



Optimistically Speaking

January, 2013

www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org

Spotlight on Upcoming Events



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| January 1 | HAPPY NEW YEAR ! |
| January 2 | Meeting - Marco Polo Restaurant
6:45 p.m. - Meet and Greet
7:30 p.m. -Dinner
Program: Speaker |
| January 9 | 7:30 p.m.- Board Meeting
Vienna Town Hall
127 Center St., Vienna |
| January 16 | Meeting - Marco Polo Restaurant
6:45 p.m. - Meet and Greet
7:30 p.m. - Dinner
Program: CCDHH |

State Senator Chap Petersen

*A look Ahead at the Upcoming Virginia
Legislative Session*

Come join us on Wednesday, January 2 when our guest speaker, Chap Petersen, will give us a look ahead at the upcoming Virginia Legislative Session.

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!

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

Come join us on Wednesday, January 16th for the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing which is one of our most uplifting and inspiring programs featuring 5th and 6th grade students from the Camelot Center. The topic for this year's contest is, "Why My Voice is Important" or "Why My Opinion is Important". This program provides a tremendous boost to the student's confidence in dealing with the hearing community. This contest is designed to offer young people who are deaf or hard of hearing the opportunity to present their thoughts in a public forum. This experience helps students develop the skills and confidence to present in sign or orally to a large audience. The program also provides a valuable opportunity to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship in February 2013 at the Capital Virginia District Second Quarter meeting.

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!

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 Caboose 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.

From the President—

Dear Fellow Optimists,
Happy New Year!

And congratulations on another successful Christmas tree sales season! Thanks to our great, hard-working volunteers we start 2013 with a tidy sum in our Youth Fund to support programs for kids in our area.

Wouldn't it be nice to just sit back and rest on our laurels (or Frazier firs)? No time for that—and, we are Optimists, so we know there are other opportunities for us to do more and help kids achieve their best.

Work is already underway for the 2013 Farmers' Market, preparing for its opening in May. Sarah Jane Brady is our Market Administrator and works year-round to make this the premier farmers' market in Northern Virginia (just ask the customers and vendors!). Our Club earns \$10,000.00 from our Farmers Market operation—about one-third of our Youth Fund's program budget. And we provide a valuable community service in the process.

Here's another fact: too few of our members are contributing to the Market. We need to share the work of being Market Managers on Saturday mornings. It is pleasant work—no lifting heavy trees, no sticky sap on your hands, and you get to visit with your neighbors as they come to the market. And it is good work—being the friendly face of our Optimist Club while raising funds to benefit young people.

Please plan now to dedicate at least three Saturday mornings, sometime between the first of May and the end of October, to volunteering at the Farmers Market. Coordinate shifts with a friend and you've got a few hours of quality time to hang out together!

Together we achieve great things. I'm looking forward to our Club's continuing success in 2013!

Optimistically yours,
Laurie



**Optimist
Anniversaries**

- Jeff Johnson – 35 years
- Mike Nadolski - 25 years
- Jim Stivison – 25 years
- Rick Nelson – 12 years
- Joan Marsh – 2 years
- Barry Wheeler – 1 year



**Happy
Birthday**

- Rich Ordeman – January 4
- Anna Ryjik – January 4
- Susan Bauer – January 10
- George Mills – January 10
- Joan Marsh – January 12
- Dick Lippert – January 13
- Barry Wheeler – January 19
- Kathy Georgen – January 20
- Pat Hackerson – January 20
- Jim Wilson – January 20
- Laurie Cole – January 25
- Kathryn McHale – January 29



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

Christmas Tree Sales Fund Raiser A Great Success



Tree sales officially ended on December 17th with over \$61,700 in sales. Including donations, gross sales totaled \$62,004 which is more than any previous year on record. Over \$30,000 was added to the Youth Fund. Great job to all involved.

Volunteer Spotlight

Many members make our annual Christmas Tree sales a success. In addition to our front-line workers and team captains, special thanks go out to two members for their contributions: “Rookie of the Year” Bob Thompson, who worked ten (10) shifts for the Sunshine Team in his first year with the Club; and tree lot veteran Dick Lippert, our “minister without portfolio” who orders the trees, wires the trailer and lights, wrangles the pallets, and generally does it all when it comes to Christmas Tree sales. Gentlemen, Thank You!

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

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.

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.



Bob McCormick presents check to Paula Lackey. Donation is from last Fall's Walk For Growing Hope & Family Fun Day. Event Committee members Anna Ryjik and Gladys Kozlik look on. Photo by TR Cook



Our newest member, Matt Sterling, is inducted by President Laurie. Sponsor Joe Miller looks on.

Photo by TR Cook



Members of the Louise Archer Alpha Club present Christmas cards to the Club at the Dec 19th Holiday Party. Photo by TR Cook



The Oakton HS Madrigals perform at the Club's Annual Holiday Party held on December 19, 2012.

Photo by TR Cook



Board Actions at a Glance

The Board of Directors met on December 12, 2012 with 9 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- ◆ VP of Youth Mike Fitzella reported that plans for the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) program in January are set. Mike is searching for a speaker for this Spring's Youth Awards of Excellence program; suggestions are welcome.
- ◆ Discussed the status of tree sales; which were lagging a little from previous years.
- ◆ Discussed plans for the Holiday Party on December 19.
- ◆ Director Jim Stivison announced that the committee to study the possible reorganization of the Board of Directors will commence deliberations in January. In addition to Jim, the committee includes Gladys Kozlik and Dick Gongaware.
- ◆ Discussed options for a New Optimists Welcome (NOW) meeting.
- ◆ Approved dropping Bob Sargent from the rolls based on non payment of dues.
- ◆ Approved donations to the following:
 - Oakton High School Madrigals who will perform at the Holiday Party
 - Madison High School Science Olympiad Team

*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	
VP Finance	Tom Spengler
VP Media Relations	Tom Bauer
VP Membership	Gladys Kozlik
VP Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Michele Wright
Director of Media Relations	Susan Bauer
Director of Membership	Laura Yi
Director of Youth	Jim Stivison
Webmaster	Gary Moonan

*Second Quarter District
Meeting & Communication
Contest for the Deaf & Hard of
Hearing
February 22-24, 2013
Richmond, VA*