



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

January 2021

Calendar

January 1, 2021
New Year's Day



January 13
Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

January 18
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

Stride Toward Freedom, 1957

January 20
Inauguration Day
(Federal Holiday in our region)



January 27
Regular Meeting
Topic: TBD

News and Notes

[January 2021 so far has been more like 2020 than we had hoped. With no news for upcoming Optimist Club events we will go straight to the President's Letter. —*The Editor*]

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

We successfully completed our annual Christmas Tree fundraiser in record time, and while maintaining strict COVID guidelines. We began sales on Friday, November 27 and ended on Thursday, December 10 having sold close to 600 trees safely and profitably. One pleasant surprise was the huge increase in tips we received from our generous customers who, apparently, found it much easier to give a little extra when using their credit cards.

I am so grateful to all those who helped with the lot this year so that we could raise enough funds to cover all of our programs that are feasible for the coming year. Special thanks go out to our **team captains: Tom Spengler, Jeff Johnson and Dick Gongaware** as well as **Dick Lippert** for all his advance preparation and advice as well as continuous support at the lot. **Rich Ordeman** was invaluable with planning, composing our lot design and lumber needs and helping with set up and takedown. **Gary Moonan and Dan Gropper** set up and maintained our "Square" credit card terminal which proved to be so successful. In addition, Dan rewired our drill so we wouldn't run the risk of electrocution!

We had a great turnout to set up the lot with many A-frames to be built. I'm still amazed at the skill with which **Steve Bukont** handled his circular saw. Still has all his digits. I also have to acknowledge **Grant Marsh and his merry men from Merrill, Greta Tosi-Miller, Michele Wright, Kathy Cutri and Susan Bauer** for many shifts as cashier and our **newest members Greg Leland and Tim Copeland** for pitching in as well. Last, but not least, a special shout out to **John Andrews** for his help in moving the trailer to and from the town lot, and installing our lighting and music. Please forgive me if I left someone out who should have received special recognition but, suffice it to say, this was a **great team effort** that should make us all proud to be part of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna.

Finally, I would like to recognize the typically fine job **Mike Fitzella and Ed Wonder** did for our Carol Waite Brennan awards program on December 2. This was another successful awards program via Zoom (and hopefully getting closer to our last) with six students and their teachers/counselors able to participate and be recognized. Thanks also to our tech-meister **Gary Moonan** for facilitating the meeting.

Hope this letter finds everyone well and energized to make this a great 2021!

Optimistically yours, President Tom



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 December 2020

The Board met on December 9, 2020, with all members attending by Zoom remote meeting. Club business conducted included the following:

- ♦ Treasurer reported year-end tax filings are being prepared for Club and Foundation. Using credit cards for tree sales greatly simplified sales tax report ;
- ♦ Disbursement of funds was approved for the monthly donation to Culmore Teen Center (\$200) (in lieu of meals delivered), to reimburse costs of Halloween "float" (\$184.93), and to Club Phoenix after school program (\$500);
- ♦ Approved applications of new members Gregory Leland and Tim Copeland;
- ♦ Approved one-time gift of Pie Gourmet gift certificates to members approved, because of cancellation of annual holiday banquet and to spread good wishes of the season;
- ♦ Received a suggestion from VP Media Relations that Board consider creating new positions of "Board Member At-Large".

Are You Ready for Optimist Day? February 2, 2021

Members of Optimist International will celebrate Optimist Day throughout the world the first Thursday of every February to promote our efforts in bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

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 #OptimistDay hashtag. Send your photos to marketing@optimist.org to be featured in future publications.



Visit www.optimist.org for the Optimist Day Proclamation and press release for your community!

Be Proud. REPRESENT.

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