



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

January 2022

Calendar

January 1—New Year's Day

January 12—Board Meeting
Via Zoom

January 17—Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day
Federal Holiday

January 19—Meeting via Zoom
7:30 p.m.
Zoom link has been sent; check your
email!

News and Notes

CONGRATULATIONS to our two newest Board Members! In December an e-vote was taken and **Christina Jackson** was elected **Vice President for Community** and **Karen Yoon** was elected **Director of Print/Social Media** for 2021-22. Thank you, Karen and Christina, for stepping forward to serve!



On January 19 our regular meeting will be via Zoom.

Former FSO with the US Agency for International Development **Raouf Youssef** will speak about our nation's foreign aid policies and effects. Read more on page 2.

Reminder: The Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (**CCDHH**) will not be held this month. Our education partners at FCPS tell us Zoom is not a good format for the kids. We look forward to the return of this rewarding program.



Our **Christmas Tree sales** are long in the past—extra long ago this season because we **SOLD OUT* by December 9**. As **President Tom B. wrote:** Another banner year has come to a close for our Christmas tree fundraiser. We've managed to sell **almost 800** trees in record time and our net return should surpass our expectations. So many of you helped in this endeavor; I would love to thank everyone individually, but that would be too cumbersome. I do want to give a special shout out to several people, notably **John Andrews** for transporting the trailer and providing our sound system along with **Mickey Williams, Dan Gropper** and **Gary Moonan** for getting us "squared away", **Ed Wonder** for organizing our youth support, **Michele Wright** for providing candy canes, coffee and doughnuts, **Dick Lippert** for his logistics and overall knowledge which he has been passing on to me, and our **team captains Tom Spengler, Mike Fitzella and Jeff Johnson** who tirelessly herded the cats so we had the coverage we needed. Truly a team effort! I also have to applaud **Dan Gropper** for his generosity in providing pizzas for some of our youth volunteers after some hard Saturday shifts.

*As nearly always happens, there were a few trees and wreaths left that were available for sale on the honor system.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 65 Years!

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



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings fellow Optimists!

Where did the time go? Is it just me or does it seem like we just said goodbye to 2020? You can't say these last two pandemic years have been uneventful. I'm very thankful that we've added **nine** terrific new members this past year with one or two more expressing interest in joining this month. Two of our newest members, **Karen Yoon and Christina Jackson** have now been added to our **Board of Directors** and we look forward to all the enthusiasm and new ideas these two ladies will bring.

Of course, we will miss a few folks as **Rob & Laurie DiRocco** (Japan), **Dick & Diane Gongaware** (North Carolina) and **Richard Plocica** (South America) moved to pursue new opportunities and interests. We wish them all the best and will remain grateful for the many contributions they made to our club and the youth of the community.

I do want you to know that Susan and I delivered a Pie Gourmet pie from the club to **Les Carl** and his wife **Jane**. Les, former President of our club who also served as Lt. Governor of our Capital-VA District, has been caring for Jane, who has a progressive neurological disease, for



some time and they both have been confined to home for the most part. We had a nice visit and hope they enjoyed the pie and were uplifted to know our club hasn't forgotten them.

There's much to look forward to in the coming year. We will be utilizing Zoom for meetings for at least a few more months. Our first meeting of 2022 will be held January 19th at 7:30 pm. Our distinguished speaker, **Raouf Youssef**, a former U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Foreign Service Officer, will give us a better understanding of U.S. foreign assistance including the size and magnitude, geographical allocation, focus and priorities and results and expectations. He will help us better understand the worldwide impact and the value to our country of the many billions of dollars spent. I'm sure you will enjoy Raouf's presentation and he'll look forward to taking your questions. (Read more about Mr. Youssef's background below).

We also hope to send out in the next few days a schedule of meetings through September. As always we will combine our optimism with a good bit of flexibility!

Susan and I would like to wish all our Optimist friends a very Happy New Year filled with health and happiness.

Optimistically,

Tom

Raouf Youssef is a former U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Foreign Service Officer for over 34 years having served in 5 overseas missions and several regional missions. While at USAID, Mr. Youssef managed the power and telecommunications portfolio (1.6B) in Egypt and led the effort to privatize the telecommunications sector and commercialize the power sector in Egypt. He also served in Lebanon and was acting Deputy Chief of Mission during the war of 2006. Mr. Youssef retired from USAID as Senior Development Counselor for the Middle East in 2010. He was also called to serve on the CENTCOM joint strategic assessment team for the Middle East, covering Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, West Bank/Gaza and Jordan in 2008/9. He is currently on the Board of Directors of several NGOs and other organizations and is Managing Partner of Global Development Associates, LLC.

Remember: **Guests are always welcome at our Optimist Club meetings!** If you know someone who might be interested in the Optimists and our mission of serving youth in our community, please invite them to a meeting whether it is virtual or in-person. Or if a particular program might be interest to a friend or neighbor that is a great time to introduce them to Optimists! If you need encouragement, **our membership team of Fritz and JonMarc** are always ready to help welcome potential members.



Board Meeting Highlights

No Board meeting was held in December 2021.

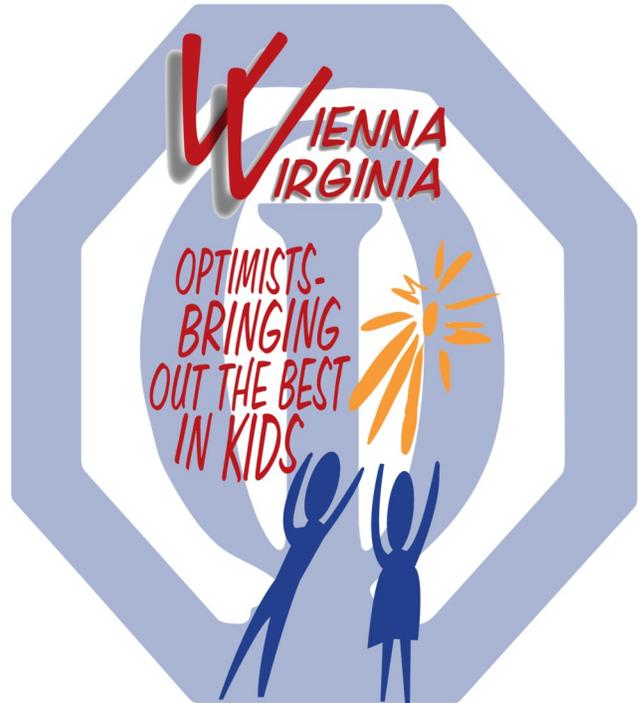
The Board will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Board meetings are open to all members. If you wish to attend please contact Acting Secretary Susan Bauer.

NEW DIRECTORY NEEDS YOUR REVIEW

Acting Secretary Susan Bauer has circulated via email an updated Club Directory. **Please review your entry** and contact her with any changes, corrections, updates, revisions, modifications, or amendments ASAP. Your help is essential to publishing a correct and timely document.

Susan is also preparing an order for **name tags and T-shirts**. If you don't have a name tag, or yours has gone on walkabout to parts unknown, please contact Susan for a new one. In your email to Susan, **type your name as you want it to appear on your name tag**. For T-shirts, please let Susan know what size you need.(S-XL).

Contact Susan via info@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA

Board of Directors 2021-22

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary	Acting: Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
President Elect	vacant
Vice President of Community	Christina Jackson
Vice President of Finance	vacant
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Fritz Irwin
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Print/Social Media	Karen Yoon
Director of Membership	JonMarc Buffa
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director at Large	Steve Shannon

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