

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

March 2014

Calendar

March 5

Regular Meeting at Marco Polo

Honoring Boy Scouts

6:45 p.m.—Social Time

7:30 p.m.—Dinner

Bring food items for local students! (See page 3 for more information.)

March 9

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Turn your clock ahead one hour. Change your smoke detector batteries!



March 12

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. Contact President Tom Spengler for more information.

March 19

Early Meeting at Marco Polo

ORATORICAL CONTEST

6:15 p.m.—Social Time *Note Time Change!

7:00 p.m.—Dinner

Bring food items for local students! (See page 3 for more information.)

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

March is here! “Meteorological Spring”, which we hope means “less snow, warmer temperatures”.

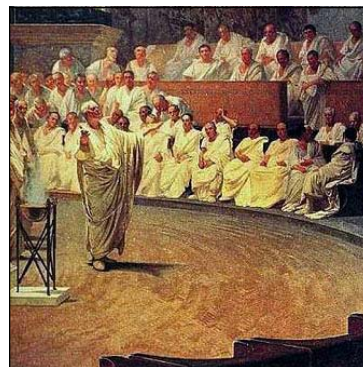
Spring is for new beginnings and renewals. We have four “new beginnings” to celebrate on March 3 as we induct four new members to the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna: Missy Whittington, George Stone, Leah Palmer and Kathy Cutri. Please reach out and welcome them to the Optimists!



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Also at our March 3 meeting we will celebrate local Boy Scout troops, our partners in serving Vienna youth.

March 17 will be our annual Oratorical Contest meeting. Students from our three middle schools will present speeches they have prepared on the topic, “How My Passions Impact the World.” The boy and girl who win our contest go on to compete at the District level for a \$2,500 scholarship. Last year’s District winner was our Club winner!



Cicero, while not eligible to enter our Oratorical Contest, would have a lot to say on the topic, “How My Passions Impact the World”.

About those Spring “renewals”—Is it time to renew your commitment to the

Optimist Club? We need the energy, ideas and engagement of all our members to do *our best* at “Bringing Out the Best in Kids.”



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,

At our next meeting On March 5th, we will be inducting **four new members** to our club, **Kathy Cutri, Leah Palmer, George Stone and Missy Whittington**. It will be part of the program honoring our Boy Scouts. Make a point of being there to meet our new members.

This past weekend, the Capital VA District meeting was in Fairfax. Tom Frain, Jim Houston and Jeff Johnson and I attended various part of the meeting. On Saturday, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna received two prestigious awards.

The first award was for the Virginia Optimist Club who had donated the most money per member to the Optimist Foundation. Due to the large gift we give to the Optimist Foundation each year for Cancer Research of nearly \$10,000, our club was #1 at \$137.00 per member. I should note that we are tied with Hopewell Optimist with the most members at 88.

The second award was very special and one that all members going way back can take great pleasure. We were awarded the BRONZE award for lifetime giving of in excess of \$100,000 to the Optimist Foundation. This is the highest award given to the clubs by the Foundation and we were the first to win the award in Virginia. Jim Houston and I were joking that the highest award they have is Bronze, not Gold or Platinum. Maybe the award dates back to the Bronze Age when it was mighty valuable. Kidding aside, this award encompasses many years of sustained leadership in our club that we should all be very proud. I know I was proud to accept on behave of each of you.

The spring will bring us into the peak season of our Youth Programs. In addition to the Boy Scouts, we have the Oratory Contest on March 19th, the Youth Awards in Excellence on April 2nd and Helping Hands on May 7th. These are always fun and inspirational programs. These are always great programs to bring a prospective member.

Expecting only the Best!

President Tom Spengler



March Birthday Wishes to:

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

Optimist Anniversaries In February:

- Bill Doughten – 32 years
- Ken Glaser – 30 years
- Grant Marsh – 15 years
- Gary Peterson – 9 years (with Vienna)
- Dan Lanphear – 9 years
- Cindy Stanton – 9 years
- Jim Stevens – 9 years
- Jack Barnes – 3 years (with Vienna)

Nominating Committee to Form

As required by our Club's bylaws, a Nominating Committee will be formed soon to assemble a slate of officers and directors for the next program year. Immediate Past President Laurie Cole will chair the committee. Please start thinking *NOW* about how you might serve the Club—as an officer, director, program coordinator, or nominating committee member. As Mom always said, many hands make light work! (And button up your coat when it's cold!)

Contact Laurie at lauricole.optimist@gmail.com.



School Kids Need to Eat on Weekends, Too!



Through its “Food4Thought” program, Marshall Road Elementary School provides weekend food for students who receive free/reduced lunch during the week. The pantry at Marshall Road is low on the following items:

- Mac and cheese boxes (or individual servings)
- Canned tuna/chicken
- Ramen noodles
- Chef Boy-ar-Dee pop-top cans
- Canned chicken noodle and tomato soup
- Cereal (single serving packs)
- Snacks in individual servings (pretzels, goldfish)

Our Club will collect items for “Food4Thought” at our meetings on March 5 and March 19. Please bring your donations to the meetings and we will deliver them to the school. Or, if you wish to give directly to “Food4Thought”, contact Laurie Cole (lauriecole.optimist@gmail.com) for more information.



Where Our Childhood Cancer Campaign Dollars Go

From *The Optimist*, Winter 2014

“Meet Allison Martin, MD, Our 2013-2014 Optimist Fellow”

“As a trainee in pediatric oncology who plans to specialize in the care of children with brain tumors, I am dedicated to improving treatment outcomes for these patients through research. Brain tumors are the most common solid tumors in children, and despite advances in pediatric neuro-oncology, these tumors continue to be the leading cause of cancer death in children. Moreover, standard therapies often leave children with significant impairments, including severe neurocognitive problems.

“Thanks to the generous support of Optimist International, I will continue to seek new approaches to treatment that will reduce these side effects by going beyond the traditional paradigm of chemotherapy and radiation. I hope to improve outcomes for these patients by reducing the toxicity of treatment and offering longer disease-free survival through the durability of the immune response.”



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](#) or [Jim Houston](#) if you can help.

Essay Contest Winner Anna Jordan to Compete for \$2500 Scholarship

Oakton High School senior Anna Jordan wrote with style and sincerity on the topic, “How Dreams Lead to Success”, to earn



Anna Jordan, 2014 Essay Contest Winner

the top spot (and \$400) in our Club’s Essay Contest. Anna will compete at the District level for a \$2500 scholarship.

Austin Kolko of Madison High School placed second (and received \$250) and Nicole Lavin of Marshall High School placed third (\$150) in the Club contest.

Anna and Nicole read

their essays at our February 19 meeting, where the winners were announced. Austin was unable to attend as he was competing in a regional track meet. Madison HS College & Career Specialist Lynn Otto read Austin’s essay on his behalf.



Nicole Lavin received a \$150 scholarship for her essay.

Essay Contest coordinator Barbara McHale said having representatives of all three local high schools as the top-three entries was a coincidence! The judges read and evaluate the essays without any information as to the author. Thirteen students submitted essays for this year’s contest. Barbara urged the school administrators present to encourage more students to enter next year.



L-R: Club President Tom Spengler, Anna Jordan, Essay Contest Coordinator Barbara McHale, and Oakton HS Vice-Principal and Optimist Club Member, Chip Comstock

February Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on February 12 with 11 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussed fundraising possibilities and potential increased donations from the Youth Fund.
- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella reported that he was looking for a speaker for the Youth Awards of Excellence program and possible speakers were discussed. (Subsequent to the meeting, Mike arranged for Ryan McElveen (a member of the Fairfax County School Board and 2004 graduate of Marshall High School) to speak. Laurie Cole announced that the Helping Hands program in May will again be held at Westwood Country Club.
- Approved the membership applications of Melissa (Missy) Whittington (sponsored by Laurie Cole) and Leah Palmer (sponsored by Tom Spengler).
- Briefly discussed the impact of Center Street reconstruction on the Farmers Market and the meeting held with representatives of the Town on that topic.
- Webmaster Gary Moonan discussed some analytics he had captured on the use of the club website.
- Approved a donation to Flint Hill Elementary School as a sponsor of their Fun Run and 5K Race and to Paul VI High School for their All Night Graduation Celebration.



96th Optimist International Convention July 10-12, 2014

**The Best of Las Vegas --
Caesars Palace**
3570 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, NV 89109

On-line Registration is now open. Visit www.optimist.org to register, or to request hard-copy registration forms.

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