



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

March 2020

## Calendar

**March 4 — Social/NOW Meeting**

RSVP VIA SIGN-UP GENIUS

Pazzo Pomodoro  
6:30 pm-9:00 pm

**March 8 — Daylight Saving Time Begins**



**SUNDAY, March 8 — Oratorical Contest**

Competition at Vienna Community Center  
2:30 pm

**March 11 — Board Meeting**

**March 14 — Caboose Open**

1:00-5:00 pm

Volunteer needed from 3:00-5:00 shift!

**March 18 — Oratorical Contest**

Presentation at Vienna Moose Lodge  
9616 Courthouse Road, Vienna 22181  
6:45 pm—Social Time; 7:30—Dinner

**March 25 "Fourth Wednesday"**

Dinner delivery, Culmore Teen Center  
Team B (Bauers, Captains)  
(switched with Team C)

## News and Notes

"Recruit, Retain, and Restore" is the theme of our **March 4 "social" at Vienna's Pazzo Pomodoro.** Bring a friend to introduce to your fellow Optimists and the community service we do. If you don't have a prospective member in tow, being there to show a friendly face of welcome is just as important!



Don't forget to "Spring Forward" for Daylight Saving Time on Saturday night/Sunday morning! You don't want to be late for the start of the **Oratorical Contest on Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 p.m. 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". As members and contestants discovered at January's CCDHH, the Auditorium is a great venue for presenting speeches to an audience of family, friends, teachers, and Optimists. Please make a show of enthusiastic support from the Club and be there for these great kids!



Our **top three contestants** will present their speeches at the **March 18 dinner meeting** at the Vienna Moose Lodge. Be assured that in the intervening 10 days those orators will be working to hone and fine-tune their presentations, to earn a spot at the Zone and District competitions.

A sure sign of Spring is word from **Optimist Mike Battaglia** that it is time to sign up for the **Special Olympics Track and Field Event** at Episcopal High School. Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, April 25.** It is a day (or half-day) well spent. The meet overall is a HUGE undertaking; doing our part as race timers helps make the day a success for the most important people there—the athletes. Please email Mike Battaglia ([mikebattaglia@cox.net](mailto:mikebattaglia@cox.net)) or call (703-855-2456) if you're interested in volunteering or need additional information.



**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...

**Happy events and plenty of smiles are sent your way Optimist Guys 'n' Gals to welcome in daylight saving time...**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Conference for 2019-'20 of the Capital-Virginia District was held in Fredericksburg, VA, on February 28-29, 2020.

One top highlight at the District Meeting was the Optimist's Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), and the success of one of our young lady competitors. Fifth-grader **Ar-oba Huhammad**,



took top prize in the "under 12" category and received \$2,500.00. (That's Aroba kneeling in the front row in the picture.) Our very own Optimist **Rob DiRocco** managed this contest beautifully for our club as reported in the January Newsletter. The same sign-language translators Rob used reappeared at the District Contest. The four judges came from the Rappahannock Toast Masters Club.

The second focus was split between recruit new and retain existing members which will be the thrust of our first social meeting of the year at **Pazzo Pomodoro Restaurant, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**. Do free up your schedule, put your name and guests on SIGNUPGENIUS, and **join VP Joe Miller and Directors Sally O'Connor and Fritz Irwin with your guests**, to welcome new prospective members.

Our **Governor "Chuck" and Lady Pat Steininger** joined us for a special evening to celebrate our **successful Christmas Tree Sales, led by VP Dick Lippett and Director Al Dunkerley**, while welcoming **Coach Pudge Gjormand** and four star baseball players, each with top academic achievements acquired at James Madison High School, on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our **Dan Irvine** produced a masterful annual essay contest at the Vienna Moose Lodge 1896 on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We eagerly look forward to seeing how our winner(s) do in the district.

We are receiving **rave reviews on the culinary buffet** provisions served during our meetings at the Vienna Moose Lodge 1896. **Please reserve, yea or nay, on SIGNUPGENIUS** so we have sufficient food for everyone.



Our bylaws have been revised, reviewed and approved and will now go forward to OI Headquarters. Finishing touches are in progress on the Club's Procedures and Duties/Responsibilities to make these more comprehensive for our members. When finished, this trio of documents will be available to every member and newcomer to the club.

The Investment Committee of our Club has met and will be making proposals before the next BOD Meeting.

The subject of communication on optimism, both within the club and outward through the media, ranged far and wide, in the District Meeting last weekend. The general public really has no clue to what optimist international is about. It just doesn't make the threshold of today's "Breaking News". Internally, we are not able to connect to our members, with a high confidence, by telephone [turned off as getting too many ROBO Calls(?)], email [Spam Filtered Out or too many junk emails(?)], or USPS mail [Do all shopping & banking on line—so now forgetting to check mail box(?)]. **Will someone step up to the plate for we are still looking for Directors in Media/Community and in Social Media to help resolve these challenges for our club.** Note: If your computer goes down, you can always get back on line at the local library.

We ask that you **wear your name badges** at all of our functions before the public. You may pick up your old, circular, medal name badge as a keepsake. Last year, new magnetic backed name badges were purchased and distributed to each member. An order for new members will be gathered for submission at the end of March. If you've lost your name badge, a replacement can be obtained for only \$8.00. Just let me know.

**Carpool to meetings?** Let us know if driving after dark is a problem and we'll work with you to find a ride on meeting nights.

**Your Bruce**

## February 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met on February 12, 2020, with 10 members attending (plus 2 by proxy). Business conducted included the following:

- Authorized spending of budgeted funds to Vienna Girls Softball League (\$350); Vienna Little League (\$450); Fairfax County PTA Spelling Bee (\$300);
- Approved the membership application of Todd Hall;
- Received report that the Town of Vienna will put up seven permanent Farmers Market signs around Town, and approved expenditure of \$1400 for creation and installation;
- Approved the creation of the “Jim Houston Leadership Award”, to be given annually as a \$500 scholarship to a senior member of the JMHS Varsity Baseball Team;
- Received report that the Club will be set up to receive dues payments via Square and Quickbooks (5% will be added for online payments);
- Welcomed Fritz Irwin and Sally O’Connor to the Board as Co-Directors of Membership;
- Approved the proposed Bylaws for presentation to the entire Club for review and adoption.

As Emily Post would say,

The favor of a reply is requested

When you see the “SignUp Genius” email in your inbox, your Club really needs your reaction to be automatic: respond. “Yes”, “No”, “Maybe” are all options; all you have to do is choose the one that accurately represents your ability to attend the meeting. It’s fast. It’s easy. It’s not irrevocable. But it is important.

All the venues where we meet require accurate counts of attendees for planning the amount of food to prepare and how many tables to set up. If the Club organizers have to guess how many people are coming the results are underestimating attendance (and not having enough meals and seats for everyone) or overestimating (and wasting money and food). Neither option is good, and both are preventable.

PLEASE RSVP when you receive the SignUp Genius invitation.



### 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	<i>open</i>
Director of Print Media/Community	<i>open</i>
Director of Membership	Sally O’Connor/Fritz Irwin
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*