



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
February 2019

Calendar

February 2

Groundhog Day

February 6

Regular Meeting

FAIRFAX American Legion
6:45—Social Time; 7:30—Dinner

February 13

Board Meeting

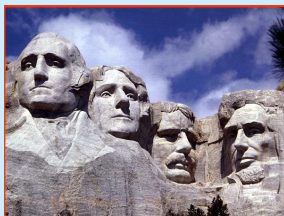
7:30 pm — Bauers' Home, Vienna

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 18

Presidents' Day
Holiday



February 20

Essay Contest Meeting

VIENNA American Legion Hall
6:45—Social Time; 7:30 Dinner

February 27

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

News and Notes

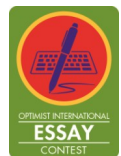
Come to our **February 6 meeting** and get that well-deserved pat on the back and sense of accomplishment when we hear the **report on our 2018 Christmas Tree sales**. Special guests at the meeting include some of the community members that help make our success possible. Remember, the proceeds of this major fundraiser go to our **Youth Fund**, which supports our programs and activities to benefit the young people of greater Vienna. To name just a few, those include: All-Night Grad Parties at local high schools; Gold Star and Eagle Scout projects; Little League, Babe Ruth, and high school sports teams; Junior Optimist Clubs; academic clubs; our recent CCDHH competition; Second Story programs for at-risk youth; Helping Hands Awards for sixth graders; Carol Waite Brennan scholarships for high school seniors; and more. We will take a moment to bask in this success, then get right back to work!



That work includes preparing for the 2019 Farmers Market. The **Farmers Market Committee is seeking two new members**. As described by **Committee Chair Michele W.**, "We usually meet once a month after work from January to April to lay out the logistics of the market, set up the PR campaign and create a Sponsorship program. Meetings take no more than an 90 minutes (an hour is our goal). We then meet in September and October to lay out the plans for the following year." For more details or to volunteer, [contact Michele](#).



And, from VP for Youth Mike F.: "**February 20 is our annual Essay Contest** meeting, which will be held at the **Vienna American Legion**. The three finalists read their essays on this year's topic, "When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?" The students receive cash prizes and we receive excellent insight into the way young people perceive the world around them. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and share with them one of the many programs that we sponsor for youth.



"We are making some **changes to the Oratorical Contest**. The support that we have received from our three middle schools for the Oratorical Contest has steadily declined, primarily due to the retirement of our enthusiastic sponsors and the inability of others to take over. Concurrently, OI has introduced a new International Oratorical Contest, which enables students to win over \$22,000 in scholarships. For these reasons, we have decided to include students from our high schools (Madison, Marshall, and Oakton) this year.

"We will have up to 12 students competing, which is too many to hear at a Wednesday meeting, so we are trying something new. Our contest will be held on Sunday, March 10 in the Vienna Community Center auditorium. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers that day; these students will give their speeches at our March 20 dinner meeting.

Please come out and support our club and students at both of these events as we continually seek to improve our service to the youth in the Greater Vienna area.



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,

BRRR! Baby it's cold outside! Aren't we glad we aren't selling trees now! Speaking of trees, this coming **Wednesday, February 6, is our Christmas Tree Debrief/Celebration/Recognition dinner meeting**. We'll start at 6:45 at the FAIRFAX legion. We will have a number of guests who were instrumental in getting much needed support for our main fundraiser.

BRINGING OUT THE BEST



INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Our **CCDHH** contest was a great success with five confident competitors who gave incredible speeches on a difficult subject, "Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism

and Reality?" **Rob DiRocco** did another fantastic job as the organizer and master of ceremonies. This year we were honored to have two alumni our CCDHH contest, Rob and Laurie's daughter **Allie DiRocco and Carolyn Coveney**, a childhood cancer survivor who lost her hearing as a result of chemo treatments. Allie and Carolyn talked about the effect the contest had on them in helping them gain confidence, and some of the challenges they faced as they went through high school and college. It was a joy to have them come to the meeting to share their success stories with us and the students. Our club was the only one in the CapVA district to hold a contest this year. As a result, there will be no District CCDHH contest this year.

Looking ahead to our meeting on **February 20 at the VIENNA American Legion** hall: I'll need to get **RSVP's** for that so you can start letting me know now if you plan to attend.

We have some **exciting changes coming with our website**. **Gary** is in the process of changing our old, out of date, and unsecure Gozmo website over to an Optimist-approved ClubUX. It will take a little time to get it all operational but "You're going to like the way it looks". In addition **Ed and Gary** are working on getting "SignUp Genius" up and running in time for the Farmers Market and Caboose sign ups. I have already used it to "test" the sign up for the first shift on the caboose March 16th. It was quick and easy. Who would like to join me?

Funny story! Team B, that's headed by the Bauer's, missed the **Culmore Center dinner on the Fourth Wednesday of January** so Tom and I took dinner and birthday gifts on Thursday, January 30. As Soraya was taking the meatballs from the stove to the table, she dropped the whole dish!

Meatballs everywhere with the accompanying sauce! As Tom cleaned up the mess, I ran out to the store to get the ingredients to recreate the dish. When I came back, much, much later we started another batch for the kids. Moral of the story: **to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind**. I must say it was hard to remain strong and peaceful, driving through rush hour at Bailey's Crossroads to get to the store and back.

If you haven't joined a **Culmore Center dinner team** give **Laurie Cole** a call or email her. laurie-cole.optimist@gmail.com.

Valentine's Day is coming up and if **you** love the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, I'll bet someone **you** know will love it too! Invite someone to a meeting. So share the love! You will **both** be glad you did.

Stay Warm!

Madame President, Susan

Three afternoons a year?

Two hours a month?

There are hands-on volunteering opportunities for every Optimist's schedule!

Can you spare a few hours outside of meeting times to help bring Optimism to kids in the community? Even a small commitment of time can help in a big way.

Our **Fourth Wednesday dinners at the Culmore Teen Center** are divided among four teams, so each team is responsible *only three afternoons a year* to deliver dinner and birthday treats to this



Second Story center near Seven Corners. Do you have to cook an entire meal by yourself? No—cooking is not required, and the team splits up the menu and tasks. (And the Club has a budget to reimburse costs!) Sometimes we have the chance to engage with the teens, other times it is more of a drop-off

encounter. Either way, our project lets these teens know that there are adults in the community who care about them and support them. You could say we nourish their bodies and spirits; who doesn't want to be part of that? To volunteer, or get more information, contact **Laurie Cole** by [email](#), by phone, or at a meeting.

Opening **Vienna's Caboose** for a few hours a month gives kids (and their families) a free place to explore, play, and stretch their imaginations. Optimists work in pairs for two-hour shifts, March to December, to welcome visitors to the Caboose. Conductor's hat is provided. Signing up to volunteer is easy. Follow [this link](#) and pick your shift! **Dan Mulville**, Caboose conductor-in-chief, is [available to answer any questions](#).



January 2019 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on January 15, with nine members present and two represented by proxy. Among the business conducted was the following:

- Accepted Jim W.'s resignation as VP for Community due to family demands;
- Established a "Care Fund" for Optimist Club members who are hospitalized or bereaved. Guidelines for the \$500 fund will be developed;
- Established an Advisory committee to review the Club's investment management. Committee members are: Tom B., Dan I., Dick L., Grant M., Michele W., and Jim H(e);
- Received a report on Christmas Tree sale operations, which raised \$33,000 (an increase over 2017). Report will be presented to the membership at February 6 meeting.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the Bauers' home. Board meetings are open to all Optimist Club members.

Is this going to hurt?

What is "Targeted Recruitment"?

The 2018-19 International Membership Committee of OI "is encouraging all Optimist Clubs to participate in 'targeted recruitment' each month of this Optimist year. While all Members are valuable; [sic] this calendar will hopefully encourage Clubs to look for new Members in areas that they may not have thought of."

February's "target" is **Healthcare Professionals**. "Many healthcare professionals are well connected within the community and may have been insight into additional needs for children."

The entire year's Calendar is set out in the **Winter 2019** issue of *The Optimist* magazine, sent to all Members and Friends of Optimists. Sneak preview: March's target is "Local Business Owners."

All potential members are welcome, but maybe this "targeted" approach will inspire each of us to invite a guest to an upcoming meeting!



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	<i>open</i>
Vice President of Community	<i>open</i>
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	<i>open</i>

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