

May 30, 2014

<http://www.oiarlington.org>

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

Upcoming Events

June

6/04: Whiz's Arlington

Scholarship Winners. Judged by Whiz Mountain's Scholarship committee from the outstanding seniors recommended by guidance counselors of Arlington high schools, these amazing young super-achievers will be presented with our annual Optimist Scholarship awards to go toward their college education. WGCC at 12:15.

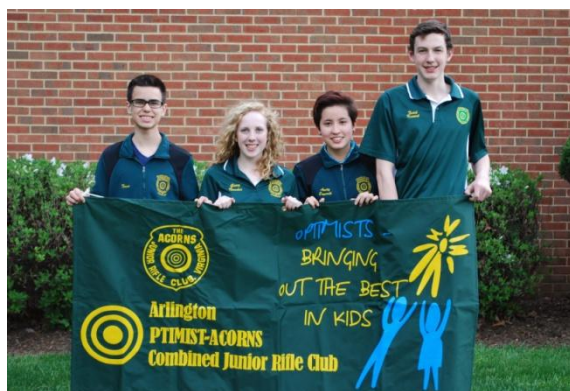
6/04: Better Sports Club Annual Banquet. Arlington Optimists are encouraged to attend. Knights of Columbus Hall. 6:00 PM reception, 7:00 dinner.

6/18: Investments as We Go Forward. Daniel Hickey of Blackrock Investments. Thank you, John Farina for inviting this speaker. In addition, the Club will vote on officers and new



May Highlights

5/04: Optimist Acorns Annual Banquet. The Optimist acorns Youth Rifle Club's annual banquet was highlighted by recognizing the four shooters who qualified for the National Junior Olympics held in Denver in April, which is open to all shooters in the country under 21 years old. Sophomore Ginny Thrasher won third in the Nation!



Left to right:: Jr. Olympians Tadek Kosmal, Ginny Thrasher, Amity Ermarth, Jarrett Lash

Board members for 2014-2015 (see Board's nominations, below). We also look forward to welcoming new member Steve Toth, a past-president of the Alexandria Sunshine Club, as a new member. Thank you, Trisha (again), for your successful recruiting! WGCC at 12:15.

July

7/02: Help! I Am Not Smart Enough to Work My Smart Phone and Other Digital Mysteries. Kyla Lupo, Tech Tutor. Thank you, Matt Kuhns, for this welcome speaker! WGCC at 12:15.

7/16: Secrecy and Intelligence. Dr. Gerald Haines, Chief Historian of the CIA during 1997. Thank you Brian Kellenberger for inviting this speaker! WGCC at 12:15.

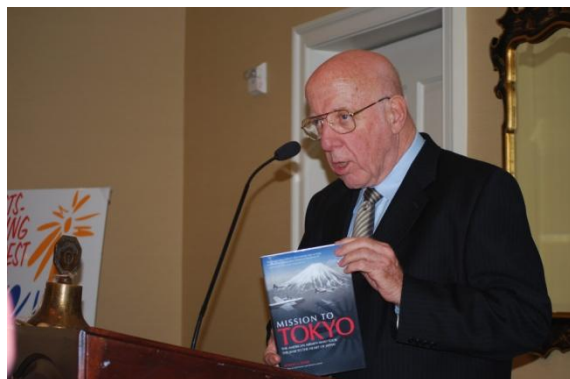
August

8/06: Coaches Night. Location TBA.

and Amity Ermarth (12) won 2nd place in the U-14 category!

Many Arlington Optimists attended the banquet, including our Acorn Coach Bill Terry, Acorn Liaison Stan Sitnik, Ned Thomas (father of Acorn Chrissy, now at Ohio State), Mark Whitenton, Tricia O'Hara, JB Whitlow, and Sue Gartner. (See photos and a full report in the attached Appendix).

5/07: Bombs Over Tokyo -- More Destructive than Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Retired Air Force veteran of the Korean War and prolific author of US military history, Robert F. Dorr, provided us with his conclusion and first-hand anecdotes about Gen. Curtis LeMay and others. Thank you, Matt Khuns, for inviting another exciting speaker!



Announcements

Nominations for the Club's 2014-2015 Officers and Board of Directors. The Board nominates the following candidates for your consideration:

Mark Whinton, President (automatic)
Brian Kellenberger, Past-President (automatic)
Matt Kuhns, President Elect
Larry Gaydos, Treasurer,
John Farina, Secretary
Sandy Buschue, Vice President,
Richard Knight, Vice President

New (2-yr) Board Members:
Greg Clough
John Karinshak
Linda Chandler

Board Members with One More Year (automatic):
Mark Zetlin
Ned Thomas
Bob Patton

These nominations will be voted on at the June 18 Luncheon.

Nominations from the floor are permitted, so long as the nominee has given his-her consent.

5/21: Oratorical Contest Winners: How My Passions Impact the World.

Richard Knight, our Oratorical Contest manager again this year, presented the Arlington finalists for the Optimist Oratorical Contest.



Richard Knight presenting the Oratorical Contest winners

Richard also reported on the Optimist results at the Zone contest in April, where our top boy and girl winners came in second to high school students from the Central Fairfax Optimist District. This year's Arlington Optimist Oratorical Contest winners are all in the 8th grade class at Swanson Intermediate School. The girl winners are: 1st- Gretchen James, 2nd- Catherine Baron, and 3rd- Shaina Brown. The boy winners

Yvonne Pover: We are all sad to learn of the passing of Yvonne Pover. Yvonne was an active member of the Arlington and Alexandria's business communities and generously donated her time to any number of nonprofit and service organizations. One entity dear to her heart was Tierras des Animales in Punta Cana, Mexico where she volunteered each year for a week helping with their rescue dog mission and assisting the staff with spaying and neutering rescued animals. She was a extraordinary mother and grandmother and a valuable asset to our Optimist Club. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. *Submitted by Barbara Nicastro.*

are: 1st- Conde Vela, 2nd- Kiron Devine, and 3rd- Sarkis Temartiroyan. (See individual photos of the winners in the Appendix at the end of this newsletter).



From left to right: Sarkis Temartiroyan, Kiron Devine, Conde Vela, Richard Knight, Gretchen James, Catherine Baron, and Shaina Brown.

Richard Knight also thanked the teachers who made this possible: Swanson Middle School: Kathryn Merlene, Leah McFarlane, Daphne Veale, Colleen Dykema (Hilt teacher), Karen Biggs-Leeds (Drama Coach), and Bridget Loft (Principal); and for Bishop O'Connell: Mary Lou Wentzel.

Arlington Optimist Club 16-005Mid-Atlantic Region 3
Capital- Virginia
District 16
Northern Virginia Zone 4
Arlington Optimist Club 005

Appendix

Report from the president of the Optimist Acorn Youth rifle Club, Chuck Miller:

RIFLE TEAM MEMBERS EXCEL AT NATIONAL JR. CHAMPIONSHIPS-- Four members of the rifle team recently traveled to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to compete in the women's and men's divisions of the National Jr. Olympic Rifle Championships. Sponsored by USA Shooting, potential competitors must first qualify, where only the best junior shooters in the nation are selected to attend this prestigious event. Ages range from 12-20, where competitors are classified by age group. Your Optimist club was represented by Ginny Thrasher, Amity Ermarth, Tadek Kosmal and Jarrett Lash. Also qualifying for a Junior Olympic slot in air rifle was Julie Bullock, in her senior year as an Optimist-Acorn. Julie was the number one qualifier in air rifle and earned the title of Virginia State Champion, but was unable to travel to Colorado due to a prior commitment.

Women's air rifle was the first event (April 16-17), where Ginny finished in 44th place (out of 110), followed by Amity in 95th. The women's

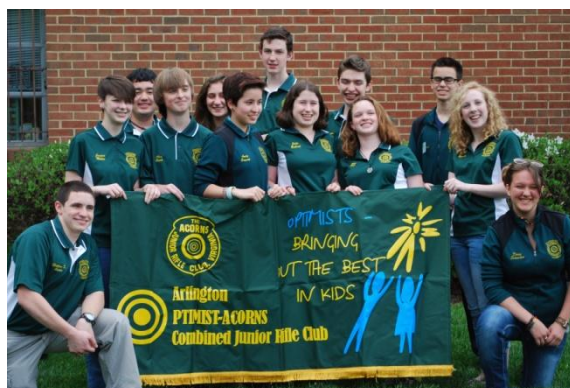


Optimist Acorns Head coach Bill Terry



Optimist Ned Thomas shares a moment with his daughter, ex- Acorn Chrissy Thomas.

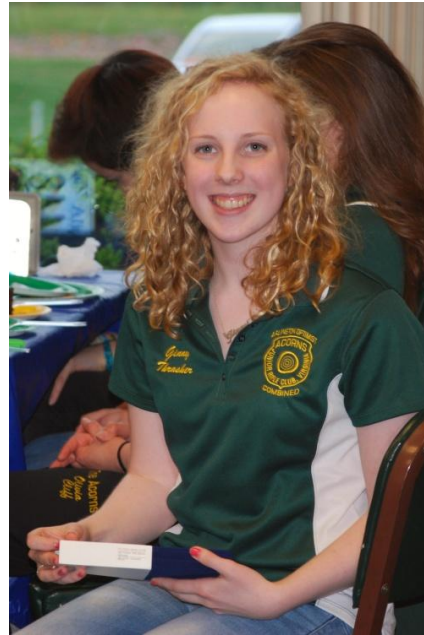
Optimist Acorn Junior Rifle Team 2013-2014



smallbore rifle event immediately followed (April 18-19), fired at a distance of 50 meters with a ten ring smaller than a dime. Ginny won a bronze medal for the overall championship - an amazing feat considering she outscored many older women- including college shooters- in the process. Amity - our youngest team member at age 12- won a silver medal in her age group (U-14), an awesome achievement since this was her first time making the trip to Colorado. Way to go Ginny and Amity!

The men's events were held from April 20-26, where Tadek and Jarrett finished in 90th and 96th place, respectively, in the air rifle event. Tadek was our only competitor to qualify for the men's smallbore rifle event, where he finished with a score of 2130/2400, a 5th place finish in the U-14 age category. Tadek and Jarrett were joined in Colorado by two former Optimist-Acorns, Daniel Cliff (North Carolina State University) and Andrew Miller (University of Kentucky), who each qualified in both events.

Of special note year is the young age of the team who competed in Colorado - three were under the age of 14 and two attended the match for the first time. Our thanks to the members and Board of the Arlington Optimist Club for helping support a successful rifle team!



Ginny Thrasher, Bronze, National Jr. Olympics



Amity Ermarth, Silver medal, National Jr. Olympics for U-14.

2014 Oratorical Contest Winners



Gretchen James, 1st Place, Girls



Conde Vela, 1st Place, Boys



Catherine Baron, 2nd Place, Girls



Kiron Devine, 2nd Place, Boys



Shaina Brown, 3rd Place, Girls



Sarkis Temartiroyan, 3rd Place, Boys

Optimists and Guests at May's Meet 'n' Greet

May 28, 2014 at Willow

Guests included Col. Shelly Bennett (far right) and Steve Toth (far left), invited by Trisha O'Hara; and Tina Leone and Samantha Baker from Ballston Business Improvement District (on the right, behind Col. Bennett), invited by Sue Garter.

