

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

November 2014

## Calendar



November 4 – Election Day

November 5 – Regular Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Barbara Mackie Franklin

6:45—Social Time; 7:30 p.m.—Dinner

Marco Polo Restaurant

November 12 – Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

November 15 – Caboose Open

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

November 19 – Regular Meeting

Carole Waite Brennan Awards

6:45—Social Time; 7:30 p.m.—Dinner

Marco Polo Restaurant

November 22 – Move Trailer and Stands to the Christmas Tree Lot

9:00 a.m.

Fourth Wednesday – Team A

Dinner to Culmore Teen Center

(Date to be adjusted because of holiday)

November 26 – First Tree Delivery

6:00 p.m.



November 27 – Happy Thanksgiving

November 28 – Second Tree Delivery and Lot Set-up

9:00 a.m.

November 29—Christmas Tree Lot Opens!

9:00 a.m.

## Spotlight on Upcoming Events

The air is cool and crisp, the leaves are falling, the days are shorter—it must be flu season!

Prepare yourself to beat the bug by coming to our November 5 meeting when our speaker will be **Barbara Mackie, M.D.** Dr. Mackie is a local Vienna physician who is Board Certified in Family Medicine and has a clinical practice focused on allergy and immunology. She will speak about infectious diseases in the news and how best to avoid them!



The annual **Carol Waite Brennan Awards** will be presented at our November 19 meeting. This is always a special evening for our Club and for the young people we honor.

Get your warm woolies ready for working at the **Christmas Tree Lot!** Yep, it's that time already—the first delivery of trees arrives on November 22, and we are up and open for business on November 29. Your team captain will be in touch with schedules and assignments. Don't dodge that email! We need all hands on deck to support our biggest fundraiser of the year, so sign up early and often for shifts on the lot. Questions? Contact Jim Houston or Dick Lippert.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for Almost 60 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,

Our November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting resulted in the installation of the new Board of Directors by District Governor Ramona Fulwider. In my opinion it's a strong, active board. I look forward to working with them to continue to move the club into new initiatives, while strengthening ties with our current benefactors and partners.

That meeting was also a bit of an eye-opener. I asked the members who were present to indicate their preference for a meeting format. The overwhelming majority preferred a combination of one full meal meeting and one dessert & coffee (or appetizer) meeting each month. With that sentiment (mandate?) we're looking at options. I would hope to begin this new format in January at the latest.

Thanks to groundwork by Jim Houston and Dick Lippert, we likely will have a new trailer on the Christmas tree lot. What an improvement that will be, for both the customers and for us. **Please step up and support your sales team this season.**

And consider getting involved in some of our recent initiatives, such as the Kilmer Center (contact Mike Fitzella), or the Culmore Teen Center (contact Laurie Cole). Or consider joining our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration committee, soon to be formed. Contact me about that one.

I think you'll enjoy both of our meetings this month. On November 5th, Dr. Barbara Mackie Franklin, a family medicine practitioner with expertise in infectious diseases, will discuss seasonal tips for fighting colds and the flu, and yes, she'll address the current Ebola virus outbreak. Our annual Carol Waite Brennan awards program takes place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will honor six high school seniors with scholarships, named for past president Carol Waite Brennan. This is a very special evening, as we offer some help in facing the future to exceptional high school students. We also look back at the exceptional life of Carol, and remember her contributions to the club and to our community.

We concluded another successful season of managing the farmer's market. Our success in large part was due to the efforts of Sarah Jane Brady and Dave Lanphear. They have decided to let go of the reins and resign as market managers. They will be sorely missed. We, as a club, will need to step up and assume new responsibilities for next year's market.

If you read between the lines, there are multiple opportunities for you to get involved. Isn't that why you joined the club? Contact me if you're not sure where to start. See you on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

President Dick Gongaware



### November Birthday Wishes to:

Mike Fitzella	November 1
Courtney Sargent	November 6
Steve Schuneman	November 6
Al Dunkerley	November 12
Jim Houston	November 19
Mike Byard	November 21
Michele Wright	November 24

### Optimist Anniversaries in November

T.R. Cook	40 years
Sarah Jane Brady	9 years
Walt Petersen	7 years in Vienna
Tom Spengler	4 years
Mark Keam	4 years
Jeff Sargent	3 years





## Christmas Tree Sales

Believe it or not, this time next month we will be selling Christmas trees! The tree sales are the major fundraiser for our Youth Fund through which we provide support for numerous activities for kids in the greater Vienna community. Members will receive the schedule for tree sales and their team assignments under separate cover. The major dates for sales activity are shown below. Please contact your team captain to sign up early and often for your shifts. See you on the lot.

- November 22 Move stands and trailer to tree lot (9 AM)
- November 25 First tree delivery (6 PM)
- November 28 Second tree delivery and lot setup (9 AM)
- November 29 Tree sales begin (9 AM)
- December 23 Sales end
- December 24 Move stands and trailer to storage (9 AM)
- 2015 Spend all the money we have raised on great projects for kids!



Go from  
this



to this

*At the Halloween Parade we put on a really big shoe ...*



Above: Our big float was a big hit!  
Above right: Refs Angelique Ayala, Tom Spengler and Michelle Wright are there to make the call.  
Right: Banner carriers Joe Miller and Jim Houston lead friends from Velocity Dance Studio who brought our float to life! **Thanks to Michele Wright for coordinating our parade entry!**



Susan Bauer, Dick Gongaware, Angelique Ayala and Lena Shrestha helped superheroes and witches paint pumpkins at the Halloween Party.

## Make a Friend, Serve the Club... Be a Mentor!

*From Joe Miller, VP for Membership*

### What is the Mentoring Program?

The mentoring program in the Vienna Optimist Club has been created to provide needed attention to the new members so they become more familiar and comfortable with the club activities. The new member mentor is usually an experienced member of the club who enjoys meeting new people and who is passionate about club activities. The new member mentor is not the sponsor of the new member and may or may not know the new member.

### What the Optimist Club Mentor Should Try to Accomplish

- The mentor/member contacts should continue for 8 - 12 weeks.
- Have coffee or tea every two weeks with the new member to discuss Optimist activities
- Introduce the new member to the president and each member of the Board of Directors. Introduce the new members to other members of the club.
- Invite the new member to a Board of Directors meeting (Clear with the club president first)

*(Continued on page 4)*

## October 2014 Board Highlights

The Board of Directors met on October 8 with 8 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Conducted a detailed review of the Youth Fund budget and made adjustments.
- Discussed the cost of meals at dinner meetings versus the amount covered by dues.
- Affirmed the decision to purchase a replacement trailer for the Christmas tree lot.
- Discussed the presentation of the Carol Waite Brennan scholarships scheduled for the November 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting.
- Reviewed plans for the Essay Contest.
- Discussed the Halloween Parade float and the Halloween Party at the Community Center.
- Agreed to change the date for the Walk for Growing Hope next year from the last Saturday in September to the next to the last Saturday in September (September 25, 2015) to get more of the Growing Hope staff working with us.

Subsequent to the meeting the Board voted by email to approve the membership applications of Sherry Leavitt and Steven Rabil; and to donate a Christmas tree to the Women's Center holiday auction.

*(Be a Mentor! Continued from page 3)*



- Go over all the activities of the club with the new member. Go over the presentation at <https://one-drive.live.com/redirect?resid=B63F64DC47AD5181%21918>.
- Engage the new member into at least 3 club activities.
- Encourage the new member to attend the regular club meeting.
- Go over Optimist International activities, including Zone and District activities.

These are some things that we believe would be important to new members.

If you have some suggestions, please let us know.

With the current effort to get new members and our success at that we have an immediate need for new mentors to volunteer. If you are interested, please email Joe Miller at [jsmeda@hotmail.com](mailto:jsmeda@hotmail.com).

### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2014 – 15

President	Dick Gongaware
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Tom Spengler
President Elect	Joe Miller
Vice President of Community	Michele Wright
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
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	Marnie Fienberg
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*