



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
March 2019

Calendar

March 6

Regular Meeting

VIENNA American Legion Hall

Speaker: Del. Mark Keam

6:45—Social Time; 7:30—Dinner

Remember to RSVP to President Susan—check your email!

March 10

Special Event!

Oratorical Contest Competition

Vienna Community Center—Auditorium

1:30 pm

March 13

Board Meeting

7:30 pm — Bauers' Home, Vienna

March 16

Caboose Is Open!

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Volunteers needed; [sign up here](#).

March 20

Oratorical Contest Awards Meeting

VIENNA American Legion Hall

6:45—Social Time; 7:30 Dinner

March 27

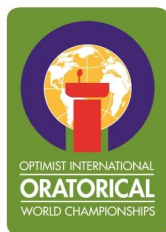
"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery

Culmore Teen Center; Team D (Ryjik, Captain)

News and Notes

If you thought *your* February was crazy, imagine what it was like for our representatives in Richmond! Our own **Mark Keam, Optimist and member of the Virginia House of Delegates** for the 35th District, will report on this year's legislative session at our **March 6 meeting**. Come to the **VIENNA American Legion** for dinner and the low-down on the legislation that made the cut (and some that didn't). We will also officially initiate and welcome new members—always a good reason to gather and share our Optimism!

A very conscientious Friend of Youth in Vienna is our own **VP for Youth Mike Fitzella**. When Optimist International (OI) dramatically increased the **potential award for the Oratorical Contest to \$22,000**, Mike knew we needed to give the opportunity to compete to as many students as possible. As a result, our club-level competition this year is open to high school, as well as middle school, students. That means many more contestants, which necessitates further changes, as Mike reports:



"With more than 20 participants expected from our local middle and high schools, the competition for this year's Oratorical Contest is too large for a regular meeting as we have done in the past. This year the actual **competition will be held on Sunday, March 10 in the Vienna Community Center auditorium, starting at 1:30 pm**. Judges from George Mason University will evaluate the competitors, and medals will be awarded to the top three finishers that day. **These three students will present their speeches at our March 20 dinner meeting** and receive their cash awards. *We need strong support from our membership at both the March 10 and 20 events.* Please come out and support our club and students as we

continually seek to improve our service to the youth in the Greater Vienna area."

While the Optimist Creed doesn't include it specifically surely the subtext includes, "to roll with the punches and go with the flow." That's what **Essay Contest coordinator Dan Irvine** and our contest winners did when their event was first postponed because of snow, then the venue moved at the last minute. No problem! We convened on February 27 to hear **Hanwen Zhang** (Madison HS) and **Lucy Cai** (Oakton HS) read their outstanding essays on the topic, "When All the World's Problems Are Solved, Is Optimism Still Necessary?" Unfortunately, **Enyce Fairbanks** (Marshall HS), could not join us. Hanwen's first place essay goes on to the District Competition, in addition to receiving \$500 from our Club. Lucy and Enyce received \$300 and \$200 for second and third place, respectively.



Essay Contest Judges Liyuan Lu and Pat Solan with winners Hanwen Zhang, Lucy Cai, and Coordinator Dan Irvine.



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,

So from what I hear March is roaring in like a "Lion" with a mix of snow, sleet and rain. Yuck!

Our Christmas tree sales Debrief/Celebration/Recognition dinner was a nice way to recognize the successful conclusion of our major fundraiser and to thank all those involved both inside and outside of our Optimist family. Over \$30,000 was added to our Youth Fund after taxes and expenses.

BRINGING OUT THE BEST



INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

The CAPVA District meeting was held in Fredericksburg on Saturday, February 22. **Jeff Johnson** was awarded an Eminent Benefactor Pin and a Dime a Day Pin. **Richard Plocica** was also awarded a Dime a Day Pin. Thank you both for your contributions to the OI Foundation.

Thanks to everyone for their patience as we adjusted our Essay Contest dinner to the last week of February due to the snowstorm and then had to change venues at the 11th hour. The essays were amazing as usual. Congratulations and thanks to **Dan Irvine** for coordinating this year's contest.

Our March 6th dinner meeting will be at the Vienna Legion at 6:45 with Vienna Optimist Club Member and State Delegate **Mark Keam** as our speaker. Mark will be giving us the low-down on what Virginians can expect from bills that were passed (or not) with the end of the Virginia Assembly. From what I hear there was a lot going on in Richmond unrelated to legislating.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 10 at 1:30. **Mike Fitzella** has procured the auditorium at the Vienna Community Center for the **Oratorical Contest**. Communications professors from George Mason University will be the judges. We would like to have as many members as possible to come out on Sunday to hear the speeches so that these kids can have an audience to whom they can orate. Is that a word? The top three winners will present their speeches at our March 20th dinner meeting at the Vienna Legion. There are more students participating in the contest this year since we opened it to both the middle *and* high schools. The Oratorical Contest is a great meeting to invite a friend to attend and see how the Optimists give students the opportunity to gain confidence and earn awards.

A few weeks ago several members joined together to make meals for **Jim and Lillian Wilson**. Lillian's illness is not short term and Jim would appreciate a meal every other week from the Optimists. Please let me know if you can commit to taking a meal to them every six weeks or so depending on how many volunteer to help. **Rich Ordeman** shared with me how this kindness helped him when he needed it several years ago.

Bruce Lauther is heading up a newly formed Sunshine committee. The purpose of this committee is to ensure that mem-

bers who are experiencing illness or grieving a death in their family will know that their Optimist family cares about them.

All Aboard! The **caboose officially opens on March 16th**. I am on board from 1:00 to 3:00. We need another volunteer for the 1:00 to 3:00 shift and two for the 3:00 to 5:00 shifts. Spring is just around the corner by then, so come out and enjoy the hopefully warmer weather.

Our club grows stronger with every new member we bring on board. Think about why you joined and who asked you to join. Is there someone to whom you can pass on the favor? OI is offering \$30 memberships for the first year to teachers and to past Optimist members to come back again. Maybe there are some former members who needed to drop out for work or family issues who might be ready to come back! Let's reach out to them.

*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 and our community? Even a small commitment of time helps 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. Our project lets these teens know that there are adults in the community who care about them and support them. 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. Signing up to volunteer is easy—we have moved to SignUp Genius for scheduling. Follow [this link](#) to sign up.



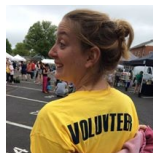
Spring really is coming, and our **Farmers Market will open Saturday, May 4**. Much like Christmas Tree sales, we need everyone's help to make the Market a success, for the community and for the club financially (proceeds support our Youth Fund). Tom Spengler will coordinate staffing by teams this year. **Be ready to sign up** for several shifts when you get the call!

February 2019 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on February 13, 2019, with seven members present, plus two by proxy. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Treasurer Tom Bauer reported that \$2434 was paid to OI for all our **JOI club members**. **HOBY** and **VLL** sponsorships were paid. Budgeted donations totaling \$1700 were made to: Flint Hill ES and Vienna Elementary 5K runs; Britepaths (food pantry); anti-Human Trafficking; and Fairfax County PTA Spelling Bee.
- VP for Youth Mike Fitzella reported on the status of the **Essay Contest**; \$1000 in prize money will be awarded. Planning for the **Oratorical Contest** and **TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence** events are underway.
- VP for Media Relations/Webmaster Gary Moonan reported on progress for migrating the Club website to ClubUX. It will happen in stages.
- VP for Finance Dick Lippert reported the new Investment Committee has met. The Board discussed fine tuning of the Investment Committee mandate and membership.

Where Does the \$\$ Go?



We've sold the trees and the wreaths and the roping at the Christmas Tree Lot. We've braved the rain and the heat at the Farmers Market. What's it all for?

Our two major fundraising activities provide revenue—about \$40,000 in total—for our **Youth Fund**. That money, in turn, goes right back into the community in a variety of ways. **February's Board Minutes** offer a glimpse of the activities our Youth Fund supports.

JOI Clubs: We make sure no one is turned away or singled out from our Junior Optimist and Octagon Clubs, because we pay the dues to OI for every member.

HOBY: Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership is an "Endorsed Organization" of OI. We provide a scholarship to a high school sophomore to attend the HOBY seminar on ethical leadership.

VLL: Vienna Little League is just one of several youth sports organizations we sponsor in our community.

Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence: We offer cash prizes for these youth programs as both incentive and reward for outstanding achievements. Our largest awards, the Carol Waite Brennan Awards, are given in the form of scholarships paid directly to the student's college.



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