



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

March 2021

Calendar

March 3—No Meeting

March 10—Board Meeting

March 14
Daylight Saving
Time Begins



March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 20
Spring Begins!

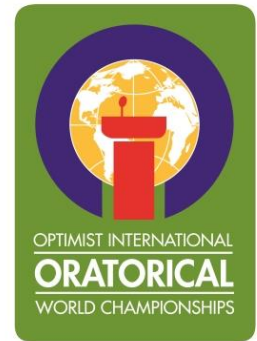
Sunday, March 21
Oratorical Contest

1:00 pm via Zoom

Saturday, March 27
Passover Begins

News and Notes

Our youth-oriented events continue in March with the annual Oratorical Contest. **VP for Youth Mike F.** writes, Plan to join us via Zoom on **Sunday, March 21 at 1:00** as we have our first (and hopefully last!) virtual Oratorical Contest. Our Thoreau Middle School students will be speaking on this year's topic: "**Healing the World with Optimism**". How timely! Faculty sponsor Michelle Gabro has been working with her students virtually since early January to get ready for the contest. While this won't be the same as being in a room together, please support these students virtually as they compete for monetary awards and an opportunity to move on to the District competition.



What do *you* want from your Optimist Club during our socially-distant times, and after? Do you have ideas for programs, social activities, or service opportunities that will help keep us in touch with each other and engaged in our mission to serve kids in the community? Please, share!

Contact President Tom, or any Board member, with your suggestions.



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!

If you missed the Essay contest on the 17th, you missed some outstanding essays from some terrific kids. This year, all three finalists were from Madison High School and the winner was **Aidan Shannon**, our own Steve Shannon's son. A very impressive young man. He had previously competed in our Oratorical contest and was not one of the winners but used that experience to propel himself upward to his victory. Best of luck at the District level, Aidan!

Our Oratorical contest will be held at our next meeting which is March 21st. **Please make every effort to attend via zoom**; we were a little short of members for the essay contest. After several clubs including ours petitioned the District to hold their contest virtually, instead of in person as they were planning, the District relented and it will be held virtually on Saturday, April 17th.

One more issue and that is the CAPVA golf tournament. The finals for this tournament are currently scheduled to be held at Donald Trump's Doral Golf Club. Your board felt that due to recent events, supporting this tournament was contrary to the values that we espouse in our Optimists' Creed and what we, as Optimists, try to impart to the youth of our community, specifically honesty, integrity and good citizenship. I have written to the District Chair of the event that we would not be supporting the tournament this year but would be happy to continue our support once OI makes the decision to no longer support our former President's club.



I would like to welcome new members Tim Copeland and Greg Leland. Greg's name might be familiar since he was formerly a member before being transferred out of the area. Tim is a friend of Fritz Irwin's son and, as such, holds the title of our youngest member. We look

forward to his enthusiasm and new ideas. We also greet new FOO members Joe Fay, Ann Harrison's husband and Andrea Bryk who works in Michelle Wright's office.

Sadly, we mourn the passing of long time member Jim Spain. Jim contributed so much to our club

through the years but has suffered from Parkinson's for some time. Anyone who knows the family, please reach out with your condolences. Also sad to report that Les Carl, a former President of the club and, until last year, an active participant on our tree lot, is being challenged with care for his bride of 57 years. She is struggling with Parkinson's as well as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and now needs 24/7 care. I know Les could use some good wishes from our membership.

In my last newsletter, I mentioned a new initiative to work with BELONG to tutor students at Cunningham Park. Thanks to Ed Wonder's efforts, we now have five students from Marshall High School's JOI club who are tutoring students at Cunningham Park.

Finally, we have finished our debrief from our tree lot captains and leaders to prepare us for next year. I would welcome other feedback from anyone who participated who might have some helpful nuggets to send my way.

Optimistically,

Tom

In Memory of

For many years Jim Spain lived his Optimism as a member of our Club. He certainly did his part to "give every living creature you meet a smile" and make his optimism come true. As long as he was able, Jim was an active participant in Club and community activities.

A special moment for Jim was captured in this photograph from the Newsletter archives, contributed several years ago by another special Jim, Jim Houston. The caption is courtesy of Jim Houston.

Our condolences to Jim's family and friends on their loss.



Jim was being recognized at a Wizards game in 2011 for his work with soccer in Northern Virginia. Needless to say his daughter was in awe of former Wizards player, Gheorge Muresan.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met **January 13, 2021**, via Zoom teleconference. All members were present. Among the business conducted was the following:

- ◆ Treasurer noted receipt of \$1000 grant from Navy Federal Credit Union ;
- ◆ Treasurer reported that sales taxes on Christmas tree sales have been remitted to the state, and that the filing was greatly simplified by the use of the Square terminal on the lot;
- ◆ Farmers Market committee reported that same pandemic precautions as last year will be in effect for 2021, per Town of Vienna rep; we have a shopping bag sponsor; other local businesses also interested in sponsoring the Market;
- ◆ Youth VP and Director reported on status of winter/spring contests and awards, and membership in JOI Clubs;
- ◆ Membership VP and Director reported on anonymous gift to defray dues for new members
- ◆ President proposed new initiative, "Belong!", to pair students at Cunningham Park ES with tutors;
- ◆ President presented revised calendar with one general meeting and one board meeting per month while virtual meetings continue.

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met **February 10, 2021**, via Zoom teleconference. One member was absent.

Among the business conducted was the following:

- ◆ Treasurer reported that Club dues and sponsored JOI Club dues have been paid to OI;
- ◆ Board approved increase of Helping Hands Awards to schools from \$200 to \$300;
- ◆ President reported virtual meeting for wine tasting was a success; next social meeting may be a game night; other suggestions welcomed;
- ◆ Board approved Tim C. for membership;
- ◆ Board discussed propriety of OI's choice of venue for Junior Golf Tournament;
- ◆ Youth Director reported five Marshall HS students have interviewed to be tutors for "Belong!".

By email vote following the meeting, Board approved revising the number of Investment Committee members from six to three (members to be: President, Treasurer, one non-Board Club member with professional finance experience).

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