

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

February 2017

Calendar

February 1— Social Meeting

Pazzo Pomodoro, 118 Branch Road SE, Vienna
6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

February 8 — Board Meeting

7:30 Emmanuel Lutheran Church

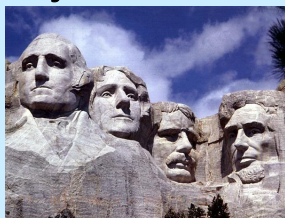
February 14 — Valentine's Day



February 15 — Essay Contest

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

February 20 — Presidents' Day



February 22 — Fourth Wednesday Dinner

Culmore Teen Center — Team A

March 1—Oratorical Contest

Fairfax American Legion
6:15 Social Time; 7:00 Dinner
Note Early Start Time!

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

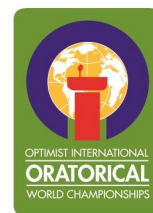


We will gather on **February 1** (or, Groundhog's Day Eve) for a social evening at **Pazzo Pomodoro**, located in Danor Plaza, 118 Branch Rd SE, Vienna. The event **starts at 6:30 pm and ends at 8:45 pm**. An array of heavy hors d'ouerves is included for members; the cost for guests is \$10. There will be a cash bar for all. Based on our past experiences at this local gem, we can look forward to some delicious food and a lively environment!

Our annual **Essay Contest** has drawn a record number of entries this year! The top three essays on the topic "Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges" will be read by their young authors at our **February 15** meeting. First, second and third prizes will be awarded (\$500, \$300 and \$200). The first place essay is entered in a District competition and the winner there receives a \$2500 scholarship. Another way we are "Bringing out the Best in Kids" by helping them develop communication skills! You won't want to miss it.



March Preview: Mark your calendars now for this year's **Oratorical Contest**, which will be held on **Wednesday, March 1 at the Fairfax American Legion**. The topic is "What the World Gains from Optimism." Social time will **start at 6:15** and dinner will be served at 7:00. Come and support our middle school students. Note the earlier start time to accommodate our young contestants.



Thanks to our Caboose Conductors! Dan Mulville, Conductor-in-Chief, writes: "I would personally like to thank the following Optimists for volunteering at the Vienna Caboose during the past year: Jenn and Kathy Cutri, Sherry Levitt, Pat Sloan, Bob Steinfeldt, Randy Sawyer, Nicole Pham, Rich Ordeman, Dick Lippert, Richard Plocica, Jim Houston, Jeff Johnson, Michele Wright, Yvonne Ha, Mickey Williams, Dick Gongaware, Susan Bauer and Bruce Lauther. We had over 1000 visitors each day during *ViVa! Vienna!* and over 700 for both the Holiday Stroll and First Night Vienna. **Looking forward to 2017, our first opening will be on Saturday, March 18th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.**"



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 60 Years!

Visit us at www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From the President—

Dear Fellow Optimists,

What a magnificent program for the CCDHH on January 18th. Thank you to Rob DeRocco and Rich Ordeman for hosting it. I was so inspired by these young 4th and 5th graders working to communicate the impact that Optimism has in their lives. Their parents and teachers have helped them look at their challenge as one that can be overcome and the result was spectacular.

Thank you to Laurie Cole for continuing the Fourth Wednesday meals to the **Culmore Center**. All the teams enjoy their time there. Thank you to Dick Gongaware for delivering the coats collected and cleaned by the Rotary Club to the Center last week.

Please remember that we continue to take donations for the Culmore Center on our website. If your budget allows, please consider making one on-line. When you do make a donation, please note that it is to go to Culmore Center.

First Night Vienna was COLD. The volunteers – Jim Stivison, Rob DiRocco, Khy Sweeney, Joe and Greta Miller, Dick Gongaware and yours truly had a fun time watching the Magic Show. It was so successful that we were turning away people. Kids and adults alike had a lot of fun.

The **FARMER'S MARKET** planning is underway. We have our contracts out to the Vendors and the Faith Baptist Church has agreed to be our host us once again. We will be distributing flyers to be put up in local businesses – May is just around the corner.

Our **Caboose** is opening soon and the sign up sheet is on our website.

Our next social event will be Wednesday, February 1st at Pazzo Pomodoro.

We will have our **Board** meeting on February 8, 2017 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 7:30pm.

Wishing you all **JOY** in the coming month!
Optimistically yours,

Michele H. Wright



February Birthday Wishes to:

- Shavani Maharaja – February 1
- Jim Radja – February 9
- Jerry Covell – February 21

**Optimist Anniversaries
in February**

- Jim Pammel - 36 years
- Steve Schuneman – 34 years
- Richard Plocica – 24 years
- Sam Sindoni – 24 years
- Pat Hackerson – 15 years
- Bob Thompson – 5 years
- Mercury Payton – 4 years
- Dan Irvine – 1 year



January 2017 Board of Directors Highlights

The Board of Directors met on January 11, 2017, with 8 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Approved Tom Bauer as Treasurer in relief of long-time Treasurer Tom Fraim.
- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella discussed plans for the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) held at the January 18 dinner meeting.
- VP of Finance Dick Lippert reported that Christmas tree sales were successful and after covering the cost of the trees and expenses and paying sales tax, the club netted approximately \$33,000 for the Youth Fund.
- Approved the membership of Mary Connor, sponsored by Tom Fraim.
- Discussed initial planning for the 2017 Farmers Market.
- Approved donations to:
 - Fairfax Nontraditional School Program to support graduation ceremony
 - Fairfax County Spelling Bee
 - Vienna Girls Softball League to sponsor a team
 - Flint Hill Elementary to support their 5K & Fun Run
 - Vienna Elementary to support their 5K & Fun Run

Starting the New Year with A Terrific CCDHH Program

Our resurrected CCDHH program continues to thrive under the direction of Optimist **Rob DiRocco**, in partnership with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Canterbury Woods Elementary School. Six students, selected from the many that participated at Canterbury Woods, delivered their words on “Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges” at our January 18 meeting. We thank Rob for his work, and thank the school staff for their help and support. Congratulations to all the participants, especially our first place winners,

Maggie Smallwood and Michael Gouin!



- Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS) to support a team
- Oakton High School for registration and sponsorship for two students to attend Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) training

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2016-17

President	Michele Wright
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Joe Miller
President Elect	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Community	Anna Ryjik
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations	Gary Moonan
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	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Jeff Bechtle
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