



# Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

January 2023

## Calendar

### Jan. 11

Board meeting  
7:30 p.m.

### Jan. 22

Communications  
Contest for the Deaf  
and Hard of Hearing  
(CCDHH)

Vienna Community  
Center  
3 p.m.

### January 24

National Compliment  
Day

Have something  
nice to say about  
someone?

Let them know --  
sharing a genuine  
compliment benefits  
giver and receiver,  
lifting the spirits of  
both. The joy and  
calm it might trigger  
can be contagious --  
and you just might  
start a happy wave  
of events.

## News and Notes



How lucky were we to have our own version of holiday elves helping out at the tree lot -- disguised as our wonderful JOI Club volunteers. Volunteering makes you happy!

Photo credit: Michele Wright

*Happy New Year to you all* -- may you be safe, happy, healthy, and well in 2023! Thanks to our successful ongoing Farmers Market and Tree Sale fundraisers, we are back in business this month of encouraging and supporting local youth. In fact, on Sunday, January 22, six students from Canterbury Woods Elementary School will compete in our annual Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) at 3 p.m. in the community room of the Vienna Community Center. Each student will give a short speech based on the theme "Discovering the Optimism within Me". The top three communicators win medals says **Mike Fitzella**, VP of Youth. **Mike** encourages you to please RSVP "yes" or "no" to this inspirational event when you receive the email invitation, to ensure an accurate count.

Meanwhile, while we're busy recognizing children with awards and scholarships for their abilities, they're helping us right back. JOI Club members and students from George C. Marshall and James Madison High Schools; Flint Hill Upper School; Louise Archer Elementary School; Thoreau and Kilmer Middle Schools; Boy Scout Troop 1539, and former Marshall now current NOVA student Aaron Feinberg volunteered at the tree lot, says **Ed Wonder**, director of youth.



Serving the youth of greater Vienna for  
more than 65 years!

Visit us:

[www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org) or  
[www.Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From President Tom Bauer

*Greetings Fellow Optimists!*

That was sure a cold Christmas day this year. I can't remember many that were that cold. Thank God we're not in Buffalo! We started off the month with our annual Holiday party at Westwood Country Club with 40 people in attendance. It was so nice to be together and especially nice to see folks that we haven't seen in a while. It seems that the Madrigals just keep getting better. They are really the highlight of the party. We also had a successful Christmas tree sale this year even though we weren't able to get the number of trees we planned for. Of course, we didn't make as much as usual but we are still in good shape to fund all of our programs for this coming year. I'll let you know exactly how much profit we made once we get a small discrepancy with our vendor cleared up. Thanks to all of you who participated in selling, tying, lifting and cashiering. Your efforts are much appreciated and make the whole process go smoothly. We will start off the new year with our CCDHH Oratorical contest which will be on Sunday, January 22nd at 3:00 pm at the Vienna Community center on the lower level. This is one program you don't want to miss! I think this is one of the most meaningful programs we conduct. Speaking of CCDHH, I saw Rob DiRocco in church on Christmas eve. He and Laurie are still in Japan for another two years and really enjoying the experience. He especially mentioned the safety and cleanliness of their community and the politeness of the Japanese people. Susan sent a sympathy card to Les Carl, former past president and longtime member for the passing of his wife, Jane. They had been happily married for 59 years. He wrote back immediately to thank us and let us know that Jane's services will be held April 20th at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St. in Fairfax. We could always count on Les to lend a hand with Christmas tree sales until he had to give that up to care of Jane.

Wishing each and every one a very happy and healthy new year.

*Optimistically,*  
*Tom*



Music teacher Claire Rowan led the talented James Madison High School Madrigals in song once again for our annual holiday party. Thank you, Michele Wright, for this great photo. Thank you, Claire Rowan and the Madrigals, for the wonderful performance.

**Board of Directors 2022-2023  
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary, Acting	Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
President Elect	HOW ABOUT YOU?
VP, Community	HOW ABOUT YOU?
VP, Media Relations/ Webmaster	Gary Moonan
VP, Membership	Fritz Irwin
VP, 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*

**What's new for Optimism International with President Robert McFadyen?**

In the fall issue of Optimism International, President Robert McFadyen writes about his vision for the organization. While membership has declined over the years (as with many other service groups) McFadyen says he is optimistic about OI maintaining its independence -- if we can garner more members to participate and join.

In the feature article introducing him as president, McFadyen cites the many benefits that optimism and volunteering bring, such as health, happiness, longevity, resilience, and success. Some new online benefits that OI is offering members include enhancing Club and Membership procedures; offering more relevant -- and now free -- content through the Optimist Institute (such as ways to grow through personal and leadership development tools, education, inspiration, and insight); marketing tools to help Clubs promote optimism; pursuit of alternate revenue sources that promote optimism beyond our current branded logo inventory; and enhancing youth programs to include modernizing JOI programs and developing Social Emotional Learning content. Lifelong learning is linked to health and happiness, too.