



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

April 2020

## Calendar

April 1 – Census Day  
Be counted!



April – Meeting

**CANCELLED**

April – Board Meeting

**DATE, TIME, AND MECHANISM  
TO BE DETERMINED**

April – Meeting

**CANCELLED**

April – Caboose Opening

**CANCELLED**

April – Special Olympics

**CANCELLED**

April “Fourth Wednesday”

Dinner delivery, Culmore Teen Center

**CANCELLED**

May Preview:

**NO Regular Meetings**

May 2–Farmers Market Opening: **POST-PONED** (see more on Page 3)

May 5–Vienna Town Election: Absentee Ballots available NOW. Go to

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/ecalendar>

## News and Notes

It is easy to be an optimist in good times. And easier to write an optimistic newsletter when there are happy events on which to report. We are finding out that the real challenge to optimism is when times are uncertain and frightening.

We are determined to rise to the challenge! “To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble” means that we look forward to brighter days ahead.

No part of our commitment to optimism, however, means being reckless in the face of reality. In accordance with direction from our Commonwealth and local governments, and from OI, we are doing our part to “flatten the curve” and decrease the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe. All in-person meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

Sadly, this means many of our favorite programs will not be held this year. As stated by VP for Youth, Mike F.:

The coronavirus has hit us just as we enter the busiest part of our youth calendar. Gov. Northam's announcement on March 23 closing schools through the end of the academic year and cancelling all extracurricular activities has, effectively, put an end to this year's youth activities. The following events have been cancelled: **TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence** (April 23); **Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards** (May 6); **JOI Clubs Celebration** (May 20); **Partners in Education** (June 3).

While this is extremely disappointing, we all have to do what is necessary to keep ourselves, and each other, safe during this time.

When the time is right, we will be back as strong as ever, working together to fulfill our mission of “Bringing Out the Best in Kids.”



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for over 60 Years!

Visit us at [www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)  
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



## From thy President...

### Wonderful Gals 'n' Guys of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna...

Our personal lives have converged as we have found one another as sisters 'n' brothers within the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna (Our Club). Our creed provides us with guidelines of how to engage the opportunities 'n' challenges in life while "bringing out the best in youth"...of all ages. So-o-o many good deeds 'n' news fall behind us as a result of our optimistic pursuits. And, today we face a pandemic of seemingly boundless proportions in the short run.

**Governor Ralph Northam** has ordered restrictions to insure the safety of residents within the Commonwealth of Virginia. **President Adrian M. Elcock**, of OI, has cancelled all meetings 'n' assemblages, including the 101<sup>st</sup> International Convention near Chicago, Illinois extending into summertime. Our club is tracking the community protective actions determined by our **Mayor Laurie A. Di-Rocco** 'n' our Town Council Members (See [viennava.gov/coronavirus](http://viennava.gov/coronavirus)).

Our club has cancelled all meetings 'n' events until June at the earliest. The Annual Special Olympics are cancelled until next year. But, good news, your Board of Directors (BOD)—including our new Co-Directors of Membership, **Ann Marie "Fritz" Irwin** 'n' **Sally O'Connor**—is at their busiest. Do let each of them know of your pleasure. I marvel at their diligence 'n' dedication to our objectives. We are on schedule with our budget 'n' the investment committee has made their first report to the BOD. Where feasible, several of our programs for youth will be handled directly, rather than through meetings. Operating procedures for the Caboose, the Farmers Market 'n' the Christmas Tree Lot are being updated for better transparency.

Our Club's "Duties & Responsibilities" have been expanded and will be distributed shortly. Our Club's "Bylaws" have been circulated to all members 'n' a final call out for comments and/or approval follows this week. We understand other entities have forwarded a petition to our Governor to redefine "Farmer's Markets" as "Groceries". We watch at the sidelines as our membership is categorically among the most vulnerable. We are prepared to pursue a variety of avenues to communicate 'n' to iMagine for the future by using technology (e.g., Zoom, Skype, telephone, snail mail, email 'n' texts) for virtual meetings.

Our short experience indicates the pandemic discriminates against no one, but with aging comes a greater vulnerability to the infecting coronavirus. The following guidelines are given to us to optimize our individual protections.

- \* Please practice social distancing, recommended

at six feet plus (6+) and remember to get fresh air and exercise daily.

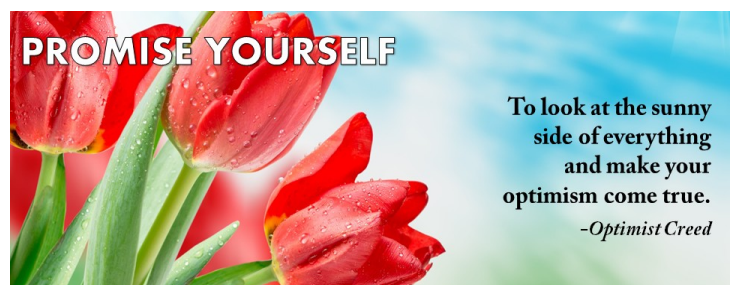
- \* Minimize gatherings to no more than ten (10) persons.
- \* When out 'n' about practice restraint as if there is a neighbor or other person nearby who has been exposed or is sick and act accordingly.
- \* Wear face masks 'n' rubber gloves when driving 'n' out 'n' about... 'n' sanitize whatever you touch (e.g., door handles, elevator buttons, cellphones, flashlights, car doors, steering wheels, cart handles, etc.)
- \* Leave packages wrapped in cardboard unopened in an out-of-the-travel-path way for twenty-four (24) hours.
- \* Practice increased frequency of cleaning the high traffic surfaces such as door handles, railings, elevator buttons, mail boxes, etc.
- \* Please check on your neighbors 'n' friends. Offer to pick up groceries for them if they are not comfortable going to the store. If you are in need of assistance, please reach out to me at [president@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](mailto:president@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org).
- \* Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching surfaces in the common area of the buildings as much as possible.
- \* Please pick up after your pets.
- \* Consider online ordering 'n' drop off at front door deliveries.

See the following for additional information:

<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

I will be calling each of our club members over the next week to inquire on how each of you 'n' yours are doing 'n' where or how other club members may be helpful. My patter will be simply: "You 'n' your well-being matter 'n' are precious", amid all that we do. Each of you is in our t's, p's, 'n' h's, i.e., thoughts, prayers 'n' hearts, daily. Best wishes with a warm smile...

**Your Bruce**



## Farmers Market Opening Postponed During Covid-19 Shutdown

From Farmers Market Manager Michele W.

Governor Northam's [Executive Order 53](#) groups farmers markets with restaurants rather than grocery stores, and therefore limits operation to "delivery and take-out services."

Due to the complexity and limitations that these restrictions would impose, our Farmers Market team has decided to postpone the opening of the Market until June 13. This is after the end of the Commonwealth's current "stay-at-home" order. Of course, if the order is extended, we will revisit this decision.

Postponing the opening will mean a loss of revenue for our Club and our vendors, which we deeply regret. But the health and safety of our members and our community must be our paramount concern.

Please be ready to **volunteer and shop at the Market** when we are able to open. We will need everyone's support!

## OI President Sends Message of Commitment and Hope

Excerpts from President Elcock's March 23 Letter to Members:

My Fellow Optimists,

*There is a Barbadian saying that goes "These days are funny nights"! ...It is a saying that we use when things are so askew that we do not know if it is day or night. That's how I felt over the last three weeks while leading this organization in the environment of unprecedented changes to our global landscape because of the novel coronavirus- COVID19. ...*

*We are not canceling Optimism. We are canceling some events to keep our Optimist Family safe. Optimism cannot be defeated. We are iMaging new ways to bring you imaginative and exciting programs during this time.*

*We are Optimists! Remain active in your communities. ...We might have to cancel our gatherings but we do not have to put a hold on our good deeds. It's time to put our minds, hearts and souls together and find ways to bring optimism and service to our neighbors.*

Yours in Optimism,  
Adrian M. Elcock  
President, Optimist International

## ***SUPPORT OUR OPTIMIST CLUB—JOIN THE BOARD!*** **2020-21 Board Nominations Underway**

From Past-President Susan B.

According to our Club's By-laws we have to publish the Nominating Committee's proposed Slate of Officers in the April newsletter. However, per OI, we do not have to vote on the slate until September.

Here are the proposed nominees for 2020/2021:

**President** - Tom Bauer  
**Secretary** - **Open**  
**Treasurer** - Michele Wright  
**President Elect** - **Open**  
**Immediate Past - President** - Bruce Lauther  
**VP Community** - Susan Bauer / **Director** - Donna Wohl-schied  
**VP Finance** - Dick Lippert / **Director** - **Open**  
**VP Media Relations/Webmaster** - Gary Moonan / **Director** - **Open**  
**VP Membership** - Joe Miller / **Director** - Sally O'Connor & Fritz Irwin  
**VP Youth** - Mike Fitzella / **Director** - Ed Wonder



As you can see two key positions remain to be filled—the President Elect and the Secretary.

You may also notice that the Director of Membership role is shared by two people. If there is someone with whom you might want to share a position, that is a possibility. Other clubs have had co-presidents or secretaries.

Another job we need to have done is someone to just write occasional news stories to submit to the local papers or to advertise a social event for us. If you know your way around social media that is another way you can help get the word out about our club.

For members who have already served as president or on the BOD, please consider stepping up again. If you haven't served before, give it a try. You'll have lots of help.

Any questions, please contact Pat Hackerson or Susan Bauer.

Thanks, **Your Nominating Committee**

## March 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, with ten members present and two members represented by proxy.

President Bruce opened the meeting with a review of Board and Club accomplishments, of meeting procedures, and of our collective expectations of how we as Optimists work together. The Board proceeded with its regular agenda, including the following:

- Approved budgeted expense for Babe Ruth team sponsorship (\$350), and itemized request for Farmers Market 2020 expenses (\$733);
- Received report from VP Finance about draft protocols for Christmas Tree sale operations with further inquiries to be made about collecting sales tax;
- Received report from the Investment Committee, which will pursue formal proposals from investment advisor for Club and Foundation funds;
- Received report from VP and Director of Youth about upcoming programs (since superseded by public health

crisis);

- Successfully used video technology facilitated by Webmaster to review and edit Board “Duties and Responsibilities” draft document;
- Received word that TR C. will be withdrawing from Club activities due to health; that member Jim W. will need help with rides to meetings, and that Al D. has resigned from the Club.

By email votes, the Board approved budgeted expenses of donations to CHO (\$200), Britepaths (\$400), and Second Story (\$2000). In lieu of this month’s dinner delivery to the Culmore Teen Center, the Board approved \$300 for food relief to the Center.

*Editor’s Note: All of our area food banks and social support organizations are struggling to meet needs created by lay-offs and shortages in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Frankly, dollars are needed more than goods. If you are able to donate funds to help, here are some groups to consider:*

**CHO (Committee for Helping Others):** <https://cho-va.com/>

**Second Story:** <https://www.second-story.org/>

**Britepaths:** <https://britepaths.org/>

**Shelter House (for families):** <https://shelterhouse.org/>

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### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2019-20

President	Bruce Lauther
Secretary	Kathy Cutri
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Susan Bauer
President Elect	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Community	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Donna Wohlscheid
Director of Social Media	open
Director of Print Media/Community	open
Director of Membership	Sally O’Connor/Fritz Irwin
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	open

### *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 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.**

*Christian D. Larsen*