

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

June 2014

## Calendar

### June 2 – Regular Meeting

*Partners in Education –*

*Honoring HS Special Ed Teachers*

6:45 p.m.—Social Time; 7:30 p.m.—Dinner

Marco Polo Restaurant

### June 7 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

### June 11 – Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

### June 15—Father's Day!

### June 14 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

### June 18 – Regular Meeting

*"Respect for Law" Program*

6:45—Social Time; 7:30 p.m.—Dinner

Marco Polo Restaurant

### June 21 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

### June 28 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

## Spotlight on Upcoming Events

If you've been waiting for a reason to invite your friends, neighbors and colleagues to join the Optimist Club, *wait no longer!* Our Board has **waived the \$35 new member fee from now until June 30.** This means the Club will pick up the fee paid to OI, and is not imposing the local club fee. So act *NOW* (which also means "New Optimists Welcome!").



June offers two excellent programs showcasing what we do as Optimists. Our **June 4** meeting will honor our **Partners in Education**—this year we host Special Education teachers from our local high schools. Come and show your support for these outstanding teachers.

Our annual **Respect for Law** program will be on **June 18.** Police officers from the Town of Vienna and Fairfax County will be our guests as we present the Charles A. Robinson Jr. Respect for Law Awards.

Our **Farmers Market**—already the place to be on Saturday morning in Vienna—will be foot-tapping and hand-clapping on June 14 and 28, when the **bluegrass band "Sweet Yonder"** performs on the lawn of the Faith Baptist Church.

Even if you don't need fresh produce, awesome preserves or just a small bag of mini-donuts, y'all come on down!



Taking a quick look ahead to July, remember that **we do not meet the first week in July.** Have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup>!



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for over 55 Years  
Visit us at [www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)  
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



## From the President—

Fellow Vienna Optimists,

First, an apology and a salute. I apologize to Joe Bosco for our part in his missing our May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. I called him to inform him of the meeting being changed to Westwood Country Club but must have had an old number for him. I salute Joe for his commitment to our Optimist Club. Joe came down all the way from Hagerstown, MD to attend the meeting, but could not find us at Marco Polo, the High School or Westwood. I now have a good contact number for you.

Thanks to the efforts of Laurie Cole and Dick Gongaware we had two great programs in May. Laurie coordinated our 18<sup>th</sup> annual HELPING HANDS at Westwood County Club honoring the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at our elementary schools who have made a significant contribution to our community. Former Madison High track star turned Olympic-hopeful Skeleton racer, Veronica Day, spoke to our honored students. Veronica does not have an Olympic sponsor, so her efforts are self-financed. The board of directors has awarded a donation for her Olympic aspirations.

Our most recent meeting featured our JOOI clubs. The JOOI Club from Louise Archer, and Octagon Clubs from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools all made outstanding presentations highlighting their community service projects. Dick Gongaware (who doubles as the Madison Octagon Club sponsor) filled in for JOOI club coordinator Rich Ordeman.

The board voted to waive the \$35 application fee for new members through June 30, so if you have a prospective new member, please sign them up now! We have added 5 new members this year and our goal is 15--- so we have 10 new members to go. To boost our membership we will be have a NOW event. It will not be part of our regular meeting schedule but will be planned for a local business establishment. To attend you must bring a prospective member. We will have more details for you as they become available.

Laurie Cole has been working with Alternative House to determine how we can assist them in their efforts to help the troubled and homeless youth in our community. There are additional details of those plans in this newsletter but I want to thank Laurie for her effort in moving this volunteer activity forward.

Two great meetings are scheduled for June. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Mike Fitzella has organized our Partners in Education program at Marco Polo. This year we will be honoring the High School Special Education instructors.

Then on June 18<sup>th</sup>, Michele Wright is coordinating our annual Respect for Law program where we honor our local police officers. I am driving very conservatively, so I do not get a ticket between now and the program. I do not want to be recognized by any of the award winners.

Expecting only the Best!

President Tom Spengler



### June Birthday Wishes to:

Joe Bosco – June 2  
 Dick Gongaware – June 5  
 Barbara McHale – June 17  
 Elizabeth Bland – June 24  
 Gladys Kozlik – June 26  
 Chip Comstock – June 27  
 T.R. Cook – June 27

### Optimist Anniversaries in June

Jim Wilson – 17 years  
 Mike Battaglia – 14 years  
 Chip Comstock – 5 years  
 Twyla Frank – 5 years  
 Susan Bauer – 4 years  
 AK Mohamed Yaseen – 4 years  
 Douglas Tyson – 2 years



**Election Update:** Joe Miller was elected to serve as President-Elect for 2014-15 by a unanimous vote at the May 21 meeting. Joe will continue his outstanding work as VP for Membership in 2014-15, as well. Thank you, Joe, for your service to the Club!



Treasurer Tom Fraim receives our sponsor plaque from Coach Marcos Lopez and members of the Vienna Little League Minor League Nationals.



Given the size of the players, perhaps we should just be called the Optimist Club. *Little League photos and captions credit to Jim Houston.*

*Below:* Director for Youth and Scouting Liaison Jim Stivison with Rachel Blacker, a Gold Award Girl Scout. Rachel's project was a curriculum about the Holocaust.



*Thanks to T.R. Cook and Gary Moonan for the photographs!*

## Club Happenings in May-We've been busy!

### JOOI Clubs Members and Advisors Joined Us at the May 21 Meeting

*Below left:* Marshall Octagon Club Officers displayed the Clubs many service projects from 2013-14.

*Below:* Louise Archer's JOOI Club representatives reported they played a big role in the school's 75th anniversary celebration.



*Above:* The Cunningham Park D.A.R.E. Club sent their BIG THANKS for the T-shirts we donated!



### The 18th Annual Helping Hands Awards Were Presented at a Banquet on May 7.

*Far Right:* The 11 winners from our elementary schools.

*Right:* Veronica Day spoke about her experiences as a track star at Madison High School and as an international skeleton competitor.



## May Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on May 14 with 11 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Recognized Laurie Cole for her excellent work on the Helping Hands Program.
- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella reported on the Partners in Education program scheduled for our June 4 meeting.
- Approved the award of two \$1,000 vocational scholarships. One was awarded to young lady from Oakton High School to participate in the George Mason University's Learning into Future Environments (LIFE) program. The LIFE program is a creative postsecondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students enrolled in the LIFE program take classes to improve their literacy, employment skills, and independent living skills. At the same time, the program provides apprenticeships in human services fields such as assistive technology, education, and psychology. The other scholarship was awarded to a young man at Oakton High School to assist in pursuing Physical Therapy Assistant training. The scholarships will be presented as a part of the Partners in Education program.
- Approved a donation to Veronica Day, our Helping Hands

program speaker, to support her training with the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation in attempting to make the 2018 Olympic Team.

- Approved a donation to Louise Archer Elementary School for a dunk tank and sno-cone machine for their Field Day.
- Approved waiving the fee for new members who join in May and June, 2014. The Club will cover the cost of OI's application fee and will not charge our own new member fee.



Artist's rendering. Not a photograph of actual board meeting.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 11 at 7:30 p.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna. Meetings are open to all members. Our thanks to Emmanuel Lutheran and Tom Fraim for providing space for our Board meetings.

### 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*