

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

January 2018

Calendar

January 1, 2018



January 3

Regular Meeting
"Human Trafficking in NoVa"
6:45 Social Time, 7:30 Dinner

January 10

Board Meeting

January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Federal Holiday

January 17

CCDHH Meeting

****NOTE SPECIAL START TIME****

6:15 Social Time — Greet Our Guests!
7:00 — Dinner

January 24

"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery
Culmore Teen Center
Team C (Tom Spengler, Captain)

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

MLK, Montgomery, Alabama, 1957

News and Notes

Pull on another pair of socks, add a sweater layer, and greet the New Year! **Happy 2018 from the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna** (which feels like it has

relocated to Svalbard). We can be glad this cold blast waited until all our Christmas trees were sold!



Let's get together and generate some warmth on **Wednesday, January 3, at the Fairfax American Legion** for our first meeting of the new year. We will hear a preliminary report on Christmas tree sales and initiate "new" members (who are already tree lot veterans!). Shifting gears, our program will be chilling: a presentation on how human trafficking is happening in our backyard, and many of the victims are children. January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Come and learn what is happening, and what we can do to fight this scourge.

Our second January meeting is the always-inspiring **Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

(CCDHH). As is our custom, we will start the evening early in consideration of our young contestants. Social time starts at 6:15, and dinner will be served at 7:00.

Please come to support the kids who are taking the bold step of public speaking—daunting for any person, young or old, but a particular challenge for young people that are hard of hearing. A warm, welcoming atmosphere from the minute the kids, their families, and their teachers walk into the room will help put the contestants at ease.

Either meeting—and any meeting—is a **great opportunity to invite a potential new member** to the Optimist Club. We do good work—and have a pretty darn good time doing it—so let's spread the word and give other community-minded folks the chance to join in.



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,

It has been said that one never realizes how much a person does until that person can no longer do what he/she has been doing. I think we all realize now how much Jim Houston has been doing for our club beyond his board member duties. Thank you Jim for all you have been doing for our club and we are looking forward to you getting back in the saddle again.

Thank you to Pat Solan for organizing our terrific dinner at Westwood Country Club.

Dick Lippert will give us a report on how well we did with our Christmas tree fundraiser at the next meeting but in spite of Whole Foods encroaching on our sales with below market trees (curse you Amazon!) suffice it to say that we exceeded our expectations. Our sales force braved the weather and illness to sell a record number of trees. Thanks to everyone who optimistically and enthusiastically hauled, drilled, sawed, pruned and tied to cars all those many trees on our lot. All that effort equates to many kids being served in our community. If there is one thing that we all realized during our sales efforts, it is that we need to increase the number of members in our club. We have to be able to staff the tree lot so some members are not working 2 or 3 shifts at a time. If we want an active enthusiastic club, we have got to invite new members to join us.

This coming year will be full of opportunities for our club to grow. We have added a First Responder recognition program to be held in July, and the Town of Vienna has agreed to give us more support and move our Farmer's Market to the Community Center for more visibility and parking. We have an art and wine social in the works and we haven't given up on moving closer in to Vienna.

Please take the opportunity at these next two meetings to invite a colleague, friend or neighbor to come see what being an Optimist entails. They'll be glad you did and so will you next Christmas when it's time to sell trees!

Madame President,
Susan



January Birthday Wishes to:

- Rich Ordeman – January 4
- Anna Ryjik – January 4
- Susan Bauer – January 10
- George Mills – January 10
- Joan Marsh – January 12
- Dick Lippert – January 13
- Pat Hackerson – January 20
- Jim Wilson – January 20
- Laurie Cole – January 25

Optimist Anniversaries in January

- Jeff Johnson – 40 years
- Mike Nadolski - 30 years
- Jim Stivison – 30 years
- Joan Marsh – 7 years
- Kathy Cutri – 4 years
- Lauren Wagner – 3 years



December Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on December 13. Among the items discussed and action taken were:

- Setting eligibility terms for Flint Hill School Upper School students to participate in the the Club's Essay Contest;
- Adding a "First Responder" recognition program, likely to be held in July;
- Discussing the Vienna Town Council's agreement that the Farmers Market can relocate to the parking lot of the newly-refurbished Vienna Community Center, with additional support, commitment and signage from the Town.

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

newsletter@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org





*O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Much pleasure [didst] thou bring me!*

The 2017 Optimist Tree Lot officially closed on Dec. 21. Dick Lippert and Dick Gongaware took down the sign and prepared for the move to storage—and still managed to sell several trees while doing so.

The next day all stands and associated material, except for the trailer, were moved to their new home in the Vienna Town Lot thanks to the following folks: John Andrews, Tom Spengler, Ed Wonder, Les Carl, Jeff Johnson, Joe Miller, Dan Mulville, Al Dunkerley, Tom Fraim and Mickey Williams.

The trailer remained on-site to accommodate donations with four trees and 4 rolls of roping left for the taking. All the trees were gone as of Christmas Eve. John Andrews towed away the trailer on December 26 with the help of Ed Wonder and Tom Fraim.

Merrifield Gardens was a great help this year picking up our clippings, saving us substantial disposal fees. Thanks also to PNC for providing the electrical power which greatly facilitates our operation.

—From Dick Lippert, VP-Finance and Christmas Tree Ops Chief

We didn't forget the December Birthdays!

An **ENERGETIC** group of young teens greeted our “Fourth Wednesday” dinner delivery to the Culmore Teen Center on December 27. Our regular presence there is relied on, as Center Director Dashonae Hawkins told us: “The kids were asking if we were going to celebrate the December birthdays? I told them we were!”

To give our regular teams a holiday break, a group of volunteers took on the December duty. THANK YOU to Greta & Joe Miller, Bruce Lauther, Pat Hackerson, Yvonne Ha, and Laurie Cole for volunteering and pitching in.

We are back on schedule for January, with Team C—led by Tom Spengler—providing dinner and birthday treats on the 24th.

Want to join in? We have four teams that rotate duty throughout the year. Each team delivers a nutritious dinner (not necessarily homecooked!) and birthday cake/cupcakes to feed 20 kids, plus 3-5 gift bags for that month's birthdays. Ideally, we stay and interact with the kids, helping with homework or playing games. The meal is served about 3:00-3:30, so a flexible schedule is helpful. Contact [Laurie Cole](#) for more info or to volunteer.



This charming and delicious cake was just part of meal delivered to the Culmore Teen Center by December's special team.

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