



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

April 2021

Calendar

April 4—Easter Sunday

April 4—Passover Ends

April 7—No Meeting

April 12—Ramadan Begins

April 14—Board Meeting

April 21—Youth Awards of Excellence

7:30 p.m. via Zoom

April 22—Earth Day



MAY PREVIEW

Saturday, May 1-
FARMERS MARKET OPENS!

News and Notes

It is so great to be back on the familiar schedule of youth programs this Spring! Huge thanks go out to our **Youth Team**, VP **Mike Fitzella** and **Director Ed Wonder** for the work they have done to make these programs happen, and support our school-based JOI Clubs! Here's the latest from Mike:

Plan to join us via Zoom at **7:30 on Wednesday, April 21** for this year's **TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence** program. High school juniors from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton will be recognized for their efforts in Academics, Citizenship, Fine & Performing Arts, Science, Sports, and Technology. **State Delegate and Optimist Mark Keam** will be our guest speaker. In addition to addressing the students, at the end of the program Mark will give us an update of legislative actions in Richmond.



We are less than a month away from the **Vienna Farmers Market** opening day! The first Saturday in May 2021 is **May 1** so we will turn the page on the calendar and jump right in. Be ready to shop and volunteer to support the Market—which brings in an ever-increasing share of revenue for our Youth Fund (the source of support for all those programs Mike and Ed and others put on!).



Here's a tidbit from the Farmers Market's [webpage](#): “Our Market is the only market in Fairfax County run by a non-profit organization. All other markets are run by municipalities or for-profit organizations.” Our 100% volunteer operation means all revenue from the Market goes back into the community to help “bring out the best in kids.”



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for 65 Years!

Visit us at www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met **March 10, 2021**, via Zoom teleconference. All members but one were present. Among the business conducted was the following:

- ◆ President reported from 2nd Quarter CAP-VA District Meeting that some Clubs have not met at all since the start of the pandemic;
- ◆ Discussed ideas for small-scale fundraising projects;
- ◆ Youth VP reported that Oratorical Contest, TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence, and Partners in Education programs will all be held this Spring (via Zoom);
- ◆ Youth Director reported on efforts to expand reach of Vocational Scholarship announcements and finding that other, similar scholarships also struggle to get applicants; also reported that all our high school JOI clubs are engaged with “Belong!” volunteer work;
- ◆ Membership team reported on contacts with prospective members;
- ◆ Farmers Market team reported (via email post-meeting) that applications exceed available space, in part due to COVID-19 restrictions, so not all can be accepted this year.



It's a daunting task—Sisyphian,* really—to put together a complete, up-to-date **Club Directory**. But **Kathy Cutri** and **Susan Bauer** (Past and Acting Club Secretaries, respectively) are doing it! They have distributed a draft and send this request to all members:

“We would like to have birthdays for all our members. We would like to add your spouse's/partner's name. Also, if you were an Optimist of the Year would you let us know so we can add your name to our list? Once we get all the corrections etc. we will send you a final draft.”

Please send the requested information or any corrections to Kathy and Susan ASAP!

*Or, in Chinese folklore, like Wu Gang chopping down an immortal tree.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2020-21

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Bruce Lauther
President Elect	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Community	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Finance	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Bruce Lauther
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Social Media	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Print Media/Community	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Membership	Fritz Irwin
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	<i>vacant</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