

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

February 2015

## Calendar

**PLEASE NOTE: LOCATIONS VARY FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS!**

February 4 — CCDHH Meeting  
At P.J. Skidoo's,  
[9908 Fairfax Boulevard](#)  
[Fairfax, VA 22030](#)  
6:15: Social Time, 7:00 Dinner

February 7—Special Olympics Fanquest  
See Page 3 for more information!

February 11 — Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m.

February 14 — Valentine's Day



February 18 — Essay Contest Meeting  
At American Legion Post 177 (FAIRFAX, not Vienna)  
[3939 Oak Street](#)  
[Fairfax, VA 22030](#)  
6:45: Social Time, 7:30: Dinner

February 25—Fourth Wednesday — Team D  
Dinner to Culmore Teen Center

February 28—Caboose Open  
Town of Vienna 125th Anniversary  
Celebration on Church Street  
Noon-3:00 p.m.

## Spotlight on Upcoming Events

We are packing up the badges and banners and hitting the road! Marco Polo Restaurant is no longer available for our meetings, so we are taking our Optimism to new places. Come with us!



**COMMUNICATION CONTEST**  
for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Our February 4 meeting will be at P.J. Skidoo's (9908 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax). This very special meeting marks the return of CCDHH—our

Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. **Rob DiRocco** worked with the Canterbury Woods Elementary School to make this possible. To accommodate our young guests, **our meeting will start early**, with social time at 6:15, and dinner at 7:00. The banquet room at P.J. Skidoo's is downstairs from the main restaurant. Please park to the rear of the building and enter the door on the west wall.

Another signature event, our annual **Essay Contest**, will be the focus of our **February 18** meeting.

“Optimism Should be a Priority” is the topic of this year's essays. We have an outstanding panel of judges reviewing the entries. The top three will be presented at the meeting, which will be held at the **American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax** (near Paul VI high school). We will meet at the usual times: 6:45 p.m. for social time, with dinner served at 7:30.



All this moving around takes planning, and we owe huge thanks to **Dick Lippert** for putting his logistics expertise to work on our behalf. Dick is also chairing the newly formed **Venue Search Committee**. Dick reports, “Different options are expected to be sampled over the next few months. Stay tuned and be on the lookout for updates to meeting location and start times.” Please email him ([LippertR@verizon.net](mailto:LippertR@verizon.net)) if you have any additional ideas or suggestions as we proceed down the path of finding a new home for the club.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for 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,

As I write this it's Super Bowl weekend. I'm not going to cite all the worn analogies between football and life, save for one that transcends lots of sports and lots of lives, and that's momentum. A change in momentum can generally be attributed to one key moment in a game. And I think that's where the analogy to our club falls short. I do believe that we are gaining momentum, but I don't think that we can attribute it to one event, one individual, one circumstance. It's been the work of many, but make no mistake, it is work, not magic. So in what ways can you help to sustain our momentum? "Promise the club" that you'll commit to a few of these....

- Join the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee, to be initiated at this week's meeting.
- Come to the next few meetings to celebrate our charter, *bringing out the best in kids*.
- Feb 4<sup>th</sup> – the return of CCDHH (Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing). MEETING STARTS ½ HOUR EARLY. Social time: 6:15 PM. Dinner served at 7:00ish.
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – Annual essay contest. To be held at the Fairfax American Legion.
- Come to the next few meetings to provide your input on the various venues we'll be visiting. The "meeting venue" committee can't operate without input. Well it *can*, but if it *does*, then they will only be guessing at what the members prefer.
- 'Like' us on Facebook
- Tell me about any great farmers market vendors that you would like to see at our market
- Read this newsletter – every month. Did you know that Laurie Cole edits what is regarded as one of the best OI newsletters in the country?
- Make it a point to know the name of every club member. Ask them what they do.
- Volunteer. Our service is what separates us from many clubs.
- Bring someone to our next social event. Where will that be? Our social committee is working on it. Didn't know that we have a social committee? Read their minutes. Stay in touch.

Maybe momentum is just optimism realized. Let's keep the momentum going.

President Dick Gongaware



### February Birthday Wishes to:

Jim Radja – February 9

Jerry Covell – February 21

Lena Shrestha – February 25

### Optimist Anniversaries In February

Jim Pammel - 34 years

Steve Schuneman – 32 years

Richard Plocica – 22 years

Sam Sindoni – 22 years

Pat Hackerson – 13 years

Bob Thompson – 3 years

Mercury Payton – 2 years

Missy Whittington – 1 year

## Optimists in *Action*



At home and around the world, our Optimists work with and for kids. *Left*, Jim Houston in Nicaragua reinforcing steel at a school and styling in his Growing Hope t-shirt. *Right*, Joe Miller imparts the fine points of Christmas tree pruning at the Culmore Teen Center. Do you have a photo of an Optimist bringing out the best in kids? Submit it to the [Newsletter!](#)





## New Year, New Places, New Media— Same Commitment to Helping Kids!

We started the New Year checking out new venues. On January 7 we met at P.J. Skidoo's Restaurant in Fairfax (*left*). Our **Director for Social Media Marnie Fienberg** and **Webmaster Gary Moonan** discussed how online media can increase our community presence. Marnie regularly posts club news on Facebook and Gary continually updates our website, but what really makes a difference is...us. "Like" us on Facebook (join if you haven't yet!). Use the website to check out the Club calendar, sign up to volunteer, and much more. January 21 was a fun change of pace at Bazin's Next Door (*below*). Light fare (loved the guacamole!) and a casual program let us visit with members and guests.

*Right: Paula Lackey of Growing Hope (center) accepted the check from Family Fun Day co-chairs Anna, Michele and Susan. Far right: Matt Flis, Vienna's Acting Director of Planning, spoke about the Town's plans for Maple Avenue and other development activity—and enjoyed a moment with member Rob DiRocco.*



## Baby, it's cold outside!

And kids are feeling the chill! The Culmore Teen Center is in need of winter hats and gloves. If you have new or gently used hats and/or gloves to donate, please bring them to our February 4 meeting. Tom Spengler will collect them and deliver them to Culmore.

These are for teens, so adult sizes Small, Medium and Large would be best. Thank you!

## Be a Fan and Support Special Olympics February 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Oakton High School

From the [Special Olympics-Virginia website](#):

"Have a FAN-tastic Saturday night at Special Olympics Virginia's FanQuest! VOLUNTEER 2 CHEER as Special Olympics basketball teams from Oakton and McLean High Schools take to the courts. Free admission, contests, prizes ... plus a guaranteed good time for all!"

"We need you to Volunteer to Cheer and fill the stands with your support! Competing is not as special without fans – and that goes for any sports competition, including Special Olympics. Being a part of a cheering section of fans allows us all to reveal our inner champion." Pre-register at [Volunteer2Cheer.com](#).



**Special Olympics**  
Virginia

## Newly Formed Social Committee Planning for Our Future Enjoyment

A Vienna Optimist Social Committee has been formed. The mission of the Social Committee is to foster good will and extended fellowship to all members and guest of the Vienna Optimist Club. The following are the key goals of the social committee:

- \* To gather as a committee and share ideas and inspirations on possible social meetings for the Vienna Optimists and their guests.
- \* To meet once every two months to plan a special social gathering for the club. This social gathering will typically be beyond the standard first and third Wednesday meetings of the club.
- \* To use social gatherings to inspire Optimism and fun for current and future Optimists.
- \* To provide an opportunity for members to get to know each other better and to meet potential new members in a social setting.

The first meeting of the social committee was held on January 7, 2015 and the following ideas were discussed:

- \* Plan a community picnic with games and activities on the opening day of the Farmers' Market. Encourage Optimists to advertise the event and Farmers' Market by directing traffic on busy streets. (May 2, 2015 @ TBD)

(Continued on page 4)



### January Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on January 14, 2015, with 12 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella discussed plans for the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) to be held at the February 4 dinner meeting. Rob DiRocco has worked diligently to reestablish this program for the club.
- VP of Finance Dick Lippert reported that Christmas tree sales were successful and after covering the cost of the trees and expenses and paying sales tax, the club netted \$29,895 for the Youth Fund.
- Discussed purchasing business card-size handout with information about the club.
- Approved the membership application of Lauren Wagner (sponsored by Kathy Cutri). Lauren is the sponsor of the JOOI Club at Louise Archer Elementary School.
- Discussed potential dinner meeting locations.
- Approved donations to Paul VI High School and Thomas Jefferson High School for their All-Night Graduation Parties and Flint Hill Elementary School to support their 5K and Fun Run.

### Social Committee *(Continued from page 3)*

- \* “Drop in if you want” happy hours or get-togethers after meetings. We’re all together already anyway!
- \* Music events
- \* Taste of Vienna event (April 25, 2015 @ VVFD)
- \* Viva Vienna (Memorial Day Weekend @ Church St.)
- \* Mingling prompts at meetings (maybe with small gifts to participants)
- \* Whole Foods tasting events (March?)
- \* Creative Cauldron theater in Falls Church, perhaps combined with a fundraising event
- \* Plan dual events – volunteering and social – to encourage members to participate in programs.
- \* Plan a picnic in the May-June time frame.

Do you have ideas to promote the social well being of the club? Please contact one of the social committee members:

Lena Shrestha -Chair	Marnie Fienberg
Lydia Russo	Steven Rabil
Missy Whittington	Anna Ryjik
Sherry Levitt	Dick Gongaware
Kathy Curtri	Joe Miller
Gary Moonan	

### 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*