



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
April 2019

Calendar

April 3

NOW/Social Meeting

Caffe Amouri

107 Church St., NE, Vienna
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

April 10

Board Meeting

7:30 pm — Bauers' Home, Vienna

April 13

Caboose Is Open!

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

April 24

"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery

Culmore Teen Center; Team A (Cole, Captain)

April 25

TR Cook Youth of Excellence Awards

MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

6:30: Dinner in Teacher's Workroom
7:30: Awards presentation in Warhawk Hall

April 27

Special Olympics Track & Field Event

Episcopal High School
1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May Calendar Preview:

May 1

Helping Hands Awards Dinner
Westwood Country Club
RSVPs required!

May 4

Farmers' Market Opening Day!

News and Notes

We have a powerhouse membership development team—Kathy Cutri and Lauren Wagner did an awesome job, and now veteran Membership Honcho Joe Miller has stepped back into the VP role when Kathy became Club Secretary. But as great as these folks are, they can't do it alone. Each of us must be an ambassador for Optimists and reach out to potential members.



Our April 3 meeting is set aside as a social time to welcome potential members (and more social meetings are something our membership asked for!). We will be at Vienna's Caffe Amouri in its beautiful "coffee lab" room, starting at 6:30 pm. *N.B: Please park on the street or in the lot by the train station so we don't block access to the other businesses in the small shopping center.* Bring a friend and enjoy good food and drink, and great company!



We won't meet again until Thursday, April 25 (because of the FCPS spring break schedule). That's the night for the TR Cook Youth of Excellence Awards at Madison High School. Please note the day of the week and time! Michael Amouri will be our guest speaker. Come and hear about Michael's journey from television producer to successful Church Street small business owner. Dinner will be served in the teachers' workroom, room 105, starting at 6:30; the

awards program will start at 7:30 in Warhawk Hall. Please be on the lookout for the SignUp Genius RSVP request.

The annual Special Olympics Track and Field Event will take place at Episcopal High School on Saturday, April 27, 2017 (rain or shine). Please contact Mike Battaglia ONLY if you are able to. Volunteer shifts are: Entire day (8:30 AM to 3 PM); Morning session (8:30 AM to 12 noon); or Afternoon session (12 noon to 3 PM). Lunch is provided.

All volunteers are required to fill out a Class B Volunteer form (available from Mike) and must present it at the registration desk. If you forget to take the form with you, copies will be available at the registration desk. Please wear your Optimist Club of Greater Vienna tee shirt, and don't forget your hat and some sunscreen! Thanks for your support of Special Olympics.



Special Olympics
Virginia



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,

March was all over the place with snow, rain, hail and some nice spring days sprinkled in to give us hope that warmer weather will soon be here to stay. Our first **Caboose open house** was a nice but windy day with plenty of kids and parents enjoying the opportunity to see a real caboose and learn about the W&OD Railroad and trail.

Snow on February 20 and a last minute change in venue tried to disrupt our **Essay Contest** but we had three excellent essays to hear from talented students at our rescheduled meeting on February 27. Thanks to **Dan Irvine**, our Essay Contest Coordinator, and to **Dick Lippert** for helping with the quick change in venue.

Our March 6th meeting featured our own **Mark Keam**, Delegate to the General Assembly, who briefed us about the general session and how the laws passed will affect us, especially the new tax codes. His take on how the scandals at the executive level affected the workings of the general assembly were insightful.

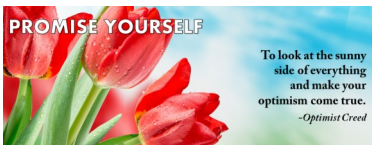
Mike Fitzella, our VP of Youth, outdid himself with the **Oratorical Contest** this year. The top three winners with their families were invited to our dinner meeting on March 20 to share their speeches before the membership. One of the judges, **Andy Finn**, attended the dinner and shared that he participated in an Optimist Oratorical Contest as a kid in 1964. He gave the students and us some great advice on giving a speech. **Michele Gabro**, the JOI Club sponsor and sponsor of the Oratorical Contest at Thoreau, shared with me how grateful she was for the positive aspect the contest gave her students to challenge themselves and work toward a goal as they competed. They were rock stars at their school and were featured on the radio show and their pictures were in the school newspaper. The level of confidence each of the students gained just by being in the contest was worth all their hard work and Michele's, proving once again as Optimists "We Are in It for the Kids!"

Please use **Sign Up Genius** for our **NOW Social April 3rd at Caffe Amouri** from 6:30 to 8:30. It's easy to use and you'll get an automatic reminder closer to the event. Please bring a guest. Michael Amouri has asked that we leave the front parking lot for the other businesses and use street parking or the lot by the mural along the W&OD trail.

Remember that there is **no dinner meeting on the third Wednesday this month, April 17**. That is Spring Break for the schools. Instead we will meet **THURSDAY April 25 at Madison High School**. Dinner will be at 6:30 in the teacher's workroom and the program will start at 7:30. A Sign Up Genius will be available for you to RSVP.

Finally, Special Olympics Track & Field is coming up on April 27 from 8:30 to 3:00 at Episcopal High School. Contact Mike Battaglia to sign up or for more information or use SignUp Genius.

Happy Spring and Easter!



*Madame President,
Susan*



Our Oratorical Contest was held in the auditorium of the Vienna Community Center on Sunday, March 10. We had a total of seven participants; five from Thoreau and two from Madison. The winner was **Adam Rizolli** from Madison. **Mia Goldberg** and **Leslie Payne** from Thoreau (pictured center and right, below) finished second and third, respectively. These three students presented their speeches at our March 20 dinner meeting and received their monetary prizes. Adam and Mia will represent our club at the District contest in Richmond on May 4.



Help Wanted

Gardening Experience Required!- We contribute \$500 annually to the Kilmer Center as a part of our ongoing partnership with them. This year's funds are being applied to the creation of a sensory garden. The Kilmer Center is looking for someone who has gardening experience to help advise students and staff to create the garden on their school campus. They would also like to have assistance with the implementation of the plants. The targeted dates for the garden are April 22nd - May 3rd. They anticipate needing help for two or three days during the two-week period, anytime between 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM, whatever works better for you. If this is something you would like to participate in, please contact Mike Fitzella.

The 21st Century is Calling; Please Answer!

Meeting planning now nearly always requires that we get a firm count of the number of people attending an event. This helps our budget, prevents wasted food, and ensures right-sized room space.

Fortunately, technology makes collecting and tallying RSVPs easy. Sign Up Genius —slogan: "Group Organizing Made Easy"—takes your rsvp to an event and gives the meeting organizer a running tally of attendees. It is great not to have to track dozens of emails to know who is coming to a meeting! SignUp Genius also works for recurring events, like volunteer shifts at the Farmers Market or the Caboose. Don't worry if you have to change your response—you can do that with no problem. And SUG will automatically send you a reminder of the upcoming event.

Please accept the SignUp Genius email when it arrives and use it to record your rsvp.



March 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on March 13 with 10 members present. Among the highlights of the meeting were:

- Approval of expenditures for budgeted items for Madison All-Night Grad Party game, CAPVA District Junior Golf Tournament, and Vienna Softball;
- Presentation of Slate of Nominees for 2019-20 Officers and Directors (see next column);
- Report on development of criteria and applications for Sheryl A. Friedley Scholarship by **Ed Wonder** and **Donna Wohlscheid**, and plans for first award to be made June 5; and
- Report that Farmers Market has filled almost all vendor slots, while work progresses on staffing and publicity.



Join the Team of Optimist Club Leaders!

Nominees for Officers and Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, 2019-2020

President	Bruce Lauther
Secretary	Kathy Cutri
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Susan Bauer
President Elect	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Community	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	vacant
Director of Social Media	vacant
Director of Membership	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	vacant

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2018-19

President	Susan Bauer
Secretary	Kathy Cutri
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Michele Wright
President Elect	open
Vice President of Community	open
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Bruce Lauther/Anna Ryjik
Director of Social Media	Steven Rabil
Director of Print Media	Bruce Lauther
Director of Membership	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	open

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