

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

March 2015

Calendar

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

**March 4 — Regular Meeting
At Diya Restaurant**

[2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna](#)

6:30 Social Time, 7:30 Dinner

March 11 — Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

**March 14 — Caboose Open
1:00—5:00 p.m**

Volunteers Needed!

Contact Dan Mulville

March 18 — Oratorical Contest

At FAIRFAX American Legion Post 177

[3939 Oak Street](#)

[Fairfax, VA 22030](#)

6:15: Social Time, 7:00: Dinner

March 22 — NOW Reception/Meeting

At DIYA Restaurant

[2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna](#)

3:00—5:00 p.m.

**March 25—Fourth Wednesday
— Team A**

Dinner to Culmore Teen Center

Spotlight on Upcoming Events



Where to next? Our March 4th meeting will be at a new location – the Diya Restaurant at 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna (at Old Courthouse Road). Dinner will be at the regular time with social hour starting at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. We will be in the banquet room to the left after you enter the main door facing



Rte. 123. There should be adequate parking in front at this time. There is a parking garage in the rear as well.

Our always-outstanding **Oratorical Contest** returns on March 18th. Plan to join us as students from Kilmer, Luther Jackson, and Thoreau Middle Schools present their speeches on the topic **“How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to Greater Achievements of the Future”**. (The topic alone is a mouthful!) We will once again be at the **Fairfax** American Legion—where we met for our Essay Contest. We will dine in the main hall; enter through the double doors upstairs. The meeting will start ½ hour earlier than normal to accommodate our young speakers. Social time begins at 6:15 pm and dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. The address for the Fairfax American Legion Post 177 is 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030.

We are a Club on the move, literally and figuratively. (If we haven't used that line before, we should have!). This is a great time to introduce prospective members to our Club, so bring a friend to the **NOW event on March 22 at Diya**. See page 3 for more information about the importance of NOW efforts and this special event.



We are making news in Vienna! Did you see us on the **front page AND page three of the Vienna Sun-Gazette**? If you don't get the Sun-Gazette you can still check it out on the website, [InsideNova.com](#). Better yet, visit our [Club's Facebook page](#) and “Like” the links.



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,

If there is any theme running through this Optimist year, it's *flexibility*. We have dined at four venues in the past two months (can you name them?), and the fun continues in March and April. For our first meeting in March we venture to Diya Restaurant, located in what is affectionately known as "the toilet bowl building" in Tysons Corner. (OK, not a flattering reference, but I bet most of you know what building I'm referring to.) Directions will follow in a separate email next week. [Editor's Note: Directions are also given on page 1.] Diya is an Indian restaurant, so not only are we trying different venues, but different cuisine. Dick Lippert has done a great job of identifying locations and then negotiating with the venues.

Where do you stand on our restaurant carousel? Well, that's one issue we'll discuss on the March 4th meeting. Bring your impressions of venues we've visited. I would like to spend a little time discussing other club activities as well. The reality is we rarely do so as a club, so let's take advantage of our dining together. Our guest speaker withdrew, so we'll make this a fun, productive evening. *Flexibility*.

On March 18, we return to the Fairfax American Legion for our annual Oratorical Contest. It's absolutely one of our marquee youth events, with students, parents, teachers, and honored guests all joining us. It's an evening to be proud of the youth that we serve. Our young speakers have earned a reputation for excellence, and we expect nothing less on the 18th.

Special "thank you's" to the following club members who attended the district meeting in Fredericksburg on Feb 21; Rich Ordeman for hosting the District CCDHH competition, Rob DiRocco for assisting as he continues to re-build the CCDHH program, and Tom Fraim, our district newsletter editor. To all three of them, my admiration for handling simply awful weather conditions to meet their Optimist club commitments. They were more than flexible.

President Dick Gongaware



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 March

Bill Doughten – 33 years
 Ken Glaser – 31 years
 Grant Marsh – 16 years
 Gary Peterson – 10 years (with Vienna)
 Dan Lanphear – 10 years
 Cindy Stanton – 10 years
 Jim Stevens – 10 years



Caboose Season Opens — Conductors Needed!

Dan Mulville, Caboose Czar, requests your help in staffing this year's Caboose openings.

Spring is coming—really!—and that means our big red Caboose will be welcoming train-loving kids (and adults) once a month. We like to have at least two adult volunteers at the Caboose per shift.

Volunteers are needed:

Saturday, March 14th: 1:00-3:00 (with Bob S.) and 3:00 to 5:00;
Saturday, April 18th: 1:00 to 3:00 (with Lena S.) and 3:00 to 5:00;
Viva Vienna, Saturday, May 23rd: 3:00 to 5:00;
Viva Vienna, Sunday, May 24th: 1:00 to 3:00 and 3:00 to 5:00.

If you are able to volunteer, you can either contact [Dan Mulville](#) directly or sign up on our [website](#).

New Optimists Welcome (NOW) Event on March 22, 2015 at Diya Restaurant

Membership Committee Invites Everyone to Help Build Our Club

Member recruitment is important to the health and growth of our Club. Some Members will naturally drop off due to scheduling conflicts or moving out of the area. It is important to bring in new Members who have a lot of energy and fresh ideas so that we can maintain our level of service. Once new Members are recruited, the Club should get them involved and keep them interested, so they can serve children in the area for years to come.

Once again, we are having a membership recruitment event as part of our New Optimist Welcome "NOW" program. Please consider who you would

invite as a guest. This is a casual event with short presentations by members. Hors d'oeuvres are provided and there is a cash bar.

The event is open to members. As a member, you are strongly urged to bring a potential member as it is not a regular meeting but a recruitment event.

Sunday, March 22, 2015
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Diya Restaurant
2070 Chain Bridge Road,
Vienna, VA 22182

Contact organizers Anna Ryjik or Angelique Ayala for more information at annaryjik@gmail.com or angeliqueayala92@gmail.com.

*Share your Optimism with a friend, neighbor or co-worker—
Bring a guest to the NOW event!*

Below: Last September's NOW Meeting at Sweet City Desserts brought together members and guests for great food and an introduction to our Optimist Club.



New Member Profile

Welcome to Lauren Wagner

We already knew Lauren's optimistic personality and engaging smile as the sponsor of Louise Archer Elementary School's JOOI Club. Now she has joined our Club! Meet Lauren Wagner:



"As an alumni of Fairfax County Schools, I've been a teacher in the county now for nine years. Currently, I teach fourth grade at Louise Archer Elementary.

"I love encouraging children to reach out to our community, so for the past five years I have sponsored our Junior Optimist Club here at Louise Archer. Our club is community service based and we help with many projects, both inside and outside of our school. We are in charge of the recycling program, we have a food donation system set up with Cornerstone Community Shelter, sponsor Toys for Tots and Pennies for Patients fundraisers, volunteer at the Optimist Christmas Tree lot and many projects for our Louise Archer Day celebration here at school in March.



"Outside of teaching and working with the community, I enjoy playing softball and skeeball."

The Optimist Club's Excellent Adventure

Our Sampling of New Venues Continues

As we continue to visit different venue options for our club please continue to email Dick Lippert, lippetr@verizon.net, with comments both good and bad about the different locations we are using. We plan to continue rotating venues for the next few months, if not longer, until we find the best location(s) and style of meetings to satisfy the many objectives of the Vienna Optimist Club which will allow us to most effectively continue serving the Youth of the Greater Vienna Community.

When you think about the our future meetings—both style and location—consider "A Few Tips for Better Club Meetings", from the Winter 2015 edition of *The Optimist*:

Club meetings should be fun. Variety is desirable. It helps keep the meetings from becoming stereotyped. Members should want to come to the meetings because of...

- The fellowship
- A good time
- Interesting programs
- A sense of being part of the Club's activities

...
New Members (and prospective Members) will be more likely to want to come back because of the positive experience they've had.

We have a lot to offer our members and community and our meetings should reflect that!

February Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on February 11 with 9 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella discussed plans for the Oratorical Contest to be held on March 18.
- Chairman Dick Lippert reported on the work of the committee studying sites for dinner meetings.
- Discussed the work of the Social Committee.
- Approved dropping Dave Frost and Twyla Frank from the membership rolls at their request.
- Webmaster Gary Moonan discussed changes made for the Farmers Market website and Facebook accounts.
- Received a report from the Nominating Committee for Officers and the Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 Optimist year.
- Approved a donation to Cedar Lane School for a student development program.

Social Committee Is Up and Running!

The Social Committee is planning and scouting local events for our club members! Keep an eye on the calendar and Facebook page for fun opportunities to socialize with the Optimists and enjoy the best Vienna has to offer.



Do you have suggestions for future events? Contact Lena Shrestha, Committee Chair, or one of the Social Committee members to share your ideas.

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