



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

September 2021*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Optimists,

Every year about this time we wonder “how could the summer be almost over already”? Maybe it’s just advancing age that makes it seem so short. This coming month also marks the end of another fiscal year for the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna. I’m happy to tell you that our finances are in excellent shape.

Between our operating, youth and foundation accounts, we have accumulated over \$260,000 thanks to a lot of hard work, some extremely generous donations and continued success for our Christmas Tree sales and Farmer’s

market. I shouldn’t forget that our investment portfolio has returned over \$24,000 after subtracting fees using a pretty conservative strategy. Don’t forget, we have the opportunity to add to the coffers on the 17th with **Chillin’ on Church**. We need more volunteers!

In comings and goings, we are sad to say goodbye to two long time Optimists who have served our club with distinction and dedication in many capacities. **Bruce Lauther** has decided to resign for personal reasons and **Grant Marsh** has moved to Texas and has resigned as well. New members include **Monica Gomez Isaac**, her husband **Brian** who has submitted his application and **JonMarc Buffa** with at least one more possibly on the way. Please welcome these new members as soon as you get the chance. I am certain they are going to be committed Optimists and serve our club and the youth of our area very well.

We are moving forward with **Christmas Tree sales** preparation and getting ready to take the plunge and place our order. Last year we ordered 600 trees due to Covid restrictions and sold out in two weeks. While we don’t know for sure, I feel confident, we will be able to utilize our High School, Middle School and various JOOI clubbers on our lots. I would love to have your thoughts on how we should proceed prior to our Board of Directors meeting on the 8th. In the past, our largest order has been a little over 1,000.

I would like to put together another **social meeting** for members in the month of September. Ideally, we would be able to meet outdoors and relieve some concerns about virus transmission. Again, I would love to hear your thoughts on where we might be able to do this. Otherwise, we might be relegated to our back porch and deck.

Looking forward to the next time we can get together.

Optimistically,


Tom


CALENDAR


September 1	NO MEETING
September 4	Farmers Market
September 6	Labor Day
September 8	Board Meeting
September 11	Farmers Market
September 17	Chillin’ on Church
September 18	Farmers Market
September 25	Farmers Market

* Special edition: All of the content, none of the style.

Miscellaneous Items of Note

 Having an identity crisis because you can't find your **name badge**? Send a check for \$11 to the Optimist Club P.O. Box 411, Vienna VA 22183 with your name so that we can place the order after mid-September.

 Wanted - All hands on deck for the last 8 weeks of the **farmers market** - we need you to volunteer and sign up on the website.

 Wondering what we do **in the community**? Look no further than your own Farmers Market - the daughter (Elizabeth Isaac) of our newest member (Monica Isaac) raised money for the Culmore Center; Girl Scout Genevieve Kopp who received her Golden Award for brown bat homes displayed the homes and instructions at the August 21 market (see picture below!); AAUW-Vienna Area Branch was at the market on August 28; the Ayr Hill Garden Club will be at the market the last three weekends in October.



Highlights of the July Meeting of the Board of Directors will appear in the next issue of *Optimistically Speaking*.

Optimists in Action, In the Community

A Special Report from Optimist Roger Doughty

My wife Gail and I are regular volunteers every Tuesday night with Travelers Aid. Our normal responsibilities are to staff information booths at the airport and give help to arriving passengers (where is my luggage? my husband's plane from Turkey landed 15 minutes ago, why hasn't he come out?) and departing passengers (where is the Etihad ticket counter? why can't I go to the boarding gates without a pass?) and the occasional goofy question (I am on my way to the airport and my plane leaves in 5 minutes; can you hold the plane for me, please?).

Last week, Travelers Aid put out a call for help at the special area in the airport where Afghan evacuees were being processed—COVID testing, document checks, and the like. They wanted volunteers with Farsi or Pashto language ability. Gail and I served in the Peace Corps in Iran years ago, and we still have some Farsi language skills. So we volunteered to assist the evacuees as they arrived at the end of August.

We spent most of three days at Dulles Airport helping the Afghan evacuees. They were all so appreciative of our help and so thankful to be in the United States. Most had been traveling for three to five days with only the possessions that they could carry. Our Farsi skills, though rusty, were good enough to be helpful. The sign (*below*) says in Farsi, "Welcome." In a small hand, an Afghan has written "thanks for helping us." So touching.

