

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

April 2015

Calendar

LOCATIONS CONTINUE TO VARY FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS!

April 1 — Regular Meeting
At Diya Restaurant

[2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna](#)

6:45 Social Time, 7:30 Dinner

April 8 — Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

April 14 — Caboose Open

1:00—5:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed!

Contact Dan Mulville

April 15—Youth Awards of Excellence
At MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

6:30: Dinner in Teachers' Workroom

7:30: Awards Presentation in Warhawk Hall

April 18 —Stop Hunger Now

Meal packing event at Madison HS

See page 3 for more information

April 22—Fourth Wednesday — Team B

Dinner to Culmore Teen Center

April 25—Special Olympics Track Event

Episcopal High School, Alexandria

See page 3 for more information

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

There will no fooling around at our **April 1st meeting!** (Though there may be some low humor.) It's all about celebrating our first-responder heroes at the **2015 World Police and Fire Games**.

Courtney Counts will speak about the upcoming event to be held in Fairfax

County—what it means to the participants and the community, and

how we can help. We will be back at Diya Restaurant, this time sampling some of their American-style fare. Be there — no fooling!



On **April 15** 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. **Ryan McElveen**, at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board, will again be speaking. (He was a huge hit last year!) He

will be joined by **Veronica Day**, international skeleton racer, Olympic-hopeful, Madison High School alumna, and Optimist Club of Greater Vienna sponsee.

Dinner will be served in the teacher work rooms at the front of the school at 6:30. The program begins at 7:30. ***We need every member to be an ambassador for our Club that night, so please attend!***



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for 60 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,

When people hear the Optimist Creed for the first time, they typically comment on how beautifully written it is, and on its relevance as “words to live by.” I agree with both observations, but there is something missing in the creed. It doesn’t mention our commitment to youth, and what that implies to Optimist Club members. The only line in the creed that suggests *action* is:

“To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.”

Optimists may, in fact, live by the creed, but the Optimists that I’ve met who embody that creed aren’t simply believers, but doers. And this is a very big month for doing.

First, our meeting on April 1 at Diya Restaurant features Courtney Counts, of the 2015 World Police and Fire Games, to be held in Fairfax County from June 26 - July 5. Courtney’s mission is to not only raise our awareness of the Games, held in our backyard, but to solicit our support. Can we help? We can because we are *doers*.

On April 15, our second meeting of the month, we will host our annual Youth Awards of Excellence at Madison High School. We will, as always, recognize area *students who do*, who have accomplished much in their young lives in the areas of scholarship, athletics, science, technology, citizenship, and fine arts. It’s a keynote evening for our club, and it’s very important that you attend, not to participate in the program, but to represent our club by talking to students, parents, and guests about who we are and *what we do*.

On April 18 *you can participate* in the Stop Hunger Now campaign, to be held at Madison High School. We’ll talk about this at the April 1 meeting, but here is your chance to join other Optimists to contribute to a very powerful cause. Sign up at <http://www.novastophungernow.org/>.

On the following Saturday, April 25, another opportunity to contribute is via the “Taste of Vienna,” supporting the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. More info on sign-ups shortly.

It’s also time to sign up for Farmer’s Market support. The market opens May 2. It will be bigger and livelier this year, but only if you help. Remember, we manage this market for 26, *count ‘em 26*, weekends. We need your help. Watch for announcements on ways to help.

So do you say the creed, or do you *do the creed*? See you on April 1 at Diya Restaurant.

President Dick Gongaware



April Birthday Wishes To:

Jim Stivison – April 2

Dave Lanphear – April 11

Paul Snodgrass – April 24

Optimist Anniversaries

In April

Mike Byard – 24 years

Anna Ryjik – 7 years

Dick Gongaware – 7 years

Michele Wright – 7 years

Tom Bauer – 6 years



Plan Now to Volunteer for the Optimist Club Booth at ViVa Vienna, Memorial Day Weekend

We have a booth across from the Caboose and we will be selling Caboose t-shirts. We need Volunteers to set up on Sunday (6:30-7:00 a.m.) and staff the booth on Sunday and Monday. Contact [Michele Wright](#) for details.

Looking for just the right place to wear your yellow Optimist Club of Greater Vienna "Volunteer" T-shirt*? It is *de rigueur* for these upcoming events.

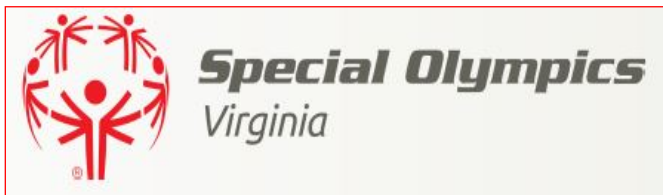


*Don't have this wardrobe essential? Contact [Jim Houston](#) and he will get you outfitted n style!



Stop Hunger Now Event Seeking Volunteers

On April 18th, help assemble 250,000 Stop Hunger Now 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 or donate.



Volunteer for Special Olympics Track

Mark your calendar as the Special Olympics Track & Field Event is coming soon. The track meet will be held on **Saturday, April 25** at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. Volunteers can sign up for all day (8:30 AM to 3 PM) or the morning session (8:30 AM to 12 PM) or the afternoon session (12 PM to 3 PM). No track skills required!

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

Nominees Announced for 2015-16 Club Offices

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: Tom Spengler (Immed. Past President), Joe Miller (President-Elect), Al Dunkerley, Anna Ryjik, and Rich Ordeman. The slate of proposed candidates will be voted on by the membership at the **April 1** meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor. We are still looking to fill the Director of Community position. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving, or to suggest a candidate.

Proposed Board of Directors 2015-2016

President.....Joe Miller

Can you say "Somotosensory Bead Chain"? Now can you fix it?

When Optimist **John Andrews** learned about the Kilmer Center and its need for equipment repairs, he took tools in hand and went to work. Over the past months he has brought all sorts of specialized equipment back to working order, and is a regular (and welcome!) presence at the Center for severely disabled students. Just before Spring Break John dropped off his latest handiwork and had a photo op with some Kilmer staff members. Pictured below are Jen Pasinetti-Fuller, John, and Carol Jordan, with the "Somotosensory Bead Chain with Music" and a "Motorized Color Light Ball" he recently repaired. Awesome work, John!



Do you have a photo or story of Optimists in action? Please share them with us! We want to feature (through the newsletter, Facebook, and traditional media) the great work our Club does on behalf of kids in our community. Send items to: info@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.

- Immediate Past President.....Dick Gongaware
- President Elect.....Michele Wright
- Secretary.....Jim Houston
- Treasurer.....Tom Fraim
- Vice President of Community.....Anna Ryjik
- Vice President of Finance.....Dick Lippert
- Vice President of Media Relations.....Tom Bauer
- Vice President of Membership.....Kathy Cutri
- Vice President of Youth.....Mike Fitzella
- Director of Community.....TBD
- Director of Social Media.....Marnie Fienberg
- Director of Membership.....Angelique Ayala
- Director of Youth.....Jim Stivison
- Webmaster.....Gary Moonan

March Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on March 11 with 11 members present. Highlights of the meetings are as follows:

- ⌘ VP of Youth Mike Fitzella:
 - ◇ Reported on the Essay and Oratorical Contests.
 - ◇ Announced that we will have two speakers for our Youth Awards of Excellence program on April 15. Ryan McElveen will be our primary speaker. Veronica Day will also be on the program. Dick Gongaware has made arrangements with a jazz group of Madison students to perform.
 - ◇ Announced that Pat Hackerson will coordinate this year's Helping Hands program. This program is planned for May 6 at Westwood Country Club.
- ⌘ Approved dropping Lydia Russo and Walt Petersen from the rolls at their request.
- ⌘ Heard reports from the Nominating, Social and Dinner Meeting Venue committees.
- ⌘ Heard Al Dunkerley provide suggested changes to the club By-Laws and Policies.
- ⌘ Reviewed thank you notes from Paul VI High School and Cedar Lane School for donations.

Kids Talk Optimism at Annual Oratorical Contest



From VP for Youth, Mike Fitzella: Our Oratorical Contest was held at the Fairfax American Legion on March 18. The participants from Kilmer and Luther Jackson were all very well prepared and poised. The scores were very close. Our two winners, Eli Weissenboeck from Luther Jackson and Yash Shekar from Kilmer, will go on to the Zone competition on April 18. Once again we were fortunate to have judges from George Mason University assist with our contest.

Below:
Our contest winners demonstrate their expressive speaking skills.



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 Social Media	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