

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

March 2017

Calendar

March 1— Oratorical Contest

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

March 8 — Board Meeting

7:30 Emmanuel Lutheran Church

March 15 — Regular Meeting

Program TBD

March 18 — Caboose Open

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



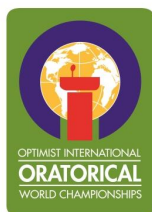
March 22 — 4th Wednesday Dinner

Culmore Teen Center — Team B

*Countdown to the Farmers Market—
Opening Saturday, May 6!*



News and Notes



Upcoming Meeting: The always popular **Oratorical Contest** 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 these accomplished orators! This is our only program specifically offered to middle school students, and they never fail to impress us! Note the earlier start time to accommodate our young contestants.

NB on behalf of our Membership team: If you want to show off the Optimist Club to a prospective member, the Oratorical Contest is a great opportunity! It is an event that truly “brings out the best in kids” by presenting middle school students the challenge of public speaking and rewarding them for the hard work and accomplishment.

Congratulations to our Essay Contest finalists! On February 15 we had the privilege of hearing the top three essays read by their young authors. All were moving, powerful discourses on the topic, “*Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges.*” **Claire Heiden**, a senior Marshall High School was awarded first place and will go on to compete at the District level. Second and third places prizes went to **Kana Furukawa**, freshman, and **Connor Williams**, senior, both of Madison High School.

And speaking of District competitions...our Club’s CCDHH winner among the boys took the top prize at the Capital-Virginia District contest! **Michael Goiun** received a \$2500 scholarship for his outstanding effort. **Maggie Smallwood**, our other (girl) first place winner, was a District-level finalist. The third finalist was a high school student, so our young contestants faced some serious competition. CCDHH Coordinator Rob DiRocco reports, “All three [finalists] did a tremendous job and our two sponsored students improved with each round of competition. I received feedback from a number of the parents and teachers on how much the contest helped improve their students communication skills and confidence.” That’s all we can ask for—and as worthwhile as any prize.



Our CCDHH winners Michael Goiun and Maggie Smallwood display the hardware they collected at the District competition.



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,

Spring is upon us albeit a bit early!

Preparation for the Farmers Market is underway. We have some new vendors coming in and most of our old vendors are returning. The music lineup is taking shape and we hope to have media coverage as well. We have flyers that need a home around town – please contact me if you can distribute flyers.

The **CCDHH** program winner from our club won first place at the District level, beating out a high school student. Way to go!

The **Caboose** sign-up sheet is on our website as well as the Farmers Market sign-up sheet.

Our next meeting is Wednesday the 1st of March and we will have our **Oratorical Contest**. Come join us at the Fairfax American Legion 6:15 pm start with dinner at 7:00pm. This will be another fabulous program I am sure.

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

Wishing you all *Happy Springtime!*



Optimistically yours,

Michèle H. Wright



March Birthday Wishes to:

- Tom Spengler – March 8
- Sam Sindoni – March 30

Optimist Anniversaries in March

- Bill Doughten – 35 years
- Ken Glaser – 33 years
- Grant Marsh – 18 years



Many local businesses support us in a variety of ways and it's nice if we can support them in return. So if you have a chance, please say "thank you!" to **Jersey Mike's Subs** at 320 Maple Avenue West, in Vienna. They gave us a generous discount on our order of sub sandwiches for February's dinner at the Culmore Teen Center. And the teens loved them!



February 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on February 8 with 9 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella discussed:
 - ◇ The results of the Essay Contest.
 - ◇ Plans for the Oratorical Contest to be held on March 1.
 - ◇ The T.R. Cook Youth Awards of Excellence scheduled for April 19.
 - ◇ The Partners in Education program on June 7, which will recognize Career Center Specialists at Madison, Marshall and Oakton High Schools.
 - ◇ A revision of the guidelines for our vocational scholarships to bring them more in line with the intent of the benefactors, Clyde Rees and Paul Booze.
- Approved Susan Bauer as President-Elect for the 2017-2018 Optimist year
- Discussed planning for the Farmers Market.



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

- Reviewed thank you notes for donations from the Alternative House, Fairfax County Nontraditional Schools and the James Madison High School Orchestra.
- Approved donations to support the Kilmer Center and All Night Grad Celebrations at James Madison and Thomas Jefferson High Schools.

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	Susan Bauer
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