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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

Mullins Restaurant

Opti - Topics

Tonight's Meeting Mullins Restaurant

In contrast to most of our evening meetings, there was a sparse turnout of only 12 Optimists tonight. We did have two guests, Julee Lovelace, the Librarian at McNair Jr. High School, who was invited by Kathy Anderson, and Marlene Renz, wife of Al. We were also happy to have Alex Chu, back from some world-wide traveling, and Fabiani Duarte, on break before his final semester before graduation, with us.

Opening

President Al Adams asked Rev. Clyde Nevins to bring the opening prayer and lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements



The Club is short about \$400 for pecans that have not been paid for. If you got pecans to sell and haven't done so, **turn in your pecan money to either George McDonough or Al Renz ASAP.** We need to close the books on this project.



Our Club's Tri-Star Basketball competition will be held on Saturday, January 16 at the ORC's gymnasium. Chairman Jesse Lang needs some help to run this program. Show up around 9:00 a. m.

Our business meeting is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Optimist Recreation Center on Oakwood Avenue

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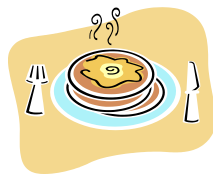
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Clyde Nevins

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President Al Adams again encouraged one or more members to join him and Tom Casteel in attending the **AL-MS District meeting in Orange Beach on January 22, 23 & 24**. Our Club will be receiving some major awards at the meeting. Tom Casteel is driving and there's room for two more in comfort, or three more if very friendly in his Honda CRV. The hotel cost is a very reasonable \$74 per night which includes breakfast.



Alberto Duarte is distributing to each Club member 10 tickets to sell for our fund-raising **Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 6**. Tickets are \$5.00 each. He announced that he expects every member to return \$50.00 for the event regardless of whether they sell all ten tickets.



Treasurer Al Renz explained how **the new dues plan** is to be administered. He passed out a sample spread sheet showing how he records what each member spends for their meals (and associated tip) at Mullins. Members will be billed at the end of the quarter for their **\$35 dues plus the actual cost of the meals and tips** for the period. The cost for guests at special functions will also be recorded. Members who bring guests that are prospective members will not be charged for meals for these guests.



Dime-A-Day

Tom Casteel our OI Foundation Rep is collecting checks for \$36.50 (or \$36.60 for you purists) for OI's Dime-A-Day program for 2016. Tom has four pins remaining that he needs to sell before the District convention on the 22nd.

Program



Program Chairman Richie Myers introduced our “discussion leader” for the evening, Dr. Laronda Conley. Dr. Conley is a contractor employee supporting the Missile Defense Agency, and is in Human Resources as the STEM outreach person for the MDA. She clarified why she would be a “discussion leader” rather than a speaker: discussion leaders do not require the formal approval of Army brass that speakers do.

Dr. Conley said she had talked with Richie, and her intent was to have a discussion on how the Huntsville Optimist Club could generate more JOOI Clubs and/or more interest in its other programs as well. In particular, she wanted to explore how STEM could be included in some of our programs for youth. There was a *lengthy* discussion, and I have summarized the following conclusions and observations I noted from it:

Conclusions:

- ❖ Today’s kids are mostly motivated by technology, including STEM projects such as robotics contests (in addition to their cell phones and video games, of course).
- ❖ In the STEM area, our JOOI Clubs are competing with established Math, Science and Robotic Clubs which are likely of more interest to the kids.
- ❖ Teachers, especially those who would make good advisors, already have a full plate of activities, and are likely not take on a JOOI Club as an additional task.
- ❖ All our local school principals have been notified (by Al Adams) by letter of our Club’s programs, but the information almost always stops there without further consideration or dissemination.
- ❖ Teachers and students do not know about the various projects and programs of our Club, and are not aware of the benefits of participation in them (i.e., scholarships and community service to list on their college scholarship applications).
- ❖ Optimist International topics for the Oratorical and Essay Contests may not be the topics today’s kids would prefer to speak and write about.
- ❖ Many of our Club’s projects are constrained by rules imposed by Optimist International, and cannot be altered without losing the awards made available by OI.

Suggestions:

- ❖ Recruit teachers/educators (including band directors) to be members of our Club. That would give us an “in” to the schools.
- ❖ Consider establishing JOOI Clubs apart from schools. These could be in Boys and Girls Clubs, PTAs or Home School Associations, for examples. The main requirement is to have an adult to be the club’s advisor.
- ❖ Develop programs that deal with issues kids face today, such as peer pressure.
- ❖ Incentivize advisors for JOOI Clubs with cash to pay them for their extra time.
- ❖ Provide one or more Club Awards for winners in the monthly STEM competitions. These can be named for the Club and can be as small as \$250 (currently the smallest amount).

In conclusion, Dr. Conley said she had prepared a list of recommended actions and activities the Club might consider, and offered to give these to President Al Adams, if the Club has any interest in them. (Al said yes) Dr. Conley was offered a membership in our Club, but she declined saying she already had too much on her plate.

Closing

President Al gave presented our “discussion leader” with a tile with the Optimist Creed on it. Dr. Conley drew for our attendance prize. Willie Brunetti lost out, but Alex Chu’s name was drawn second so he took home (half) the money.

Fabiani Duarte led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Be the person you needed when you were younger.”

~ Ayesha A. Siddiqi

CALENDAR

- 1/14 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant
**Michelle Reavis and Kim Davis –
Steady for Life**
- 1/16 Saturday 9:00 am
Optimist Recreation Center
Tri Star Basketball Contest
- 1/21 Thursday 11:45 am
Optimist Recreation Center
**Business Meeting - Food –
(Richie Myers)**
- 1/28 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant
**Pam Clagens –
Development Director, HEALS, Inc.**
- 2/2 Tuesday 4:00 pm
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 2/4 Thursday 6:00 pm Mullin's Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry
- 2/11 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry
- 2/18 Thursday 11:45 am
Optimist Recreation Center
**Business Meeting - Food –
(Jim Berry)**
- 2/25 Thursday 11:45 am Mullin's Restaurant
TBD – Jim Berry

- PHOTOS -



Julee Lovelace guest of Kathy Anderson



Fabiani Duarte College Member

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



Huntsville Optimist Club
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: