



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

February 2022

## Calendar

February 2 — Groundhog Day

February 3—Int'l Optimist Day

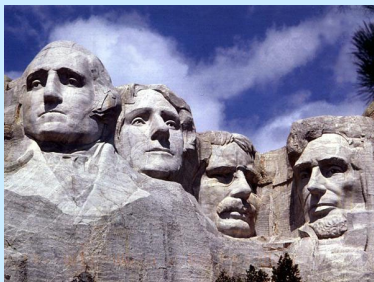
February 9—Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m.

February 14—  
Valentine's Day



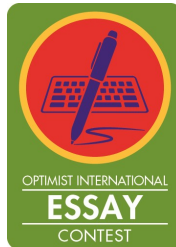
February 16—Essay Contest  
7:30 pm via Zoom

February 21—Presidents' Day  
Federal Holiday



## News and Notes

Are you ready to **celebrate International Optimist Day on Thursday, February 3**? Share your Optimism with a friend, a neighbor—anyone you encounter that day! Wear an Optimist T-shirt, hat, lapel pin to show your support for Optimism and the work we do. Check out page 3 for more ideas on how to promote Optimism on February 3 and throughout the month.



Our **Essay Contest** will be held this year via Zoom on **Wednesday, February 16, starting at 7:30**. The top three essays will be read by the students, then the finishing order will be announced by **contest chair Dan Irvine**. Be on the lookout for the email invitation. Interested in how the Essay Contest is organized? See page two of a chance to get behind the scenes!

The **Special Olympics 2022 Track and Field Events** are being scheduled, as follows:



**Time Trials at Flint Hill High School on April 9** and the **Championship Meet at Episcopal High School on April 23**. Mike B. will be organizing volunteers from our Club.

Note that there are some requirements with which both athletes and volunteers must comply:

- Athletes and volunteers must provide evidence of their COVID vaccination;
- Masks are required to be worn by athletes, volunteers and spectators at the events; and
- Volunteers and athletes must sign a Special Olympics COVID waiver for the events.

[Contact Mike B.](#) for more information or to volunteer.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for over 65 Years!

Visit us at [www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)  
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



*From President Tom Bauer*

*Greetings fellow Optimists!*

I'm so pleased that our meeting on the 19th featuring my pickleball playing friend, **Raouf Youssef**, was so well attended and enjoyed by those in attendance. We will be giving Raouf a framed copy of our creed as a thank you. I also want to congratulate **our newest member, Dan Woltman** who was inducted at that meeting. We look forward to all the contributions I know you will be making, Dan. In addition, we now have four more potential new members who are in the various stages of the application and voting process. It's so exciting to see so many new folks interested in becoming a member of our club. Many have come to us through our involvement with the Farmer's Market and tree lot and some have come from recommendations from existing members. We should all pat ourselves on the back for representing our club so well.

We need a **nominating committee!** Our by-laws require that we appoint a committee of five members to nominate our new slate of officers for the 2022-2023 year. Please let Susan or me know if you would be willing to serve on this important committee. We need to find my replacement as well as someone willing to serve as secretary.



The final tally is in for our **Christmas tree fundraiser with net proceeds coming in at \$36,242.** Not bad for about two weeks worth of work. Thank you, again, to all who helped make this possible.

Our next meeting will be the Essay Contest on February 16th at the usual 7:30 time. **Michele** will be conducting this meeting along with Mike, of course, since Susan and I will be out of town for the week. Please plan on attending if possible, to support the kids who have put so much effort into this contest.

Oh yes, don't forget that **February 3rd is International Optimist Day.** This is the day to wear something (name badge, hat, shirt, etc.) to let people know that you are an Optimist and remember to give everyone you meet a smile.

*Optimistically,  
Tom*



## An Urgent Request from the Youth Programs Team

We need *\*your\** help with our Youth programs!! Two of our hallmark contests need new coordinators.

The **Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)** is usually held in January, but was canceled the past two years due to COVID. Our former contest chair, Rob DiRocco, moved to Japan. We need someone to fill this empty slot. Rob is available to assist in the transition via email.

Dan Irvine, **Essay Contest** chair, is looking to turn the reins of this program over to someone after serving for the past several years. The process is well documented, and Dan is available for consultation.

Both of these programs give young people the opportunity to develop communication skills that are essential to success in life. As a benefit to our Club, they introduce us to our community at large and have been a rewarding recruitment tool! (Both Mike F. and Rob were introduced to our Club by having a child participate in one of our programs.)

Serving as a program chair is a chance for you to see the event through from beginning to end, with lots of advance notice of dates and deadlines. No wheels need to be re-invented; OI and our Club have the roadmaps (or GPS points) already laid out for these contests. Plus, you get to know and collaborate with some of our great education partners!

Please consider these two opportunities to serve the youth of our community. **Contact Mike Fitzella** if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer.



Just one of our proud CCDHH winners who went on to success at the District competition!

*"Both of these programs give young people the opportunity to develop communication skills that are essential to success in life."*

FEBRUARY

| MON  | TUE   | WED  | THU  | FRI   | SAT   | SUN   |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|  | <b>1</b><br>Read for JOL -<br><u>Reading Month</u>          | <b>2</b><br>Motivate<br>someone else                               | <b>3</b><br><u>Optimist Day.</u><br>Visit<br><u>Optimist.org</u> | <b>4</b><br>Forgive the<br>actions of<br>another            | <b>5</b><br>Focus on a<br>positive thought          | <b>6</b><br>Weekly<br>Positive<br>Journal             |
| <b>7</b><br>Send a<br>card to a<br>Friend Day                        | <b>8</b><br>Thank someone                                   | <b>9</b><br>Make a list of<br>things that<br>inspire you           | <b>10</b><br>National Giving<br>Hearts Day                       | <b>11</b><br>Surround<br>yourself with<br>positivity        | <b>12</b><br>Help<br>someone<br>else with a<br>task | <b>13</b><br>Focus on a<br>solution not<br>a problem  |
| <b>14</b><br>Give a<br>stranger a<br>Valentine                       | <b>15</b><br>Read<br>something<br>motivational              | <b>16</b><br>Make an<br>Optimistic<br>playlist                     | <b>17</b><br>Random<br>Acts of<br>Kindness<br>Day                | <b>18</b><br>Share a<br>positive<br>message to<br>others    | <b>19</b><br>Learn<br>something<br>new              | <b>20</b><br>Laugh for 30<br>seconds for<br>no reason |
| <b>21</b><br>Listen to<br>someone else<br>without giving<br>feedback | <b>22</b><br>Be a positive<br>role model to<br>someone else | <b>23</b><br>Think of<br>something that<br>brings you<br>happiness | <b>24</b><br>Make a list of<br>things to<br>celebrate            | <b>25</b><br>Read an<br>inspirational<br>book or<br>article | <b>26</b><br>Compliment<br>yourself on<br>something | <b>27</b><br>Let go of a<br>mistake                   |
| <b>28</b><br>Read the<br>Optimist<br>Creed                           |   |  |  |   |   |   |

3RD  
2022

SHOP FOR OPTIMIST DAY:  
United States and the Caribbean:  
Shumsky  
[www.OptimistStuff.com](http://www.OptimistStuff.com)

Canada:  
Ansell's Awards and Specialties  
[www.optimistsupply.ca](http://www.optimistsupply.ca)

Optimist  
INTERNATIONAL

**OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA**  
Board of Directors 2021-22

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| President                                   | Tom Bauer                  |
| Secretary                                   | <i>Acting: Susan Bauer</i> |
| Treasurer                                   | Michele Wright             |
| Immediate Past President                    | Tom Bauer                  |
| President Elect                             | <i>vacant</i>              |
| Vice President of Community                 | Christina Jackson          |
| Vice President of Finance                   | <i>vacant</i>              |
| Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster | Gary Moonan                |
| Vice President of Membership                | Fritz Irwin                |
| Vice President of Youth                     | Mike Fitzella              |
| Director of Print/Social Media              | Karen Yoon                 |
| Director of Membership                      | JonMarc Buffa              |
| Director of Youth                           | Ed Wonder                  |
| Director at Large                           | Steve Shannon              |

*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*