



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

February 2020

## Calendar

**February 2 – Groundhog Day**  
(And a football game?)

**February 5 – Dinner Meeting**  
Speaker: OI Governor Chuck Steininger  
Guests: Madison Baseball Coach Pudge  
**Vienna Moose Lodge**  
9616 Courthouse Road, Vienna 22181  
6:45 pm–Social Time; 7:30–Dinner

**February 6 – Optimists Day!**

**February 12– Board Meeting**  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna  
7:00 pm

**February 14 – Valentine's Day**

**February 17–Presidents' Day**  
Holiday

**February 19 – Essay Contest**  
**Vienna Moose Lodge**  
9616 Courthouse Road, Vienna 22181  
6:45 pm–Social Time; 7:30–Dinner

**February 26– "Fourth Wednesday"**  
Dinner delivery, Culmore Teen Center  
Team B (Bauers, Captains)

**February 29–Leap Year Day!**



Gov. Chuck and his wife, Pam, will join us for dinner on Feb. 5.

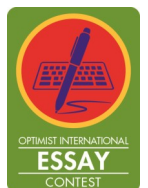
What luck that our next meeting is on **Optimist Day Eve!** When we gather at the Vienna Moose Lodge, our Guest Speaker will be **OI/Capital-Virginia District Governor Chuck Steininger**, who will (we can safely expect) have some Optimistic words to share with us. At the same meeting we will celebrate our **hugely successful 2019 Christmas Tree sale** and give a nod of thanks to **Madison HS baseball coach and longtime friend-of-the-club Pudge Gjormand**. What better way to get ready for **Optimist Day itself, February 6!**

And speaking of **dinner at the Moose Lodge**: Please notify **President Bruce or Secretary Kathy** if you have **special dietary needs** (e.g., food allergies or restricted diets) so that this information can be passed along to the

kitchen. We will try our best to enable everyone to enjoy a meal with Optimist friends; however, while our caterers will be mindful of various diets, they cannot guarantee that all menu items will be suitable for all attendees.

The **Essay Contest** will take place on Wednesday, **February 19** at the Vienna Moose Lodge. **Dan Irvine, Essay Contest Coordinator**, has been working with our local high schools and distinguished judges to identify the best in local writing. Our top three contestants will read their essays and receive their awards. Come out and hear what the students wrote on this year's theme of **"Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams you iMagine?"**

**Looking ahead:** The **Oratorical Contest** will be held on **Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 in the auditorium of the Vienna Community Center**. Middle and high school students will speak on this year's topic: **"Just iMagine a World Without Boundaries"**. Our top three contestants will present their speeches at the March 18 dinner meeting.



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...

### Greetings 'n' warm smiles go out to you our Optimist Guys 'n' Gals...

What an amazing first quarter wherein our club members have contributed to the betterment of youth 'n' our community. And, what marvelous adventures are just ahead in this bright New Year.

One of our most important and heart-touching events—The Optimist's Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)—was held at the Town of Vienna's Community Center Sunday Afternoon, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Seven youngsters competed from within the greater Vienna Area with the judge's selecting three winners who now go forward to compete for \$2,500.00 scholarships



at the next District Level event. Our Master of Ceremonies, **Optimist Rob DiRocco**, 'n' **VP Mike Fitzella** were masterful in moving the contest at a spirited pace. **Doctors Gina M. Crovato** 'n' **Mellisa M. Yunes, AuD's**, of the Hearing Associates of Northern Virginia, LLC, joined us as judges. **Doctor Diane Leipzig, PhD**, principal, and several teachers from Canterbury Woods ES were present. Our **Mayor, Ms. Laurie A. DeRocco** created a perfect encore by giving each participant a Town of Vienna Backpack with an Optimist Pin. Fifteen members of our Optimist Club of Greater Vienna attended, including one of the founders for this annual program from 20 years ago.

Our **Secretary, Kathy Cutri**, led the way by delivering a check from our club, as a significant contribution to Marshall High School's Marching Band; thus, enabling them to visit the State of Hawaii and to march in the Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Parade. Afterwards, band members were able experience the island culture. This included side trips to visit the USS Arizona Memorial; to perform onboard the USS Missouri; to experience a bus tour of Oahu; to take a horizon-expanding visit to the Polynesian Cultural Center; to unwind by snorkeling about Hanauma Bay, and to hike up the Diamond Head Volcano.

What's your **BOD** doing? A major rework 'n' update to the Bylaws, Policies, and 'n' Roles & Responsibilities is in progress. We are still seeking enrichment in **three BOD** vacancies.

The Hugh O'Brian Youth (**HOBY**) Leadership Award Registration Fee (\$250.00), as approved by our **BOD**—spearheaded by **Director Susan Bauer** 'n' **Treasurer**

**Michele Wright**—was delivered to **Guidance Counselor Danby Banbury** for a **Student, Eunhyul Kim** at Oakton High School.



What's ahead? Our mid-winter membership drive is now active. Share with your friends, neighbors 'n' sphere of influence an insight into all of the great things your club is doing. Then, let us know in advance 'n' bring them to a meeting for a free dinner experience on us. Our next meeting at the Vienna Moose Club 1896's Banquet Room, 6:45 p.m., Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, will celebrate our successful holiday tree sale as guided by **VP Dick Lippert**. Our expected visitors include the Varsity Baseball Coach at James Madison High School **Mark "Pudge" Gjormand** and our OI Capital-Virginia District **Governor, Charles "Chuck" L. Steiniger** 'n' **Spouse, Pat**. We are encouraged to wear our Optimist attire and badges on OI's Optimist Day on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Most important: **please indicate your reservations to attend our meetings in SIGNUPGENIUS at least three business days in advance**. Why? We may not have food for everyone 'n' will incur needless extra expense for creating an avoidable problem at the venue. Also, do let us know if you and/or your guest require "gluten free" meals. This subject was addressed in an individual snail mailing to each club member.

Please wear your name tags at meetings and special events. This let's our public know who we are 'n' for those of us who are a tad slow in the memory category; we can learn to match a name with a face. Smile.

The question of whether or not to consider renting out the caboose has surfaced again. A preliminary glance indicates there are many pro's 'n' cons for consideration by your BOD and our congenial colleagues within the local government of Town of Vienna. Your BOD Members will welcome your comments. The new caboose openings across 2020 are being posted on our website.

As your President, I will attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter District Retreat in Fredericksburg on February 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, on your behalf. Cross-club sharings is a big benefit in these meetings.

Amid all the pressures of pending income tax returns, breaking news 'n' getting starts on New Year's resolutions—don't forget your valentines...



**Your Bruce**

## January 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met on January 15, 2020, with nine members attending (plus two by proxy). Business conducted included the following:

- Approved funding of budgeted items for Flint Hill ES Fun Run and HOBY scholarship;
- Received report of VP Finance on Christmas Tree sales, including performance of credit card acceptance;
- Received report of VP & Dir. For Youth on upcoming programs, and challenges of adding proposed new OI youth programs primarily due to lack of human resources to take them on;
- Receive report of VP/Webmaster on activities in support of attracting new members and implementing credit card acceptance for Tree sales;
- Reviewed proposed revisions to Club Bylaws; review is continued to next Board meeting.

The Board will meet at 7:00 pm on February 12, 2020, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

## Do you have FOMO? You should!

**FOMO, or “Fear of Missing Out”**, is perhaps not exactly consistent with our Optimist Creed (*see, below*, “too strong for fear”). Or maybe it is just another way of saying you intend to “press on to the greater achievements of the future.”

If you didn’t attend the **CCDHH** at the Vienna Community Center on a Sunday afternoon in January, we humbly suggest that is a mistake of your past. The event was outstanding, and not just because of the inspiring words of the young contestants. The time and venue allowed many more family members and teachers to attend than we usually saw at our evening version of the event. The grandparents, cousins, aunts, and siblings were so proud of the students! And the students knew they had loving support in the audience as they stood before the crowd.



So use your FOMO to achieve greatness when the **Oratorical Contest** is held at the **Community Center on Sunday, March 8!** Come and experience the enthusiasm of our student orators. And be part of the community of support for them—a chance to express our Optimist belief that “there is something in them”!

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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	open
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	Al Dunkerley

### *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*