

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

(Mid-)March 2018

Calendar

March 7

Oratorical Contest

Vienna American Legion Hall
6:15 p.m.

March 11

Spring forward!

Daylight Saving Time
Begins



March 14

Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Bauer Home, Vienna

March 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Caboose Open!

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sign up online to volunteer

March 21

NOW/Social Meeting — NOTE Location & Time!

Vienna Arts Society Center

115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna (near Marco Polo site)
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

March 26-30

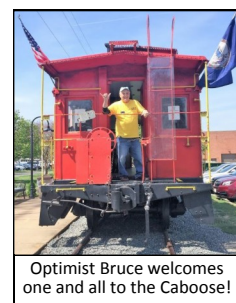
Fairfax County Public Schools
Spring Break

March 28

"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery
Culmore Teen Center
Team A (Laurie Cole, Captain)

News and Notes

The surest sign of Spring in Vienna is the **opening of the Big Red Caboose!** We are the trusted guardians of this local icon and that includes being host conductors welcoming train lovers (young and old) to explore the caboose. **March 17** is opening day and we need at least **one more volunteer** (3:00-5:00 shift). As one grizzled veteran of caboose duty says, "Without signups for hosting we might lose this valuable opportunity to serve youth and some adults of our community. Sign in at the club web page. It is real easy." Go to the Club's website (optimistclubofgreatervienna.org) and click on "Caboose SignUp" or follow [this link](#).



Optimist Bruce welcomes one and all to the Caboose!

Our ever-inventive **Membership Team** has a novel **NOW meeting/social** event planned for us on March 21. Come to the **Vienna Arts Society Center** and share in an evening of creativity! This is a great ice-breaker for potential members to meet Optimists (and vice versa). President Susan is offering a door prize raffle for those who bring a guest. We will all participate in some artistic expression with a surprise twist.

CCDHH Chair Rob DiRocco filed this report: "Our Club concluded another successful Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). Seventeen students initially competed from Canterbury Woods Elementary School, with the top six advancing to our Club competition in January. We then sponsored the top four at the District competition in Fredericksburg on Feb. 24, and they competed in the Junior category (up to age 12). Our own **Sonan Sahgal** (right), a fifth grade student, was selected as the **Junior category**



winner and will receive a \$2,500 scholarship toward higher education. All the students improved their skills tremendously during the process and the four finalists essentially spoke without looking at their notes for the District competition."



Left Our Vienna Delegation at District CCDHH: Rob, Maggie Smallwood, Raina Determan, Ryan Chelline, Sonan Sahgal, and President Susan



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 60 Years!

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We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From the President ...

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

Those of you who were at our January CCDHH contest know how inspiring our contestants were. At the Capital District meeting in Fredericksburg on February 17, the four finalists wowed the audience with their polished speeches on the topic of "Where Are the Roots of my Optimism?" Their teacher told me that they were giving up recess to practice and boy did it pay off. Most of them gave the majority of their talk without looking at their notes, something the high school contestants did not do. The winner of the elementary contest was our second place winner **Sonan Sahgel**.

The thing that impressed me the most about our four winners was that they were just that, "Winners" in every sense of the word. They embodied that part of our creed that says:

"... be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own"

They cheered each other on and embraced each other in hugs after each one gave her/his talk and when Sonan won, and he was genuinely shocked that he won, they all won with him. They were all in this competition as a unit. If only more of us adults acted the way those kids did, the world would be a happier place. **Rob DiRocco**, Program Chair and his wife **Laurie**, as well as the sign language interpreters from their school were also there to support **Maggie, Raina, Ryan & Sonan**.

In other exciting news, **Samira Newman** had her first JOI club meeting Feb.12 at Wolfrap Elementary School and she has a waiting list of kids who want to be in the club. She had the kids listen to the creed performed by Denzel Washington on YouTube and then they broke up into groups to take a line of the creed and put it into kid-friendly language so they could demonstrate that they really understand what the creed means. I taped some of the meeting and we plan to enter the Optimist International Reel Optimism contest. Our JOI Club sponsor, Ed Wonder, has been busy coordinating with our six clubs and exploring ways they can be part of some of our volunteer activities, e.g. the Farmers Market, Caboose, and Growing Hope.

Kudos to **Laurie Cole** for organizing another impressive Essay Contest. It was a difficult contest to judge since all three contestants did an excellent job of articulating in their own words "Can Society Function Without Respect?" After many years of deftly handling the Essay Contest, Laurie is passing the baton to **Dan Irvine** who I am sure will be just as capable as his predecessor.

Speaking of passing the baton, I cannot succeed myself so please be thinking about stepping into the role of president for the 2018/2019 year. It is always good to be able to shadow the president for a while before you take on the job. So far, I have found being president very rewarding. I have gotten to connect with my fellow Optimists in a deeper way and I have found that we are all genuinely interested in the welfare of kids even when we respectfully disagree. The Optimist Creed is not easy to live up to everyday but it is certainly something to strive for.

Our March meetings are great opportunities to introduce your friends to our Optimist Club. Every member we add means more kids we can reach. March 21 is our Wine & Art NOW meeting. We want to see the Picasso in you just waiting to emerge!

Spring is just around the corner which means our caboose is open to the public starting March 17. We still need one more volunteer to staff the engine, oops, I mean caboose.

Madame President, Susan



March Birthday Wishes to:

Tom Spengler – March 8

Sam Sindoni – March 30

Optimist Anniversaries in March

Bill Doughten – 36 years

Ken Glaser – 34 years

Grant Marsh – 19 years



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

[newsletter@](mailto:newsletter@optimistclubofgreatertv-enna.org)

optimistclubofgreatertv-enna.org



Board Meeting Highlights February 2018

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met on February 15, 2018, with seven members present (plus two proxies from absent members). Highlights of the meeting include:

- Treasurer Tom Bauer noting that members are not consistently signing in at meetings and recording guests attending. This makes accounting for meal costs more difficult;
- Approving payments of: \$294 to OI for new Wolftrap ES JOI dues (unbudgeted); \$350 for Babe Ruth team sponsorship; \$100 prize sponsorship to JMHS All Night Grad party (in addition to usual donation);
- Farmers Market Committee reporting it held an open meeting for the neighbors at the new Community Center location (1 neighbor attended), and that other logistics are moving forward;
- VP Finance Dick Lippert confirming that credit card transactions will be tested at Growing Hope day, and that Christmas tree supplier has been contacted regarding the quality of this years trees with the goal that next year's supply will be better;
- VP Membership Kathy Cutri presenting plans for the March NOW/Social meeting at the Vienna Arts Society.

"Can Society Function Without Respect?"



Madison HS swept this year's Essay Contest. Congratulations to (l-r) Elizabeth Wu (2nd place), Sammy Thompson (3rd), and Jeffery Huang, (1st).

An extraordinarily timely topic for this year's Essay Contest brought thoughtful and diverse responses from our field of 25 entries. The top three finalists read their essays to a rapt audience at our February 21 meeting. The **first place winner**, Madison HS junior **Jeffery Huang**, received a \$500 prize from our Club and goes

on to compete for a \$2500 scholarship at the District level. **Elizabeth Wu** and **Samuel Thompson**, also from Madison HS, received second and third place awards, respectively.



The annual Special Olympics Track and Field Event will take place at Episcopal High School on **Saturday, April 28, 2018** (rain or shine). Contact Mike Battaglia to volunteer.



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