

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

January 2015

Calendar

January 1, 2015



January 7 — Regular Meeting

Marco Polo Restaurant

6:45—Social Time, 7:30—Dinner

Speakers: Gary Moonan and Marnie Fienberg on Social Media and Our Optimist Club

January 14 — Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

January 21—Special Meeting!

NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

6:30 p.m. at **Bazin's Next Door**

111 Church St. NE, Vienna

(next door to Bazin's on Church)

Light fare, cash bar, informal meeting

January 28—Fourth Wednesday — Team C

Dinner to Culmore Teen Center

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

After our flurry of activity in December, we are taking a bit of a breather in January. Our two meetings will focus us on options and opportunities for moving into our seventh decade of service to youth.



Do you know what the icons to the left stand for? Did you know that the social media links they represent—Facebook, Twitter, and Linked In—each has the potential to help our Club grow and prosper? Most importantly, do you know how to make them work for us?

Our **January 7** meeting at Marco Polo will address how we present our Club to the public and much more. Our program includes a discussion by **Club members Marnie Fienberg and Gary Moonan** on social media and expanding our community reach. Gary has been our Webmaster for several years, and Marnie serves on our Board as Director of Social Media. They are doing a great job of creating our digital media presence, but we all have a part to play.

Our meeting on **January 21** will be a change from the usual. We will meet at Bazin's Next Door, in the Bazin's building on Church St. NE. This is our first foray into an alternative meeting style. See President Dick G.'s letter in this issue for more about our plans.

BAZIN'S | NEXT DOOR

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Parking for Bazin's Next Door is available in the garage under the building and on the street. This might be a good evening to share a ride with a fellow Optimist! And it will certainly be a good meeting to invite a prospective member.

Happy New Year!



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,

So you'll read an overwhelming number of articles and opinion pieces about how the new year is a time to reflect and resolve. I'm not going to jump on that bandwagon. But I will mention this: 2015 will be, and should be, a year of continued evolution and growth of the club. I'm very optimistic, no pun intended, about the commitment of club members to continue to support such an altruistic mission of "bringing out the best in kids." That slogan is now painted on the side of our trailer to remind us, and everyone in our community, of what we do.

Our first meeting of 2015 will be on January 7th, at Marco Polo. We will look ahead to club initiatives and challenge ourselves to contribute to our mission. What better way to address change than for Optimists Gary Moonan and Marnie Fienberg to talk to us about social media, and our (your) increased role in it. Thanks to their efforts, we have raised our awareness in the community in ways and in media that will probably surprise you. You can help in that effort – this is not a "nice to know" lecture.

On January 21, more change per the mandate of the membership. We'll try out a new venue – Bazin's Next Door, on Church Street in Vienna. We'll start a little earlier, at 6:30 PM, and try a different approach: an informal meeting wrapped around a social gathering. Call it a happy hour if you will (we will have a dedicated room with a bar, and light fare will be served), but it's about connecting with both current and prospective club members. Invite someone to join you!

I wish you all a wonderful year ahead.

President Dick Gongaware



COMMUNICATION CONTEST for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

CCDHH is Back!

Through the dedicated efforts of new Optimist **Rob DiRocco**, our Club will once again sponsor a Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing. Four contestants will present their entries at our February 4th meeting.

Because of changes within Fairfax County Public Schools, our longtime CCDHH partner, Camelot Elementary School and Center, ended its participation in 2012. One of Rob's goals upon joining Optimists was to reinstate our CCDHH program—and he did it! **Canterbury Woods Elementary School** in Annandale will be our FCPS partner. Canterbury Woods began its "Total Communication" program for deaf and hard of hearing students this Fall.

Thank you, Rob, for your determination and hard work to make CCDHH happen!



January Birthday Wishes to:

Rich Ordeman – January 4
 Anna Ryjik – January 4
 Susan Bauer – January 10
 George Mills – January 10
 Joan Marsh – January 12
 Dick Lippert – January 13
 Kathy Georgen – January 20
 Pat Hackerson – January 20
 Jim Wilson – January 20
 Laurie Cole – January 25
 Lydia Russo – January 28
 Kathryn McHale – January 29

Optimist Anniversaries In January:

Jeff Johnson – 37 years
 Mike Nadolski - 27 years
 Jim Stivison – 27 years
 Joan Marsh – 4 years
 Kathy Cutri – 1 year

*Editor's Note: Last month's Newsletter reported Joe Bosco's anniversary as 57 years. Joe reports he is a **59 year** member. Our apologies, Joe—and thanks for keeping us on our toes!*



Christmas Tree Sales 2014 — It's a Wrap!

We sold hundreds of trees in record time this year, and we looked darn good doing it, too!



We got help from some of our friends.

Thanks to the Madison Octagon Club (*left*) our new trailer sports a cheery seasonal mural (*above*) and proudly displays our motto (*far left*)!

The Madison Baseball Team (*below*) did some heavy lifting to unload two deliveries of trees.



We made trees vanish!

If by "vanish" you mean stacking, lifting, drilling, selling, cutting, and loading, starting with nearly 1000 (*right*) down to the last few (*below*).



We said, "Well done, good and faithful servant" and "farewell"—to the trailer, not to Jim.

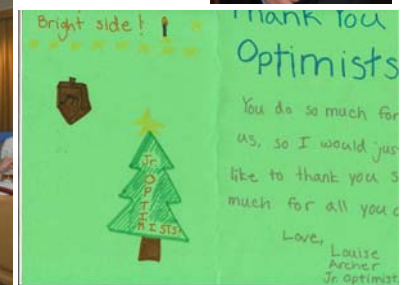
Our old trailer (*right*) is at a new home in Culpeper, thanks to Cindy Stanton and her friend Kirby.

Thanks to all who helped!



Scenes from our Annual Holiday Banquet

We received holiday cards from the Louise Archer JOOI Club, heard music from the Madison High School Madrigals, and enjoyed great company. An "after party" at the home of Dick and Diane Gongaware topped off an evening of fun and celebration!



December 2014 Board Highlights

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., with 13 members present. Highlights of the Board's actions are as follows:

- Approved 2014-2015 Budget.
- Confirmed dates for Essay Contest (February 18 at Marco Polo) and Respect for Law program (April 1).
- Approved \$125 to support Viva Vienna, with plan to staff booth near Caboose on Sunday and Monday.
- Approved plan for January 21 2015 meeting to be held as social meeting at Bazin's Next Door on Church St. Meeting will start at 6:30pm.
- Received report on Christmas Tree sales. We have covered expenses and are on track to sell out and close the lot early.
- Approved funding for several items in the budget including:
 - a. HOBY proposal
 - b. Marshall High School Ethics Day
 - c. Veronica Day
- Approved additional requests not specifically budgeted including: \$300 to Women's Center for new teen initiative/parent support workshops; and \$225 to change in web hosting service.

Club Directory Distributed by Email

Club Secretary Jim Houston updated our Club Directory and sent it by email to all members on December 27, 2014.

In his email Jim asks, "If you have any changes and, for newer members, any information on your birthdate (only need month and day), spouse, cell phones numbers, etc., please let me know."

If you have not received the directory, please check your email spam filter first, and if it is not there contact Jim.

Thank you, Jim, for keeping track of us!

Get Involved!

Looking for a way to be more involved in your Optimist Club? There are plenty of options for you; here are just a few ideas:

- ☞ Help plan our 60th Anniversary Celebration. A committee is now forming; you can get in on the ground floor! Contact Dick Gongaware at rkongaware.oi@gmail.com
- ☞ Join a "Fourth Wednesday" team to provide dinner to the Culmore Teen Center. Contact Laurie Cole at laurie-cole.optimist@gmail.com.
- ☞ Be a mentor. Help a new member feel at home with the Optimists. Contact Joe Miller at jmeda@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 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