



## Optimistically Speaking

March, 2013

[www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org)

*Spotlight on Upcoming Events*



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

**March 10** Capital Steps  
Madison High School  
4:00 P.M.

**March 13** No Board Meeting

**March 16** Caboose Open House

**March 17** St. Patrick's Day

**March 20** Meeting - Marco Polo Restaurant  
6:15 p.m. - Meet and Greet  
7:00 p.m. - Dinner  
Program: Oratorical Contest  
**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**

**March 20** Spring Arrives

Come join us the evening of Wednesday, March 6 when Deborah Smith-Cohen of the Patrick Henry Library will be our guest speaker. Deborah will speak about services available through the Fairfax County Public Library—it's a lot more than checking out books! We will also be inducting two new members, **Cesar Moran** and **Mercury Payton**.

***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!*



**ORATORICAL CONTEST**  
**Topic: "Why My Voice Is Important?"**

Come join us the evening of Wednesday, March 20, to enjoy three girls and three boys from Kilmer Middle School, Luther Jackson Middle School, and Thoreau Middle School compete in the 2013 Optimist Oratorical Contest. This year's topic is, **"Why My Voice Is Important?"** The winners of the girls' contest and the boys' contest will then advance to compete in the Zone Contest; winners of that contest will then compete for a \$2500 scholarship at the Capital Virginia District Oratorical Contest on May 4, 2013. Come join us to hear these inspiring presentations from our youth!

***Remember:*** *our social hour will begin at 6:15 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 7:00 p.m.. -- mark your calendar! NOTE THE TIME CHANGE*

### 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**; with **finding speakers**, helping with **Caboose Open Houses**, the **Vienna Farmers Market**, and **Special Olympics**. 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,**

Ed Koch, the colorful, outspoken former mayor of New York City, passed away in February. He was an unvarnished politician, a type we don't see too often anymore. In the spirit of Mayor Koch's trademark phrase, "How'm I doin'?", I think it is a good time for the Club to address, "How're we doin'?"

Last October I asked each member to "Promise the Club" three things: 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:* Spring brings a wealth of opportunities to volunteer for a new activity. Be a host at the caboose, a timekeeper for Special Olympics, a manager at the Farmers Market; or coordinate a Club activity, judge a contest, serve on the Board! Play to your strengths or step out of your comfort zone—our Club needs your contribution of time and talent.

*Bring a guest:* We have three new members so far this year; each of them came because someone invited them. Our best recruiting tool is each of us (my apologies to grammarians everywhere). Share what the Optimist Club has to offer with your neighbor, co-worker or friend: Invite a prospective member to dinner! The Club will even pick up the bill.\* (\*See me for the fine print on this offer.)

*Chat:* Let's not be strangers in our own Club. Take a few minutes before the meeting to visit with a fellow member, or choose a seat at a table with some unfamiliar faces. We all have something in common—we have joined the Optimists—so you have a conversation starter right there.

"How're you doin'?" on this challenge? Let's recommit to our promises as members of the Optimist Club. The results will benefit all of us, and the kids we serve.

Optimistically yours, *Laurie*



**Optimist  
Anniversaries**

- Bill Doughten – 31 years
- Ken Glaser – 29 years
- Grant Marsh – 14 years
- Gary Peterson – 8 years (with Vienna)
- Dan Lanphear – 8 years
- Cindy Stanton – 8 years



**Happy  
Birthday**

- Jodi Weier – March 4
- Tom Spengler – March 8
- Paul Henon – March 13
- Bob McCormick – March 26
- Gary Peterson – March 27
- Sam Sindoni – March 30



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

## Special Olympics Track

Mark your calendar as Special Olympic Track will be cranking up soon. Time trials will be conducted at Flint Hill High School on Saturday, April 13 (3-4 volunteers needed). The track meet will be held on Saturday, April 27 at Episcopal High School (a minimum of 10-12 volunteers needed). Contact Mike Battaglia or Jim Houston if you can help.

## Meet Our New Members

Our newest members are Mercury Payton, Vienna Town Manager, and Cesar Moran, President of Agro Landscape Maintenance in Fairfax. Mercury and Cesar will be inducted at the diner meeting on March 6, 2013.

## Volunteer Spotlight

*Brava!* to **Anna Ryjik** and **President Laurie** for inviting Cesar Moran and Mercury Payton to join our Optimist Club. Personal invitations (and follow-up) are the single most effective way to introduce potential new members to Optimists. We do good work—let's not be shy about letting other folks know about it, and inviting them to join in!

**Barbara McHale** once again did a stellar job coordinating our annual Essay Contest for high school students. Many thanks to her, and to judges, **Kathryn McHale**, **Anna Ryjik** and **Mark Goldberg**.

## 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'Brian 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.

**Optimist Club Holds Essay Contest**



The winners of the Club's Essay Contest were honored at the Club meeting on February 20, 2013. Pictured above are the 1st place winner Taylor Austin, Marshall High School and 2nd place winner Megan LeDuc, James Madison High School. Not pictured is 3rd place winner Olivia Hammermaster, Marshall High School. The 1st place essay will be submitted to the Capital Virginia District for judging at the District level.



Pictured above are Taylor and Megan with family members as well as Club President Laurie Cole and Essay Contest Chairperson Barbara McHale.

**CCDHH Held at the Capital Virginia District Meeting in Richmond  
on February 23rd, 2013**

Saad Rai, one of the three winners from the Club CCDHH held on January 16, 2013, was the winner at the Capital Virginia District CCDHH and the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship. Congratulations to Saad.



## Board Actions at a Glance

The Board of Directors met on February 13, 2013 with 9 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- ◆ Sarah Jane Brady and Dave Lanphear discussed the status of a site for the Farmers Market for this summer. Despite exploring a number of options, it appears that the parking lot of the Vienna Assembly of God is the only alternative and negotiations for the use of that site are ongoing.
- ◆ Al Dunkerley presented a proposal that in the future a portion our donation to the OI Foundation for Childhood Cancer resulting from the Walk for Growing Hope and Family Fun Day be made in the name of each Club member. This was prompted by the fact that in order for an individual to vote for Steve Schuneman for the Foundation board this year, they had to have donated at least \$36.50 (Dime a Day) during the 2011-2012 Optimist year. Even though the Club had donated over \$9,000 to the Foundation, few members were eligible to vote for Steve. The Board approved the proposal and the Club Policies will be revised to reflect this decision.
- ◆ Approved Tom Spengler as President Elect for the 2012-2013 Optimist year..
- ◆ VP of Youth Mike Fitzella reported that he is still looking for a speaker for the Youth Awards of Excellence program on April 17. Suggestions are welcome.
- ◆ Tom Bauer reported that he will be polling the membership to determine interest in a tour of the U.S. Capitol lead by John Cox, our guest speaker February 6.
- ◆ Approved a donation for the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for their All Night Graduation Celebration.
- ◆ Agreed to cancel the March Board meeting and conduct business, as required, by email.

***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*

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

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