

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

April 2014

Calendar

April 1—April Fool's Day!

April 2

Special Meeting at Madison HS

Youth Awards of Excellence

Guest Speaker, Ryan McElveen

6:30 p.m.—Dinner

7:30 p.m.—Awards Presentation

See page 3 for details!

April 9

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

April 14

Passover Begins at Sundown

April 16

Regular Meeting at Marco Polo

Ron Beavers, Civil War Historian

6:45 p.m.—Social Time

7:30 p.m.—Dinner

April 20

Easter

April 26

Special Olympics Track Meet

at Episcopal High School

OI ANNOUNCEMENT SENDS SHOCKWAVES THROUGH OPTIMIST COMMUNITY

Foundation of Positive Thinking in Question

April 1, St. Louis: In a statement certain to shake the rank-and-file membership, top officials of Optimist International made a stunning announcement today: the glass is half empty.

The finding was the result of a 47-month study commissioned by OI. "While we are surprised by the study's finding, we felt we must share it with our members," said OI Vice President for Policy and Standards, Avril Poisson. "We are confident that this will not disturb their peace of mind—though I suppose we can't be sure of that anymore."

The multi-disciplinary panel which conducted the study was the target of criticism from outside the Optimist community. When asked to comment, Ms. Poisson demurred, saying, "I don't have time for that."

Review of the panel's records show that work had barely begun before members split up into discipline-specific factions. According to some insiders, this prevented the group from working for the best.

"I knew we were in trouble when the historians got sidetracked by the questions of who brought the glass and how the water got in it," said one source, who declined to be identified. "By the time they scheduled their symposium and put out a call for papers, three years had passed and everyone else had gone their own way."

Engineers on the panel immediately rejected the threshold question and began drawing up plans for a "right-sized" glass to contain the available water.

Ultimately, it was the economists who made the "half-empty" determination. "The impression the glass is half-full is the effect of a bubble of exuberance," wrote member Alan Grinspun. "Once we discount for that, the loss of consumer confidence will cause a dip which will result in further emptying of the glass."

"This will not affect our operations and we ask our members to carry on as always," said Ms. Poisson. "We can forget about this and move on to greater achievements. And we expect delivery of the new glass any day."



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 55 Years

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



From the President—

Fellow Vienna Optimists,

In March we had two excellent programs showcasing our support of Vienna-area youth. We honored the Boy Scouts on March 5th, and welcomed Scoutmasters and Eagle Scouts from local troops. Thanks to Jim Stivison for organizing this evening and being our liaison to the Scouts. On March 19th we enjoyed an outstanding Oratorical Contest with speakers from our three middle schools. The Oratorical contest is my favorite youth program partly because it is the only live competition that we have and the participants never fail to deliver inspiring performances. Once again we thank Mike Fitzella for managing the contest, being our MC for the evening, and giving his personal pitch to parents on the becoming an Optimist.

On April 2nd we have our **Youth Awards of Excellence at James Madison High School**, in Warhawk Hall. These awards honor outstanding juniors from Madison, Marshall and Oakton for excellence in Citizenship, Athletics, Academics, Fine Arts, Science and Technology. Our speaker will be Ryan McElveen, at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board and former winner of the Youth Award of Excellence when he was a student at Marshall High School. We need every member to be an ambassador for our Club that night, so please attend!

Then on April 16th we will recognize a Girl Scout Gold Star recipient and our speaker will be Ron Beavers, a railroad historian who will discuss the railroads in Vienna during the Civil War.

As I am writing this on March 30th it is snowing, however Sarah Jane Brady and Jim Houston have not been slowed down by this snowy winter in their planning for our Farmers' Market. With the impending construction on Center Street close to the Farmers' Market, Jim, Laurie Cole and Sarah Jane have been working on additional signage that we will need to promote the market. Sarah has been busy retaining last year's vendors and adding new ones. At last report that was proceeding well. We are also working on a tent or booth for the Optimist Club at least one time every month to give added visibility, highlighting our contributions to the youth of Greater Vienna.

Finally, the Special Olympics are on Saturday April 26th at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. Please contact Mike Battaglia if you are interested in being a timer. I am guaranteeing shorts weather.

Expecting only the Best!

President Tom Spengler



April Birthday Wishes to:

- Jim Stivison – April 2
- Dave Lanphear – April 11
- Dave Frost – April 21
- Paul Snodgrass – April 24

Optimist Anniversaries in April:

- Mike Byard – 23 years
- Anna Ryjik – 6 years
- Dick Gongaware – 6 years
- Michele Wright – 6 years
- Tom Bauer – 5 years
- Gladys Kozlik – 4 years



Food4Thought Donations Delivered to Marshall Road Elementary

Our collection of food items at both March meetings resulted in dozens of weekend meals and snacks for students at Marshall Road Elementary. Cash donations were also received. **Thank you** to everyone who contributed!



Annual Youth Awards Meeting April 2 at Madison High School

From VP for Youth, Mike Fitzella:

The *Youth Awards of Excellence* will be presented on Wednesday, April 2 in Madison's Warhawk Hall. The presentation will start at 7:30. **Ryan McElveen** will be our guest speaker. Ryan is an at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board. He graduated from Marshall High School in 2004, and was recognized at this event as a junior in 2003. This winter he became a Facebook sensation with students for his school closing updates.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 in the teacher work rooms at the front of the school. Enter the building through Door 1.

This meeting is a great opportunity to showcase our Optimist Club. We would like members to engage our guests at the meeting—congratulate the students, greet the parents, share information about what the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna does. It would be great to attract some new members as a result of the evening!

A New Season for the Vienna Farmers Market

From Market Manager Sarah Jane Brady:

Opening Day for the **2014 Vienna Farmers Market** is May 3! The online sign-up sheet for volunteers is now available. Go to: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/cc?key=0AhxJQ1eOHXh8cko2OFFWQldSRElhVUQyOUNoVDJSanc&usp=drive_web#gid=0. You do not need a password to sign up; all you need is the link.

The sheet shows two shifts for each market. Where it says “need help”, click on the arrow on the right, and it will show the list of all Optimist member email addresses. Click on your name to sign up for that shift. Repeat as necessary!

If you have questions or need help signing up, contact [Jim Houston](mailto:Jim.Houston@optimistclub.org), Sarah Jane ([703-200-7806](tel:703-200-7806)) or Dave Lanphear ([703-728-8325](tel:703-728-8325) after 6 p.m., please).

Market flyers will be available at both April Club meetings.



Be one of the cool kids—volunteer at the Farmers Market!



Special Olympics
Virginia

Volunteer for Special Olympics Track

Mark your calendar as Special Olympics Track will be coming up soon. The track meet will be held on **Saturday, April 26** at Episcopal High School (a minimum of 10-12 volunteers needed). Contact [Mike Battaglia](mailto:Mike.Battaglia@specialolympics.org) or [Jim Houston](mailto:Jim.Houston@specialolympics.org) if you can help.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA



STOP HUNGER NOW

STOP HUNGER NOW EVENT SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

On April 5th, help assemble 250,000 SHN meal packages at James Madison High School. Two hour shifts are available throughout the day. They also need help with registration, welcoming, set up and clean up. Visit NOVAstophungernow.org for more information and to sign up.



Oratorical Contest 2014: “How My Passions Impact the World”

Above: The contest winners and advisors from Kilmer Middle School (from left) School Librarian Emily Altman, Mithra Dhinakaran, Yash Shekar, and Creative Writing teacher Barbara Appling.

Right: Contestants from Kilmer, Thoreau and Luther Jackson await their turn, supervised by Club Member Dick Gongaware.



REPORT OF THE 2014-15 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As required by the Club's By-laws, a Nominating Committee was formed to identify candidates for Club offices in the upcoming year. This year's Nominating Committee members are: Laurie Cole (Immed. Past President), Dick Gongaware (President-Elect), Al Dunkerley, Dan Mulville, and Rich Ordeman. The slate of proposed candidates will be voted on by the membership at the April 16 meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor. We are still looking to fill the President-Elect position. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving, or to suggest a candidate.

<u>Board Position</u>	<u>2014-15 Nominee</u>
President	Dick Gongaware
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Tom Spengler
President-Elect	TBD
VP – Community	Michele Wright
VP – Finance	Dick Lippert
VP – Media Relations	Tom Bauer
VP – Membership	Joe Miller
VP – Youth	Mike Fitzella
Dir. – Community	Anna Ryjik
Dir. – Media Relations	Laurie Cole
Dir. – Membership	AK Mohammed Yassen
Dir. – Youth	Jim Stivison
Webmaster	Gary Moonan

March Board Meeting Highlights

- The Board discussed the scheduling of an internal audit (as required by our bylaws). It was suggested we shoot for summer when accountants are not as busy as at present.
- VP community: Michele presented a check for \$500 for Growing Hope which will be recorded as part of the last campaign. She will be soliciting donations from local banks earlier this year so that they have time to include us in their budgets. The Growing Hope walk will be the last Saturday in September and this year there will be more emphasis on the walk/run aspect with possibilities including Madison H.S. track team.
- Old Business: Farmers' Market report was presented with vendors who have signed up. It looks like we are on target for a similar number of vendors as last year. The Town of Vienna has agreed to allow additional signage in several locations. There may be one permanent sign on Maple Ave. Jim H. will submit the formal request to the Town.
- Possible means of Club support for Alternative House were discussed.
- By email vote, the Board agreed to a \$75 donation to Louise Archer Elementary School in recognition of its 75th Anniversary.

Next Board Meeting: April 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Board meetings are open to all members.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2013 – 14

President	Tom Spengler
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Laurie Cole
President Elect	Dick Gongaware
Vice President of Community	Michele Wright
Vice President of Finance	Jim Wilson
Vice President of Media Relations	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Anna Ryjik
Director of Media Relations	Susan Bauer
Director of Membership	AK Mohamed Yaseen
Director of Youth	Jim Stivison
Webmaster	Gary Moonan

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