

February 27, 2015

www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

Upcoming Events

March

3/04: Helping Families of Seriously Ill Children Cope with Stress. Claudia Lewis, is Director of Community Relations and Media Contact for Ronald McDonald House in Greater Washington, D.C. Thank you, Jim Norris, for this very special speaker. WGCC at 12:15.

3/06: Hockey Match Between Yorktown & W-L. Our Club supports both teams and there are many



February

2/04: Kate Roche, President and CEO of Arlington Chamber of Commerce. Kate informed our Club about the Chamber's youth leadership programs and their many informational programs for non-profits.



fans, so come early to the Kettler Ice Rink in Ballston. Puck drops at 8:10 pm.

3/18: Essay Contest

Winners. Join us to hear the thoughts of our students on "Optimism Should Be Our Priority." Thank you, **Erica Burson**, for serving as Essay Contest Chairman for your 13th year! And thank you, **Tricia O'Hara** and **Brian Kellenberger**, for assisting Erica this year! WGCC at 12:15.

3/25: Meet and Greet.

Please stop by and bring a potential Optimist applicant! These monthly events have had a great track record of convincing interested people about the merits to join our Club. Willow from 5:30 to 7:00.

April

4/01: Stories From My Life.

Optimist's President-Elect, **Matt Kuhns**, has volunteered to be our Club's liaison with the Chamber for their many educational events for 501(c)(3) organizations. Thank you, **Brian Kellenberger**, for this speaker.

2/18: Arlington's Pro-Active Research to help Youth. Michael Swisher, Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families, an office in the Arlington County Government. Michael, see photo, below, gave our members an impressive review of the need for improving Arlington's youth "developmental assets." He included youth participation in sports



activities as highly important in developing youths' social competency and positive personal identity. Thank you, **Mark Whitenton**, for this speaker.

Brig. Gen. Jack Babcock, US Army (Retired), has had a bird's-eye view of many important events during the Eisenhower presidential years while he was a member of that Administration. General Babcock has joined us as guest at lunch several times, and the father of Dr. Alice Monet, now President of the Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium. Thank you, Sue Gartner, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

4/08: OAR's Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast. OAR assignees provided substantial help during the entire 2014 Christmas tree sales. Sheraton Pentagon City, Arlington, from 7:45 - 9:00 am.

4/15: The American Dream and Reverse Mortgages.

Also during this meeting, Sandy Bushue, our Christmas Tree Sales manager, delivered her report on this past year's Christmas tree sales. See her final report, below right.

Announcements

New Website Address: Please note our Club's new website address. It is www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org. Sorry it is long, but it tells it like it is and differentiates us from the Arlington, Texas club. Our Club's new email address is: info@optimistclubofarlingtonva.org.

Secretary: Erica Burson has agreed to serve as the Arlington Optimist Secretary for the remainder of John Farina's term, which expires on September 30. Thank you, John, for your service these past several years! And, thank you Erica, for taking on this additional role in our Club!

Scholarship Committee: Our historic chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Whiz Mountain, will be joined this year by Bill Swanson as his co-chair. Committee members for this year include Greg Clough, Brian Kellenberger, Erica Burson,

Reverse mortgage specialist Richard Wills and our own Conley Ricker will present a program on the advantages, disadvantages, and projected costs of taking on a reverse mortgage. Thank you, Conley. WGCC at 12:15.

4/22: Meet 'n' Greet.

Willow: 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

5/6: Carla de la Pava. Carla, Arlington County's new Treasurer (and successor to Optimist Frank O'Leary), will update us on Arlington's finances and the challenges of running for election. Thank you, Ann Vito, for inviting her. WGCC at 12:15.

Christmas Tree Sales

Final Report

At the last meeting, I provided the 2014 tree lot report. 2014 was another record year due to your support and hard work, bring in the largest net income

and Mark Whitenton. If you would like to join this committee, which will review prospective scholarship recipients, please email Whiz, Bill, and Mark.

Liaison with Arlington Chamber of Commerce: Our President-elect, Matt Kuhns, has volunteered to serve as our Club's liaison with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce in order to make sure that we are represented in the many programs the Arlington Chamber conducts for local non-profits and service organizations. If you are connected to the Arlington Chamber and would like to assist and support Matt's efforts to represent us at these Chamber activities, please contact Matt directly at matthewkuhns@gmail.com.

Essay Contest Winners have been Selected:

Our Essay Contest Committee Chair, Erica Burson, announces that the committee has made its selections for 2015. This year's Essay Contest winners are all from Bishop O'Connell: 1st Place is Caitlin Mea; 2nd Place is Madeline O'Brien; and 3rd Place is Katherine Katz. Congratulations to you all! Caitlin Mea's essay has been automatically forwarded to the District competition. Caitlin should hear back on the District

ever!! Congratulations to all!!

2015 proved to be our very best year in many, many ways! A huge "way to go" to the tree lot committee. These folks made it happen:

Lot Captains:
Brian Kellenberger
Mark Whitenton
John Farina
Bob Patton

Daily Lot Managers:
John Karinshak
Dick McHugh

Lot Set Up and Take Down and Other(!):
JB Whitlow

Volunteer Coordination:
Barbara Nicastro

Public Relations:
Tricia O'Hara

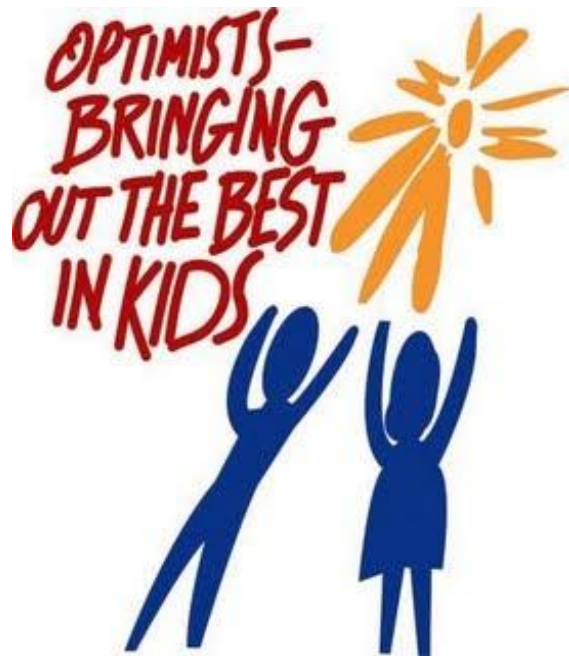
Phoenix House Volunteers and Arlington County permitting:
Richard Knight

Website and other assigned duties:
Greg Clough

Calling Committee:
Larry Gaydos

A big "shout out" to Curious Grape (Kip Byrne) for selling 70 WH ornaments and Principled Chiropractor (Dr. JB Whitlow) for selling 40 WH ornaments. The WH ornament project was a

results by April 30. Thank you Erica, Brian Kellenberger, and Tricia O'Hara, for evaluating this year's submissions.



tremendous effort and many thanks to JB and Kip! We purchased 300 ornaments and sold 293. This was another record. Thank you Dick McHugh for coordinating this successful project!!

Tree lot committee - you are all amazing!!!!!!! It is an honor and pleasure to work with all of you!

Optimistically yours,

Sandy Bushue

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

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