

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

March 2016

Calendar

March 2 – Oratorical Contest Meeting

Special starting times:

6:15 p.m.— Social Time; 7:00 Dinner

Fairfax American Legion Post 177

March 9 – Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

March 12 – Caboose Open!

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



March 13 –Daylight Saving Time Starts

Spring forward one hour

March 16 – Special Social Evening!

CABOOSE BREWING COMPANY

520 Mill St. NE, Vienna

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Light food and a special program

March 23 – Fourth Wednesday

Dinner at Culmore Teen Center—Team C

Spotlight on Upcoming Events



What would you say on the topic of “How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others?” Find out how local middle school students have answered that challenge in this year’s **Oratorical Contest on Wednesday, March 2**. Social time will start at 6:15 and dinner will be served at 7:00. *Note the earlier start time to accommodate our young contestants.*

The winners of our Club’s contest will go straight to the Cap-VA District Competition because only two clubs in our zone are holding competitions. At the District students compete for a first place scholarship of \$2,500. This year OI inaugurates a Regional/World Championship Contest on June 23-24. Each Optimist District will have the opportunity to send one of their District Oratorical winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts in their Region for a \$10,000 scholarship. The winner of each Region will compete with the winner from St. Louis University’s Global Region for a \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 World Championship scholarship. There is the potential for a student to win **\$27,500 in scholarships**. Whew! So come see where it all begins, at our meeting on March 2.



caboose
BREWING CO

Our Social Committee is at it again—introducing some seasonal fun to make it even easier for us to greet every living creature we meet with a smile!

This time they have arranged for us to meet on

March 16 at Caboose Brewing Co., Vienna’s very own craft beer brewery and brewpub, www.caboosebrewing.com. We will have a private area upstairs where we can socialize with potential, new and long-time Club members. Food will be provided; beer and wine are available for purchase. And seem’ as it’s St. Patrick’s Day Eve, a young Irish dancer will perform and introduce us to the history and techniques of Irish Dancing. The fun begins at **6:30 p.m.**

CARPOOLS ARE RECOMMENDED! Caboose Brewing Co. is at the far northern end of Mill St., just at the entrance to the Town of Vienna property yard, and parking is tight. This is a perfect opportunity to form an Optimist carpool.



**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,

The winter is drawing to a close and Spring is right around the corner! I am optimistic about the new year as it will bring new adventures to the club. The Oratorical Contest is on March 2. I am looking forward to the speeches provide by the students. The winners of this contest go directly to the District Oratorical Contest in Richmond on April 2nd. Later in the month we are in for a little fun!! On March 16, we are meeting at the C-Boose Brewery where we will enjoy each other's company and be entertained by an Irish dancer. It's time to get your Irish Jig in shape!!! Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

A cornerstone of the Optimist club is the Optimist Creed. If you read it, you can see how significant it is to living an amazing life and how motivational it is to anyone who lives by its standards. I framed the Optimist Creed on several occasions and gave it to people I care about. Many of them tell me that they have it on their dresser for inspiration in the morning when they get up. As many of you know, I attached the Optimist Creed to my email so I could share it with everyone I know. The opening thread to the creed really defines optimism - I promise to be so strong that nothing can disturb my peace of mind. Even in the face of overwhelming adversity the true optimist will not falter by yielding their peace of mind. You can always set your own destiny by how you deal with adversity and challenges. I really like the following quote from an internet blog, "We can choose our emotional responses (and therefore our peace of mind) to life's difficulties in the long run as we retrain our minds and hearts to automatically react with love and forgiveness and optimism and gratitude even when life sends us heat waves and snowstorms." So to be better prepared for our daily challenges try to read the Optimist Creed in the morning to give yourself a boost for the rest of the day.

In the next several months, we will have the opportunity to have guest speakers. Some of the speakers we are considering are Jim Houston concerning his mission trips, building bridges through music at Cunningham Park School, and Cold War historian Gary Powers Jr. whose father was shot down while flying a U2 over Russia. As you can see, in addition to our youth programs, we plan on providing intriguing and thought provoking programs at our meetings. So please attend our regular meetings. If you don't, you will be missing out on good fellowship, fun, a great meal and a wonderful program!

We just installed many new members at the last three meetings. We hope all these new members get involved with the activities of the club. For us to ensure that they do, we need mentors assigned to shepherd the new members for the first six months of their membership. If you are interested in being a mentor please contact Kathy Cutri at <mailto:membership@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org?subject=Mentor>. Thank you.

President Joe Miller



March Birthday Wishes to:

Tom Spengler – March 8
Sam Sindoni – March 30

Optimist Anniversaries in March

Bill Doughten – 34 years
Ken Glaser – 32 years
Grant Marsh – 17 years
Cindy Stanton – 11 years



2015-16 MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE: BROADENING OUR REACH BY BUILDING OUR CLUB

From Kathy Cutri, VP for Membership, and Angelique Ayala, Director of Membership.

How have you given back to the community and the youth of Greater Vienna? Would you like to make a bigger impact? More members gives us more power to make an impact! Your membership committee has created a **membership contest to give you more incentive!** Our goal this year is to welcome 25 new members. We'll be tracking our membership goals by spread sheet and will give frequent updates to keep all of our members motivated. Invite a guest to a meeting to introduce them to the Optimists! The bigger our club grows, the better our ability to help are youth. Not enough motivation? Whoever brings in the most new members by October 2016 gets to choose between a massage, a nice dinner, or a golf outing valued at \$200. If we have more than one winner then the prize will be split between the champions! Please contact Angelique Ayala or Kathy Cutri at membership@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org with any questions.



Below: Anna Ryjik, our Club's Growing Hope fund-raising chair, with Paula Lackey of the Growing Hope Board. We gave \$29,000 to Growing Hope for 2015.



We can accomplish a lot at one meeting! On February 3, we presented a \$29,000 check to Growing Hope; installed new members; and learned some insider tips from a travel pro. All this plus dinner and good conversation with fellow Optimists. You don't want to miss a meeting!

Right, top: Travel agent Donna Manz shares tips.

Right, bottom: Newly installed members and their sponsors.



PRIZES PRESENTED TO TOP ESSAY CONTEST ENTRIES

Three Vienna-area high school students won cash prizes for their entries to our annual Essay Contest. The awards were presented at the February 17, 2016, Optimist Club meeting.



Writing on the topic, "Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction",

Christine Kim won first place and received \$500 from the Optimist Club. Christine is a junior at Madison High School. Christine's essay will compete in the Optimist International Capitol-Virginia District Essay Contest, where the top prize is a \$2500 scholarship.

Ashley Tern, junior at Oakton High School, received the second place prize of \$300. **Vi Nguyen**, a freshman at Thomas Jefferson High School who lives in the Oakton attendance zone, was awarded third place and \$200.

Our distinguished panel of judges had the difficult task of evaluating a dozen entries in this year's contest—and did it on a schedule compressed by the blizzard and school closings in late January. **Lynne DeWilde**, Communications and Marketing Manager for the Town of Vienna; **Michael Amouri**, owner of Caffe Amouri and a 28-year veteran of TV production; and our own **Marnie Fienberg**, a strategic communications professional, thank you for your service!

Optimist Club President Joe Miller told the assembled contestants and family members, "The contest is designed to develop writing and critical thinking skills. That's one of the many ways Optimists work to 'bring out the best in kids', as our motto says. We are pleased that so many students took up this challenge and we are very impressed with the quality of their work."

Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
and
Growing Hope
a Northern Virginia partnership
to support children with Cancer

February Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on February 10 with 8 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 2.
- Reviewed and approved minor changes to the club By-Laws for submission to Optimist International for review and approval.
- Approved the membership applications of Dan Irvine (sponsored by Kathy Cutri) and Yvonne Ha (sponsored by Susan Bauer).
- Heard Brian Davenport discuss the club's possible involvement in the OI Junior Golf Tournament.
- Discussed sharing Optimist stories on Facebook and Twitter.
- Discussed development of a photo directory of members.
- Approved donations to support the attendance of a young lady at Girls' State and to support the All Night Grad Party at Paul VI High School.



The Northern Virginia area Special Olympics track and field meet will be held **Saturday, April 30** at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. As usual we will have the responsibility for timing all races from 100 to 5,000 meters. Please mark your calendar for this activity and plan on spending some time supporting the Special

Olympics athletes. **Mike Battaglia** will be providing additional information as this event approaches.



Special Olympics
Virginia

Our Club is considering becoming more active in OI's Junior Golf program. A first step is assisting the Washington Capital Club's tourney on April 30 to see what's involved. If you are interested in helping (e.g. contacting local coaches) or learning more about OI Junior Golf, contact **Brian Davenport** or **Joe Miller**, president@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.



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