



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

February 2021

Calendar

February 3—No Meeting

February 4 — Optimist Day!

February 10—Board Meeting

February 14—Valentine's Day



February 15—Presidents' Day

February 17—Essay Contest Meeting

7:30 pm via Zoom

Look for the Zoom Invitation in your email

March Preview:

Sunday, March 21—Oratorical Contest

1:00 pm via Zoom

News and Notes

Youth News from VP for Youth, Mike F.: Our **Essay Contest** will be held this year via Zoom on **Wednesday, February 17, starting at 7:30**. The top three essays will be read by the students, then the finishing order will be announced by contest coordinator **Dan Irvine**. Be on the lookout for the email invitation.

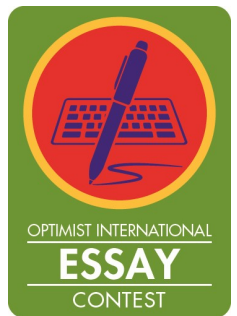
It's hard to believe that almost a year has passed since our last "in person" event, which was the 2020 Oratorical Contest. Looking ahead to March, our **first ever Zoom Oratorical Contest will be held on Sunday, March 21, starting at 1:00**. Students from Thoreau Middle School are preparing for this event with their contest sponsor, Michelle Gabro. Plan to join us as we support our students in these unprecedented times.

From Optimist International: **Optimist Day is February 4!**



Optimist International celebrates Optimist Day around the world on the first Thursday of every February to promote our efforts in bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. On Optimist Day, we ask Optimist Club members to wear Optimist attire - shirts, pins, hats, etc - and to post their best photo in Optimist gear on social media. Tag the photo with Optimist International or use the #OptimistDay and/or

#OptimistDay2021 hashtags. Send your photos to marketing@optimist.org to be featured in future publications.



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)



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings fellow Optimists!

Despite the Pandemic news, we remain optimistic and hopeful. Hey, we're over a 1/3 of the way through Winter! We had a great time with our "Virtual Wine Tasting" on January 27th. So much about wine to know and so little time. Lisa Ames, the manager of Wine Outlets on Church St. provided the knowledge and expertise and we provided the wine. I have probably forgotten 95% of what I learned already but it was very interesting and a lot of fun. Most importantly, it was just good to see and hear old friends. Hopefully, for our next social event we'll try a "Game Night". Our next meeting will be on February 17th for our annual Essay Contest led capably by **Dan Irvine**. Hope to see you all there.

Now that the tree sales are over it will soon be time to turn our attention to the **Farmer's Market**. **Michele** already has that well in hand as you would expect with most of our vendors returning and a few new ones on board. It looks like we'll be operating under the same Covid rules as last year, at least for the early months. If we can have a similar turnout of members as we did for the Christmas tree lot, we'll be in great shape.

One new initiative that I am trying to get off the ground is a joint effort with Vienna Presbyterian Church among others to help some disadvantaged kids in our area cope with their studies on line. VPC has a program called "Belong" that works with the folks living in the Cedar Park apartments which populates a good part of Cunningham Park Elementary School. Recently, they had a group of college kids from Towson State College tutor some of the students there with great success. **Ed Wonder** is reaching out to our JOOI club contacts to see if we can generate interest from them. It would also be terrific if some of our members would consider tutoring on a weekly basis, at least while there is so much on line learning taking place. If successful, this program could be expanded to several other schools in our area where lower income students, especially those whose English language skills are deficient, struggle. As a club, we do so much for our youth but, outside of a few programs, the beneficiaries are high achievers who usually come from relatively affluent families.

I'll keep you posted on our progress. If you would consider the possibility of mentoring one of these kids, please let me know.

Optimistically,

Tom

Suggestions from OI to make Optimist Day last all month!

FEBRUARY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1 Start a Positive Thought Journal for this month	2 Read something motivational	3 Focus on breathing for 15 mins	4 Optimist Day Visit Optimist.org	5 Forgive the actions of another	6 Focus on a positive thought	7 Motivate someone else
8 Think of something that brings you happiness	9 Share a positive message to others	10 Make a list of things that inspire you	11 Be open to change	12 Surround yourself with positivity	13 Help someone else with a task	14 Give a stranger a Valentine
15 Focus on a solution not a problem	16 Let go of a mistake	17 Make an Optimistic playlist	18 Remember a past strength and use it today	19 Thank someone	20 Learn something new	21 Laugh
22 Listen to someone else without giving feedback	23 Be a positive role model to someone else	24 Perform an Act of Kindness	25 Make a list of things to celebrate	26 Read an inspirational book or article	27 Compliment yourself on something	28 Read the Optimist Creed

On Optimist Day, Optimists around the world are asked to wear Optimist attire - shirts, pins, hats, etc. Post your best Optimist attire on social media and tag Optimist International or use the hashtag #OptimistDay and/or #OptimistDay2021

You don't have to be a member to celebrate this day with us. Here is a great way you can celebrate Optimist Day. Each day there are things you can do to help you and others discover and celebrate Optimist Day.

Visit Optimist.org for more information about who we are, and how together we can Choose Optimism.



DUES, DOLLARS & SENSE

Restructuring to Meet Expenses While Accommodating Changes in Our Operations

Our **Membership Team, VP Bruce and Director Fritz**, provide this news and analysis of our recent dues revisions and membership initiatives:

The challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic have brought adjustments. For the immediate future to insure we follow safety guidelines all meetings—both membership gatherings and Board of Director (BOD) meetings will be virtual using the ZOOM App. This has worked very well, even for some of our special programs recognizing the youth in our trio of local high school service areas and first responders and law enforcement members of the year. Likely, when the “new normal” returns after vaccinations are distributed to all... we will shift to a mixture of virtual meetings as well as returning to some social gatherings to stimulate member rapport.

In OI Year 2019-2020 (and earlier)

Regular membership dues were \$340.00 per year. Friends of Optimists (FOO's) dues were \$100.00 per year. Optimist International (OI) Life Member dues were \$300.00 per year. The cost of the majority of dinners accompanying the usual twice monthly membership meetings was included in the annual membership dues. Special events like the Holiday Dinner sometimes brought an additional charge. A \$30.00 processing fee was added by Optimist International to accompany new membership application submissions only.

Now, beginning with OI Year 2020-2021

Now, beginning with OI Year 2020-2021 – All regular membership dues are reduced to \$185.00

per year covering club operating expenses and OI assessments. A \$25.00 per meal fee will be collected at the door when a member attends an actual, scheduled social gathering. The dues for FOO's remain at \$100.00 per year. A \$30.00 processing fee is added by OI to accompany new membership application submissions only. An anonymous donor, inspired by the performance of our club, has created a unique situation for the first ten (10) new members joining our

club in OI Year 2020-2021: The new member's application will be reduced, i.e., only \$150.00 will be changed to the prospective new member, plus the OI \$30.00 processing fee—or a total of \$180.00 with the application. The delightful donor has provided the \$35.00 special reduction up front to our treasury.

First Responders (FR's).

Police Officers, Firemen, EMT's and other first responders serve their communities in traumatic circumstances every day. For only \$30.00 for the 1st Year of Membership, FR's may join our Optimist Club. The regular \$185.00 dues will apply for subsequent year memberships, without further enrollment fees.

Recruit A Teacher—Active or Retired (RAT's).

Teachers; Administrators; College Professors; Coaches; Aides; School Library Staff; and Counselors open the doors to students for Youth Projects of our Club. For only \$30.00 for the 1st Year of Membership, RAT's may join our Optimist Club as a “special annual renewal incentive” of OI! The regular \$185.00 dues will apply for subsequent year memberships, without further enrollment fees.



Board Meeting Highlights will return next month



Second Quarter District Meeting
February 27, 2021, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Ramsey Memorial United Methodist Church
5900 Hull Street Road, Richmond, VA

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