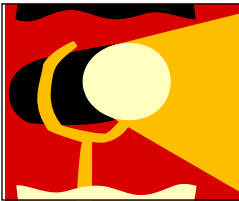




Optimistically Speaking February, 2013

www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org

Spotlight on Upcoming Events



- February 2 Groundhog Day

- February 6 Meeting - Marco Polo Restaurant
6:45 p.m. - Meet and Greet
7:30 p.m. - Dinner
Program: Speaker

- February 13 7:30 p.m. - Board Meeting
Vienna Town Hall
127 Center St., Vienna

- February 20 Meeting - Marco Polo Restaurant
6:45 p.m. - Meet and Greet
7:30 p.m. - Dinner
Program: Essay Contest

- February 22-24 District Meeting & CCDHH Contest in
Richmond, VA

Come join us on Wednesday, February 6, when our speaker will be John Cox Senior Guide for the U.S. Capital Historical Society. John, a retired attorney and former Air Force Officer, will talk to us about the "Dome of the Capital".

***Remember:** our social hour will begin at 6:45 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 7:30 p.m. -- mark your calendar!*



ESSAY CONTEST
Topic: "How Can I Help My Friends Realize Their Value?"

Volunteer Opportunities

Don't wait to be asked. Step forward and volunteer to help. There are many opportunities to help with the various youth programs such as the oratorical contest and the essay contest; with finding speakers and soon it will be time to help with Ca-boose open houses and the Vienna Farmers Market. Most importantly is finding new members; every member can help by bringing prospective new members to meetings. The only way for us to stay relevant and vibrant is by growing membership. Everyone can help with this.

Come join us on Wednesday, February 20th for the annual Essay Contest. The topic for this year's contest is, "How Can I Help My Friends Realize Their Value?". As always Past President Barbara McHale and her team of essay contest judges have selected the best submissions to be read and honored during our evening program, so, come join us.

***Remember:** our social hour will begin at 6:45 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 7:30 p.m. -- mark your calendar!*

From the President—

Dear Fellow Optimists,

Over the past few months I've been writing and talking about the Farmers Market, trying to convey how important this activity is to our Club and community, and trying to encourage more members to become involved. I thought engaging volunteers was our biggest challenge for the Farmers Market.

Wrong, again! In mid-January we got word from the owner of the "Caboose parking lot" that we would no longer be able to hold the market at that location. We had enjoyed use of the lot free-of-charge since we took over the Market in 2008. Parking needs for businesses that use the lot now require that it be available on Saturdays. We sincerely thank John Lane for his generosity over the years in providing us with a great location in the heart of Vienna, next to our landmark Caboose.

But now the hunt is on for a new home. Our need is urgent—typically, we would already have agreements with our vendors for the coming season. Market Manager Sarah Jane Brady, Dave Lanphear and I have been contacting other potential sites in Vienna. The Board contributed several suggestions which we are following up. Vienna Town staff has been very helpful in our efforts. We are optimistic that we will be up and running the first Saturday in May.

We need your support more than ever. Our income from the Farmers Market is budgeted at \$10,000. That is vital to our support for youth programs. (And, it is the equivalent of selling a lot of Christmas trees!) As we adapt to our new location—wherever it is—the enthusiastic participation of our membership is essential. WE NEED EVERYONE to help on Saturday mornings as Market Managers: greeting visitors, supporting vendors, and handling the minimal set-up and take-down tasks. Please plan now to commit to four (4) shifts over the course of the Market season. Look at your calendar and pencil in the days you will contribute, so you are ready to go when the sign-up sheet is posted on-line. We will keep you informed as events develop.

Optimistically yours, *Laurie*



**Optimist
Anniversaries**

- Jim Pammel - 32 years
- Steve Schuneman – 30 years
- Richard Plocica – 20 years
- Sam Sindoni – 20 years
- Pat Hackerson – 11 years
- Bob Thompson – 1 year



- Jim Radja – February 9
- Jerry Covell – February 21



The race is not always to the swiftest . . . but to those who keep on running.

Club members ran a very successful Special Olympics Basketball Skills Competition on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at the Mark Twain Middle School in Alexandria.



Pictured above are Dick Gongaware, Bill Doughten, Jim Spain, Mike Battalagia, Rich Ordeman, Joan and Grant Marsh. Not pictured are Dick Lippert and Jim Houston. A counselor from the Northern Virginia Training Center said, "this competition was by far the best organized she had ever seen".

For the future!

OPTIMISTS.
BRINGING
OUT THE BEST
IN KIDS



Promise the Club—

- ★ To volunteer for an activity you haven't worked on before;
- ★ To bring at least one prospective member to a meeting this year;
- ★ To converse with a fellow member you don't know well and get to know him or her better.

Volunteer Spotlight

Most of us arrive at a Club meeting and get straight to the business of enjoying an evening with fellow Optimists. Behind the scenes, there are a few dedicated members who consistently work to make this possible.

Joe Miller and new member **Matthew Sterling** have been handling our "Sergeant-at-Arms" duty since October. They get the banners up and take them down, distribute programs and "Creed cards", and run our 50-50 drawing. Webmaster **Gary Moonan** has taken on the role of tech-*meister*, setting up our sound system and, when a speaker needs it, arranging for and setting up a projector and screen. And Club Secretary **Jim Houston** wrangles our badge box and sets up the sign-in table, to help us keep track of ourselves. Joe, Matt, Gary and Jim, *thank you* for your contributions.

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

2013 HOBY Virginia Seminar May 31 - June 2, 2013 James Madison University



HOBY was founded by Hugh O'Brien in 1958 in response to Dr. Albert Schweitzer's remark, "The most important thing in education is to teach young people to think for themselves." The mission of the HOBY-Virginia Leadership Seminar Inc. is to seek out, recognize and develop leadership potential in Virginia high school students and HOBY alumni by providing the highest quality programs to the greatest number of individuals.

Our Club is sponsoring a student from Oakton High School.

Club Holds Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Rich Ordeman with our three winners



Rich Ordeman with the three CCDHH judges.



Club members eagerly look on as the contestants compete.

We have three winners from our Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Our winners are currently practicing for their next competition on Feb 23, 2013 at the District level for a \$2500 scholarship. Each contestant presented a unique response to the topic "Why My Voice Is Important".

Since the District has no other contestants in the primary category, we chose to have three winners (they were all winners to us) go on to the District to have a contest at that level. Three are required as a minimum. We are sponsoring one and the others are now sponsored by the two Alexandria Optimist Clubs.

Thank you to all members who attended. You provided the adult audience for the contestants to deliver their speech. This experience builds increasing confidence to func-



Board Actions at a Glance

The Board of Directors met on January 9, 2013 with 8 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- ◆ Treasurer Tom Fraim reported that Christmas tree sales resulted in over \$29,000 for the Youth Fund.
- ◆ Vice President of Youth Mike Fitzella discussed plans for the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH).
- ◆ Promoted Michele Wright from Director, Community to Vice President of Community based on the resignation of Sara Goldberg due to family health issues.
- ◆ Approved minor updates to the club Policies, primarily dealing with last year's dues increase.
- ◆ Discussed moving the Respect for Law program to earlier in the summer.
- ◆ Agreed not to pursue sponsorship of the Vienna Oktoberfest.
- ◆ Agreed to see if a talented high school student could help in formatting the club website, primarily photographs.
- ◆ Discussed ideals for making staffing of the Farmers Market easier in order to appeal to a wider range of volunteers.
- ◆ Approved donations to the Vienna Little League to sponsor a team, to Paul VI High School for their All-Night Graduation Celebration, and to Marshall High School for its "Stop Hunger Now" event food program.

***Optimist International
95th Annual Convention
July 4-6, 2013
Cincinnati, OH***



2012-2013 International, District, and Club Leaders



International

International President- Jean Claude (JC) St-Onge
Vice President Mid-Atlantic Region- Richard Highland

District

Governor Capital Virginia District- Art Jones
Governor-Elect Capital Virginia District- Barbara Grizzard

Lt. Governor Zone 6- Tom Fraim

Club

President	Laurie Cole
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
President Elect	TBD
Immediate Past President	Walt Petersen
VP Community	Michele Wright
VP Finance	Tom Spengler
VP Media Relations	Tom Bauer
VP Membership	Gladys Kozlik
VP Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	
Director of Media Relations	Susan Bauer
Director of Membership	Laura Yi
Director of Youth	Jim Stivison
Webmaster	Gary Moonan

***Third Quarter District Meeting
&
Oratorical Contest
May 3-5, 2013
Colonial Heights, VA***