

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

February 2018

Calendar

February 2

Groundhog Day!

February 7

Regular Meeting
Christmas Tree Sales Wrap-up
6:45 Social Time, 7:30 Dinner

February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!



February 14

Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

February 19

Presidents' Day

February 21

Essay Contest Presentation and Awards
6:45 Social Time — Greet Our Guests!
7:30 — Dinner

February 26

"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery
Culmore Teen Center
Team D (Anna Ryjik, Captain)

News and Notes

Today Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter. As Optimists we promise to "look at the sunny side of everything". So, how great is it that we are going to get lots of use out of our heavy coats and gloves!

We also promise "to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others" as we are about our own. But when the two coincide, we can be doubly en-



thusiastic! Our **February 7 meeting** will celebrate our years of happy cooperation with **PNC Bank and Madison Baseball**. The Madison's baseball coach **Mark (Pudge) Gjormand** will bring a couple of his players to our dinner and say few words about the team and the community service they provide

in helping with offloading and setup of 1000+ Christmas trees. PNC Bank provides much needed electrical power and space and will be represented by their property manager, **Lisa Benjamin** and local branch manager, **Jenny Tran**. Please help us celebrate and honor these key folks that contribute to our success in raising funds for the greater Vienna community.

February 21 is our annual **Essay Contest** meeting. We will hear the top three finalists read their essays on the very timely topic, "**Can Society Function Without Respect?**" The students receive cash prizes and we receive an excellent insight to the way young people perceive the world around them. You don't want to miss this meeting. In fact, don't come alone—bring a prospective member and introduce them to what our Optimist Club does and why we do it!



Can you spare half an hour on Friday mornings to read to students at **Kilmer Center**? As a current volunteer says of sharing picture books with the severely handicapped kids, "Sometimes you can't see a reaction but they can hear and they enjoy the sound of your voice." A great opportunity to be of direct service to kids. If you are interested contact John Andrews or [Susan Bauer](#).



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 ...

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

In January, we had our first tree lot debrief meeting over breakfast at my house. Whole Foods competition, quality of the trees and the use of credit cards were among the many items discussed.

“To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble”

With that in mind, we decided that starting in 2018, we will permit the use of credit cards. So don't worry, get angry, or be fearful. You have a whole year to adjust and be happy that we will have no trouble using credit cards for Growing Hope donations and Christmas tree sales. Just hang in there and be strong so nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

Our CCDHH contest January 17th, was an excellent program, as always, hosted by Rob DiRocco. The students were so inspiring as they confidently stood before us to express “Where Are My Roots of Optimism?” The four top winners are registered to compete at the district level on February 24th at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House in Virginia. Joe Miller, Rob DiRocco and I will be there to cheer them on. All members are welcome to join us! (See registration information on page 3.)

In other exciting news, we had two guests at our CCDHH contest meeting who decided to join our club that night! **Samira Newman** is a teacher at Wolfrap Elementary and is already working with Ed Wonder and Lauren Wagner to establish another elementary JOI Club. **Donna Wohlsheid** taught my son at Louise Archer and just happened to have taught Rob DiRocco's daughter at Thoreau. We welcome both of them. Don't give up the first time you ask someone to come to a meeting. I talked to Samira two years ago about the Optimist Club and just kept in touch with her periodically until the time was right. Our Feb. 21st meeting is the Essay contest. Just like the CCDHH if you can get a guest to this meeting and they can see how we bring out the best in kids and how much we enjoy doing it, how can they not want to join?

Many of you have been asking about getting back into Vienna for our meetings. The Fairfax Legion has been a great, spacious and economical venue. **Dick Lippert** deserves much appreciation for getting us connected with Fairfax Legion and orchestrating our meetings each month. Our March 7 Oratorical Contest meeting is scheduled to be held at the **Vienna** American Legion. The Vienna Legion not only has a new commander and vice commander but also a new banquet manager and I am optimistic that the dinner will be cost-effective and enjoyable. Right now I am expecting only the best! I hope you are too.

Madame President,

Susan



February Birthday Wishes to:

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

Optimist Anniversaries in February

- Jim Pammel - 37 years
- Steve Schuneman – 35 years
- Richard Plocica – 25 years
- Sam Sindoni – 25 years
- Pat Hackerson – 16 years
- Bob Thompson – 6 years
- Mercury Payton – 5 years
- Dan Irvine – 2 years



Congratulations

to **Dan Irvine and family** on the arrival of **Jett Daniel Irvine!**
 Young Jett made his appearance on December 26, 2017.
 Dan happily reports that mom and baby are doing well.



Did we miss your Birthday or Optimist Anniversary? Please let us know at

newsletter@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org



Board Meeting Highlights January 2018

The Board of Directors met on January 10, 2018, with eight members present. Among the items discussed were:

Christmas trees: Final calculations of sale proceeds will be presented next month; the Feb. 7 meeting will be a “thank you” to PNC and Madison baseball for their help;

Farmers Market: Vendors have responded enthusiastically to the news of our new location at the Vienna Community Center;

Donation: \$350 to group against human trafficking represented by January meeting’s speaker;

Youth: Plans for CCDHH, Essay Contest, and Oratorical Contest meetings discussed;

Growing Hope: Reservation requests for the Town Green and Maple Ave. banner have been submitted to the Town of Vienna.

Membership: Plans for March 21 meeting at Vienna Arts Society discussed; discussions with new management at Vienna American Legion Post are proceeding; possible “social” meetings as outreach to new members discussed.

All Optimists are welcome to attend our **Capital-Virginia District’s quarterly meetings**. The second quarter meeting, Feb. 23-24, features the District CCDHH contest. The meeting will be at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center, 2801 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Go to <https://capitalvaoptimist.wordpress.com/> for more information.

We can’t thank you enough...

The annual Christmas Tree operation was a true team effort supported by the Greater Vienna Optimist community which included the many Optimists who worked long and cold shifts, and in many cases conscripted their family and friends.

We also had excellent youth support coordinated by **Ed Wonder** which included participation by **Junior Optimists from Louise Archer, Madison, Marshall, and Flint Hill**. We also had support from the **Oakton HS Football team** and the **Madison HS Track team** in addition to the **Madison HS Baseball team**.

The following Optimists also played a key role in herding the cats and staffing the many shifts as **team captains: Rich Ordeman (Sunshine), Al Dunkerley (Red), Dick Gongaware (Blue), Jeff Johnson (Green), Tom Spengler (Orange). Tom Bauer** made daily collections, some *en route* to urgent care as he fought off some nasty health challenges, **John Andrews** moved the trailer to and fro, and **Lauren Wagner** facilitated the Louise Archer youth support almost every weekday.

And last but not least, thanks to all the Optimists, family and friends who worked the lot and helped with setup and take down.

—Dick Lippert, VP Finance (and tree czar)

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2017-18

President	Susan Bauer
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Michele Wright
President Elect	<i>open</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	Bruce Lauther
Director of Social Media	Steven Rabil
Director of Membership	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	<i>open</i>
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