

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 <u>webpage</u>: "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



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From President Tom Bauer

Greetings fellow Optimists!

Calling All Members! It is that time of year where your President needs to select a **nominating committee** for identifying those members willing to serve in various capacities for next year's Board of Directors. We have several vacancies that desperately need to be filled.

First of all, I need someone to replace me as President and secondly, we need a secretary since Susan has been manning (womanning?) [Editor's suggestion: staffing!] that slot as well as

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serving as the Vice President of Community. The Board has also approved the idea of "at large" Board Members which could work for those who are unable to attend each monthly Board meeting but would be willing to help out as the need arises and be a voting member. Please give careful thought and consideration to how you might help our club continue to be a

viable organization that serves our community in a meaningful way.

This year's Oratorical contest was held via zoom on March 21st with 5 students selected by Michelle Gabro from Thoreau Middle School. The winners were: Lauren Bennion-1st place, Daisey Jackson-2nd place and Neeka Abolghasemi- 3rd place. Also delivering excellent speeches were Mae Salham & Annabelle Balasa. One young lady's father was able to watch his daughter's performance from Saudi Arabia! You gotta love Zoom. Kudos to Mike Fitzella for doing his usual excellent job and special thanks to Gary Moonan for ensuring that all went as scheduled with no technical glitches.

Our past District Governor, Chuck Steininger, passed away recently after battling cancer. Our condolences go out to his wife and family.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of you a very Happy Easter and, for our Jewish friends, a Happy Passover.

Optimistically,

We are fortunate beyond measure to have Thoreau Middle School teacher Michelle Gabro as our partner in this year's Oratorical Contest. Ms. Gabro organized the in-school competition and guided the five finalists through the Club's on-line compe tition on Sunday, March 22. AND, she produced this excellent announcement/memento of the event! **Thank you, Ms. Gabro**, the Thoreau students and their families for participating. Many thanks also to our judges from the GMU Toastmasters Club: 🖈 Andy Finn, Rupa Metha, and Khai Nguyen. Kudos to VP for Youth Mike F., for pulling it all together!



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 Execellence, 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—<u>Sisyphean</u>,* 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, <u>like Wu Gang chopping down an immortal</u> tree.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2020-21

President Tom Bauer

Secretary *vacant*

Treasurer Michele Wright

Immediate Past President Bruce Lauther

President Elect vacant

Vice President of Community Susan Bauer

Vice President of Finance vacant

Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster Gary Moonan

Vice President of Membership Bruce Lauther

Vice President of Youth Mike Fitzella

Director of Community vacant

Director of Social Media vacant

Director of Print Media/Community vacant

Director of Membership Fritz Irwin

Director of Youth Ed Wonder

Director of Finance vacant

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

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