



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
January 2019

Calendar



January 1 — New Year's Day

January 2
No Meeting

January 9
Board Meeting
7:30 pm — Bauers' Home, Vienna

January 16
CCDHH Meeting
NOTE SPECIAL TIME
6:15—Social Time; 7:00—Dinner
VIENNA American Legion Hall

January 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 23
"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery
Culmore Teen Center; Team B (Bauer Captains)

News and Notes

Welcome to 2019! It may be an arbitrary marker, but January is traditionally a time of new starts and resolutions for improvement. Here is a humble suggestion for a resolution for each of us: **"I resolve to attend Optimist Club meetings regularly."** Our peripatetic years seeking a permanent home for meetings has taken a toll on attendance. We are still split between the Fairfax and Vienna American Legion Posts, with the occasional special location thrown in for awards programs. Be determined not to let this deter you from joining your fellow Optimists for a meal and camaraderie! Attendance by Club members also shows support to our guests and honorees; an empty house sends a less supportive message. **We are here for the kids, and for each other!**



Promise Yourself



An excellent opportunity to put this resolution into action is **our first meeting of the year on January 16 at the Vienna American Legion. Our annual Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)** gives elementary school kids with hearing challenges the opportunity—and encouragement—to engage in public speaking. To accommodate our young guests' schedule, we will start the evening early. **Please come at 6:15** to welcome and get to know the contests, their families and their teachers.

Optimist International, our parent organization, has **sent out a survey** via email to all Optimists. According to the email, the survey questions "have been created by the International Development Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Directors to help chart a course for future new club development efforts outside North America and the Caribbean nations. Your answers to these questions will help Optimist International determine whether any particular region or nations can or should be targeted for our growth efforts. Your participation is greatly appreciated." [Click here](#) to link to the survey site.



**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,

There is much to be thankful for as we head into the New Year! **Al D.** is recovering nicely from his heart attack and stent surgery. **Rob R.** is recovering and is in rehab at Mt. Vernon Hospital hoping to be sent home on the 11th. **Jim W.** is caring for **Lillian** at home.

Our tree sales fundraiser was a great success! The lot officially closed with the evening shift on Monday, December 17th. Two small trees remained with a note asking for a donation by whoever might take them. A donation was delivered by hand to Michele Wright at the Rotary Club meeting the following Wednesday, to make sure it reached us! By Friday, the lot was cleaned up and everything was tucked away for next year. **Thanks to Dick Lippert, Tom Fraim, Al Dunkerley** who coordinated all the details and **Tom Bauer** who collected and tallied the funds collected throughout the sales period. Our **team leaders Rich Orde-man, Jeff Johnson, Al Dunkerley, Dick Gongaware, Tom Spengler and Ed Wonder** who orchestrated all the team and JOI clubs support, deserve a round of applause for a job well done. But of course where would we be without the support of **our members** who volunteered to work all those shifts no matter what the weather. It was a combined team effort with Optimist Club members, Friends of Optimists members, teams, JOI Clubs, family, friends, and even coworkers who helped us sell all those trees. We appreciate everyone's efforts.

Thanks to **Laurie Cole, Tom Spengler, and Pat So-lan*** for taking a meal and birthday party to the Culmore Center the day after Christmas. The kids enjoyed our leftover candy canes!

January 16 is our CCDHH contest which is always a showcase for these exceptionally talented students. Don't miss this opportunity to share with a friend the good work that your club is doing in the Greater Vienna community. This contest will be held at the **Vienna Legion**. We'll start at 6:15 with dinner at 7:00. [Please RSVP to me if you are coming.](#) (Just click the highlighted text to link to the email.)

February 6 we will be at the **Fairfax Legion** for our Tree Sales wrap-up report. Social time starts at 6:45, with dinner at 7:30. Our guests that evening will be representatives of some of the groups that greatly helped our effort. Please come to show our appreciation to them!

We are starting a brand new year full of promise and opportunities for us to advertise our club and attract new members. We can grow our club with new enthusiastic members just like the members we have now. I challenge each of you to invite at least one friend to an Optimist function this year.

Finally, I was interviewed last fall for "Your Need to Know" by Catherine Read. It is now on You Tube and you

can access it at <https://readthinkact.com/optimist-club-of-greater-vienna-with-susanbauer/> I made a couple of mistakes and there were a few errors in her write up but overall it gives a good synopsis of what we do and why. Please share with your friends so we can get the word out that the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna is where the action is if you want to help kids and your community.

Happy New Year,

Madame President, Susan

*Editor's Note: And thanks to **Susan Bauer**, as well, who prepared a dish for the meal even though she had plenty else to do!

BRINGING OUT THE BEST



INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

It is a mighty struggle!



Sure, Hercules slayed the Hydra and did some other stuff. But then his real work began...

A little-known story from mythology is that after Hercules proved his worth by completing [his twelve labors](#), he was given a truly difficult task: producing an up-to-date directory for his civic club.

Our own mythic hero(ine), Kathy Cutri, has conquered this challenge! Earlier this month she distributed—via email—an updated Club Directory. If you did not receive a copy, please let her know at secretary@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.

And while we are on the topic of the directory, please remember that the directory is to be used for Optimist Club business only.



← From start
To finish →
It was a great season!

Maybe Optimism paves the way for serendipity. However it happened, this year we somehow got pictures of the first and the last trees sold on our lot. These, and all the customers in between, helped us fund our Youth Programs for another year!



December Highlights

And other stuff we've been up to!

"President's Citation" Awarded to Jim Houston

At our Holiday Banquet, President Susan spoke on behalf of all our members when she thanked Jim Houston for his exceptional service to the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna. Then she presented him with the "President's Citation", from OI. As the certificate says, "The President's Citation is bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated an exceptional dedication, care and love of the Club, Club Members, District and Optimist International." We all agree that pretty much describes Jim to a "T". Thank you, Jim, and congratulations!



You have to be an optimist to commit to a bike ride on New Year's Day

From Optimist Gary Moonan: The annual New Year's Day cycling event at Hains Point, the HP 100, is a 3.3 mile course done 33+ times. Locally it's known as the world's most boring 100 mile event. John Andrews rode 40+ miles while I did a bit over 20 miles. In 2018 John and I were saturated as it rained heavily from the start of the event.

The Sloth Cycling Team [Gary, John, and Ed Wonder, below] is recognition of our fading cycling prowess. We have completed a couple of 'event' rides and are happy to finish without injury or incident. While we are serious about cycling, we don't take ourselves too seriously.



Going the Extra 1,000 Miles for Kids

Longtime Vienna Club Optimist (and now FOI) Bob McCormick felt the need to make a major statement about the importance of intergenerational justice.



So he walked—from his home in Denver, Colorado, to the Capitol in Washington, DC. On a cold December day, several Optimists, along with family and other friends, welcomed Bob when he arrived in Vienna along the W&OD Trail. To learn more about Bob's journey and intergenerational justice, visit his website, AWalkforChange.org

December 2018 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on December 12, 2018, with eight members attending and two members represented by proxy. Among the discussions and actions at the meeting were the following:

- Approval of expenditures for budgeted items, including: donation to Marshall High School All Night Grad Party; donation to Committee for Helping Others; and, expenses for TR Cook Awards;
- Receipt of donations to the Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign from Navy Federal Credit Union and the Vienna Moose Lodge;
- Discussion of possible new local partner/beneficiary of our Childhood Cancer Campaign;
- Discussion of three possible candidates to sponsor for the Hugh O'Brien Youth ("HOBY") program, including financial assistance;
- Report from VP Youth, Mike Fitzella, regarding preparations for CCDHH program on January 15, and potential changes for future years; and regarding a new format for Oratorical Contest this year and engagement with High School Debate Coaches;
- Report from VP Media Relations Gary Moonan, regarding

Facebook updates during tree sales and possible switch to OI platform for website;

- Report from Michele Wright that applications and rules for 2019 Farmers Market have been distributed and permits applications are in with the Town;
- Welcome to new member Ann Marie "Fritz" Irwin.

Another December Highlight— Spreading Cheer at the Culmore Teen Center



One of our trees—decorated by the kids—brightened the Teen Center over the holidays. Thank you to all our "Fourth Wednesday" volunteers who support the Teen Center with meals throughout the year!

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	Jim Wilson
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