

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

January 2016

## Calendar

January 1, 2016 — Happy New Year!



January 6 — Optimist Bowling Night!

A Club Social Event & Pizza Dinner  
Food Provided; Bowlers, \$11 for shoes & lanes  
RSVP to [Lena Shrestha](#)  
Bowl America  
[9699 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax](#)  
(Near Fairfax Circle; in same center as  
Artie's Restaurant)

January 13 — Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

January 20 — CCDHH Meeting

Fairfax American Legion Hall  
6:15 p.m. — Social Time and Buffet  
7:15 p.m. — Program Begins\*

\*Please note earlier start time in consideration of  
our young contestants!

January 27 — Fourth Wednesday

Dinner at Culmore Teen Center—Team A

## Spotlight on Upcoming Events

We start the New Year with both Optimism and the satisfaction of a job well done! See Dick Lippert's report (page 3) on our very successful Christmas tree sales season.

So we have earned some fun and fellowship time! Our **Social Committee**, chaired by **Lena Shrestha**, says "Let's Go Bowling!" In lieu of a meeting on January 6, we will gather at Bowl America in Fairfax, for an evening of bowling, pizza, refreshments and no pine sap! The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. Bowlers should bring \$11.00 for shoe and lane rental. Even if you choose not to bowl please come for the outstanding company. *RSVPs are essential* so that refreshments can be ordered. You can respond to the "evite" you received by email, or go to our [MeetUp.com site](#) (you have signed up for MeetUp, right??). If all else fails, contact [Lena by email](#).



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

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

On January 20, we will be back at the American Legion in Fairfax for this year's **Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)**. This is a signature event for our Club and for Optimist International. We will begin the evening early, at 6:15, with social time and an appetizer buffet, before the program begins at 7:15. Dessert will be served after the program. Everyone is encouraged to use this relaxed format to welcome our contestants, their families and teachers, and our judges and guests. Have a smile for every person you meet!

**Did you know...that you can pay your dues online?** Save yourself (and the Club) a stamp and go to our website, [www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org). Click on the "Donations and Dues" button to the left. That will take you to the webpage where you can use Paypal or a credit card to pay your dues or make a donation (always welcomed!) to the Club. Check it out:



Step 1

Step 2



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—

Dear Vienna Optimists,

Happy New Year!!! It's a great time to be an Optimist!

Our optimist delights are to look back at the year and see all of the wonderful things we did for the youth in the community. Recently, Dave Burns, OI President, provided these simple-yet profound-words for us:

***"The Holiday Season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and to seek out ways to make life better for those around us."***

-Terri Marshall

As an optimist we seem to have a thoughtful effect on people around us and we should be very proud of this. This is especially evident in our community youth programs. It was very apparent, on December 16th at our 60th Anniversary celebration, when new member Nicole Pham stood up and talked about her history with the Vienna Optimist club. Nicole was president of the Octagon Club at Madison and won the Carole Waite Brennen award in 2011. Rich Ordeman, our longtime Octagon Club liaison, noted that not only do we have many long time members, but we also have many under 30 members including past members of JOOI clubs. That night we also honored 22 members who had 20 years or more of membership with the club. Fourteen of these special members were present and received special recognition and an Optimist logo engraved key chain.

We can also reflect on the many people who help make our Club a success. Once again Jim Houston and Dick Lippert led our Christmas Tree sales. Thanks to their hard work, along with many others we had a very successful year selling the trees.

Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party was another success. Our thanks to Tom Spengler for his help in coordinating the event with the Westwood Country Club and thanks to the decoration committee of Susan Bauer, Mary Delurey and Nichole Pham who were responsible for all the wonderful table decorations and the decorative balloons.

We continue to adapt to the opportunities to make our Club more user-friendly online. Facebook, MeetUp and Twitter are part of our social media presence. And members can pay their dues online. Look at the front page of our web site at <http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/> at the bottom of the left hand column you will see where you can donate and pay your dues.

I am excited to announce our first social meeting of the year. Lena Shrestha, Chair of the social committee, has arranged for our club to have a night at the bowling alley on January 6th. The event is at Bowl America in Fairfax. Even if you don't bowl, come out and cheer your favorite Optimist team to victory.

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### 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  
 Kathryn McHale – January 29

### Optimist Anniversaries in January

Jeff Johnson – 38 years  
 Mike Nadolski - 28 years  
 Jim Stivison – 28 years  
 Joan Marsh – 5 years  
 Kathy Cutri – 2 years  
 George Stone – 2 years  
 Lauren Wagner – 1 year





**Our 20+ year members attending the 60th Anniversary Banquet**

*Seated:* Joe Bosco, 60 years. *Standing, l-r:* TR Cook, 41; Jim Pammel, 34; Les Carl, 31; Dick Lippert, 28; Mike Battaglia, 20; Ken Glaser, 31; Steve Schuneman, 32; Jim Houston, 22; Barbara McHale, 24; Jeff Johnson, 37; Jim Stivison, 27; Al Dunkerley, 27; Rich Ordeman, 37.



**Caboose Report 2015**

From Dan Mulville, Caboose Coordinator

I would like to personally thank all of the Optimists who volunteered to work in the Caboose this year. We had 5600 visitors during the year with over 1000 a day during the Viva Vienna celebration.

Thanks to **Richard Plocica, Rich Ordeman, Anna Ryjik, Bob Steinfeldt, Tom Spengler, Dick Gongaware, Lena Shrestha, Lauren Wagner, Jim Houston, Jim Pammel, Tom Bauer, Susan Bauer, Dick Lippert, Mark Erazo, Mary Delurey, and Jeff Johnson** for their service as caboose engineers.

*Ed. Note:* And thank you, Dan, for keeping us on track! (*Further Ed. Note:* Sorry, couldn't resist that.)

**Looking Good at 60!**

Scenes from our Anniversary Banquet and Holiday Party

*Left:* Madison HS Madrigals sang holiday songs. *Below, left:* Festive decorations, by Susan Bauer, Mary Delurey and Nicole Pham, welcomed us. *Center:* Longtime members received Optimist mementos from Pres. Joe Miller. *Right:* Nicole Pham spoke about her Optimist experience.



**Tree Sales Wrap-Up**

By Dick Lippert



This year's Vienna Optimist Christmas Tree sales may have been our best yet, grossing over \$65k. We expect to contribute more than \$30k to our youth fund for our 2016 activities, once Treasurer Tom Fraim has tallied all expenses and taxes. The success was due in large part to a great team effort. It included the outstanding support of the Greater Vienna Community which started with the off-loading of trees by the Madison boys baseball team and subsequent lot setup. All activities were greatly facilitated by the PNC Bank which provided critical electrical power to run drills, chain saws, lights and heaters.

Other key groups which helped staff the lot included the Oakton football team, Marshall and Madison Octagon Clubs and the Louise Archer JOOI Club. While our new members all did well we think Randy Sawyer deserves "Rookie of the Year" honors. The Cindy Stanton team, with Kirby and son Tim, not only helped sell, but also moved the trailer to and from the lot. The team captains,

Rich Ordeman, Jim Houston, Dick Gongaware, Jeff Johnson and Tom Spengler did an excellent job of coordinating their team's schedule, making sure we had good coverage for the many long hours it took. Jim Houston deserves special recognition for not only herding all the cats and coordinating the overall activities, but doing triple duty as a team captain and disposal manager as well as making sure we had sharp tools. Maybe too sharp for some of us!

We can all celebrate the Holidays and New Year knowing that, thanks to a great effort by all, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna will have a well-stocked Youth fund primed to support the youth of the greater Vienna community throughout the coming year.

Well done to all, many thanks for all that helped and best wishes for a great new year!

Our trailer is tucked in at the Town Property Yard for the next 11 months.



We will go to just about any heights to get the job done! Dick Lippert (in tree) getting the final string of lights down with help from Jeff Johnson, Ed Wonder and Jim Houston. Who got those lights up so high anyway?



### December 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on December 19, 2015, with 12 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Appointed Nicole Pham to fill the Director of Social Media position on the Board.
- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella reported that plans for the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) program on January 20 are set.
- Discussed the status of tree sales; which were a little ahead of previous years.
- Discussed plans for the Holiday Party on December 16.
- Discussed meal planning for meetings at the Fairfax American Legion.
- Discussed ideas for fundraising and building Foundation reserves.
- Approved the membership of Jennifer Cutri, who was sponsored by her mother Kathy.
- Approved donations to the following Madison High School Madrigals, who performed at the Holiday Party, and to Faith Baptist Church for supporting the Farmers Market.

*(Continued from page 2) From the President*

Our second event of the month is the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), coordinated by Rob DiRocco. This should be an extraordinary event for the youth of Vienna. It will be held at the Fairfax American Legion.

As you can see, the club is very active and we really need your assistance and support to continue to be the premier club in Vienna. So please go to our web site at <http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/> and volunteer for something. Thanks!!!

*President Joe Miller*



### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2015-16

President	Joe Miller
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Dick Gongaware
President Elect	Michele Wright
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	Susan Bauer
Director of Social Media	Nicole Pham
Director of Membership	Angelique Ayala
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*