~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr*

## CALENDAR

**2019**

February 5<sup>th</sup>      Tuesday **4:00 pm** 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.  
**Board Meeting**

February 14<sup>th</sup>    Thursday **6:00 pm** **Blue Plate Café, South Parkway**  
**February Evening Meeting**

February 28<sup>th</sup>    Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center  
**February Business Meeting      (Food - Richie Myers)**

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# PHOTOS



**President Eureka Thompson presents  
Beverly Jones – Durr her membership certificate.**



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



**TO:**

### **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