

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

June 2016

Calendar

June 1 — Partners in Education

Fairfax American Legion Post 177
Social Time: 6:45; Dinner 7:30

June 4 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

June 8 — Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

June 11 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

June 14 — Flag Day

June 15 — NOW Meeting!

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Special Location: Blackfinn Ameripub
2750 Gallows Road Vienna, VA 22180**

Parking available in underground garage;
click [here](#) for directions.

June 18 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

June 22 — Fourth Wednesday

Dinner at Culmore Teen Center—Team B

June 25 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

No Caboose Opening this Month

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

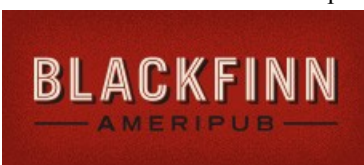
June 1 will be our Partners in Education

program at the Fairfax American Legion, with a social time at 6:45 and dinner at 7:30. This year we will be honoring **teachers from the “Fine and Performing Arts” departments** at Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools. We will also be

presenting our **vocational scholarships**, started by the families of deceased members **Clyde Rees and Paul Booze** to recognize students who are continuing their education after high school but not pursuing a four-year bachelor's degree.



Optimists are always welcome to bring prospective members to a meeting, but sometimes we like to have a special event to focus our efforts. So **June 15 will be**



a NOW Meeting—New Optimists Welcomed! We will meet at **Blackfinn Ameripub** in the hip-and-happening area of Merrifield around Dunn Loring Metro Station. **VP for Membership Kathy Cutri** has arranged for a

menu of tantalizing pub food (sliders, flat bread pizza, crispy shrimp, and more!) for us to enjoy and share with the guests we have brought. Your Editor can attest to the great selection of beers and other beverages available for purchase. So bring a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker (you get the idea) and introduce them to the Optimists. Our strongest growth is by word-of-mouth and our example in the community; that means that **each of us has a role and responsibility** in keeping our Optimist Club vital!



And speaking of us each having a role and responsibility...the **Farmers Market** continues. Be like Lauren—volunteer at the Farmers Market! Sign up on the Club's website: go to optimistclubofgreatervienna.org, and click on the link for “Farmers Market Sign-up”.

The **three hours you spend at the Market** three or four times a season **reaps big returns for kids** (\$ raised for programs, learning about where food comes from), **the Vienna community** (healthy foods, social interaction), **and our Club** (all of the above, plus building awareness). What a return on your investment of time!



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—

Dear Vienna Optimists and Friends,

May has turned out to be a fabulous month for optimism. On May 4th we celebrated the 20th Annual Helping Hands Awards at Westwood Country Club. Fairfax County School Board Member Dalia Palchik provided a wonderful speech and helped us present the awards to eleven outstanding sixth graders. On May 18th we really enjoyed the Junior Optimist/Octagon International clubs from the Vienna area who presented their current activities in optimism. I was fortunate enough to visit and talk to several of the leaders at a Madison JOOI club's meeting that was held in Dick Gongaware's home room. At that meeting they were making large fortune cookies to be handed out to special individuals at Madison High School. They are truly a special group of Optimists that will have many successes in the future.

One thing that May has brought us is ample amounts of rain. I was at the Farmer's Market on May 14th and the rain continued to pour. About half of the vendors came out and a small number from the community, but the Optimists were there to help and manage. Please go to the club's web site at <http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/> and sign-up to help at the Farmer's Market and/or the Caboose. We need your help to keep the club doing amazing things. On May 21st we had a social function at our place that we called "May at the Millers". We had a great time with lots of great food and fellowship. Another thing that could be done in May is re-seed the lawn and planting a garden. I am working on both endeavors. The garden is going a little slower than I would hope but I am making progress and I am optimistic!

June promises to be another amazing month starting on June 1 with our Partners in Education program at the Fairfax American Legion. We plan on honoring teachers from the "Fine and Performing Arts" departments at Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools. We will also be presenting our vocational scholarships, to recognize students who are continuing their education but not pursuing a four-year bachelor's degree after high school. On June 15th, we are having a New Optimist Welcome (NOW) meeting at BlackFinn in Merrifield. This is an opportunity to bring a guest to a social event to hear about optimism and the Vienna Optimist Club. I encourage all members to bring a friend, relative or neighbor to this gathering that will help them get to know us. Please contact VP for Membership [Kathy Cutri](#) for more information.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own!

President Joe Miller



Volunteer Spotlight: Hats off (a conductor's hat would be best) to **Randy Sawyer** for pulling off the Caboose hat trick of volunteering **three days in a row** over the *ViVa! Vienna!* weekend. **Rich Ordeman** and **Richard Ploccica** each did two shifts; **Jim Houston**, **Dick Lippert**, **Nicole Pham**, and **Pat Solan** filled out the roster so the Caboose could be open for our biggest volume days of the year. Thank you all!



June Birthday Wishes to:

Joe Bosco – June 2

Dick Gongaware – June 5

Barbara McHale – June 17

T.R Cook – June 27

Optimist Anniversaries in June

Jim Wilson – 19 years

Mike Battaglia – 16 years

Susan Bauer – 6 years

Pat Solan – 1 year



CELEBRATING TWO SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY

JOOI Clubs Night — On May 18 our Junior Optimists/Octagon International (“JOOI”) Clubs from four local schools joined us for dinner and shared with us what they’ve been up to this year. Our correspondent, longtime JOOI Club coordinator Rich Ordeman, reports that through our JOOI Clubs “we have extended our outreach to the ‘community’ including the school, teachers, janitors; nursing homes; homeless - Lamb Center; town - school parade; and world-wide with shoes to Africa. These students are fantastic!”



1 Photo 1: Maggie O'Brien and Nicole Audia with Madison HS Octagon Advisor, Optimist Dick Gongaware.



Photo 2: Marshall HS Octagon Advisor Elizabeth Hurley is flanked by Sam Bock and Noah Danial.



Photo 3: Optimist George Mills stands by the Oakton Octagon Club's presenters and display.



Photo 4: Louise Archer Junior Optimists Katy Berry and Max Murphy address the meeting.



Photo 5: Louise Archer Junior Optimist Sara Brodnik is not deterred by the looming lectern.

Photo 6: Lauren Wagner, Optimist, teacher and Junior Optimist Advisor at Louise Archer, and Sara Brodnik talk about a special project of the Club, “Kelly Strong”, in support of a former Junior Optimist diagnosed with bone cancer.



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



The election of the Officers and Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 Optimist Year took place at the general membership meeting on May 18. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of candidates:

President	Michele Wright
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Kathy Georgen
Vice President Youth	Mike Fitzella
Vice President Community	Anna Ryjik
Vice President Membership	Kathy Cutri
Vice President Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President Media Relations	Gary Moonan
Director of Youth	Jeff Bechtle
Director of Community	Susan Bauer
Director of Membership	Angelique Ayala
Director of Social Media	Nicole Pham
Webmaster	Gary Moonan

Three requests for nominations from the floor did not yield any additional candidates. On a motion by Jeff Johnson and a second by Rich Ordeman, the proposed slate was accepted by acclamation. The new officers and Board will be installed at the first meeting in October.

The entire membership thanks these Optimists for their willingness to serve, and thanks the Nominating Committee for their work putting together the slate of nominees.

Helping Hands Awards — On May 4 we presented the 20th Annual Helping Hands Awards to eleven sixth graders. A banquet at Westwood Country Club made for an elegant evening with nearly 100 attendees. Our guest speaker, Dalia Palchik of the Fairfax County School Board Member (Providence Dist.), spoke movingly of her own experiences when help from others made a difference in her life. She praised the eleven awardees for their generous spirit and selfless work.

Right: Helping Hands Coordinator Laurie Cole, School Board Member Dalia Palchik and President Joe Miller.

Below: The 20th Annual Helping Hands Awards winners!



May Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on May 11 with 12 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella complimented Laurie Cole for the successful Helping Hands program and reported that the Partners in Education program scheduled for our June 1 meeting will recognize teachers in the areas of fine/performing arts at Madison, Marshall and Oakton High Schools.
- Approved the award of a \$1,000 vocational scholarship to young man from Oakton High School to attend the Learning into Future Environments (LIFE) program at George Mason University. The LIFE program is a creative postsecondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students enrolled in the LIFE program take classes to improve their literacy, employment skills, and independent living skills. At the same time, the program provides apprenticeships in human services fields such as assistive technology, education, and psychology.
- Susan Bauer noted that planning for Family Fun Day for Growing Hope is underway and the Respect for Law program is scheduled for July 20.

- Reviewed thank you notes from a T.R. Cook Youth of Excellence Award winner from Madison High School, the Committee for Helping Others (CHO) and for our donation for the Paul VI School All-Night Graduation Celebration.
- Approved a donation to the Cedar Lane School to support awards and field trips.



Special Olympics
Virginia

Thanks to the following folks for representing the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna at the Special Olympics Track meet at Episcopal High School last Saturday and making the event a success by timing some 50 plus race between 100 and 5,000 meters.

Rich Ordeman, Jonathan Lyons, Dick Gongaware, Tom Fraim, Jim Spain, Susan Bauer, Michele Wright, Jim Hegel, Jeff Bechtle, Jim Houston, and Tom Spengler.

Special thanks to **Bob McCormick**, who came in from Denver accompanied by **his wife Sherri**, for being our starter again and **Mike Battaglia** for lining up the volunteers as well as timing all day.

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