

April 30, 2016

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The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

Upcoming Events

May

5/04: Addressing Victim-Centered Problems in Public Schools. Gary Ricci, Restorative Justice Practitioner, Fairfax County Public Schools. Thank you, Gloria Mora, for inviting this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.

5/18: Performing in and Chronicling the History of "The President's Own." Our speaker will be Gunnery Sergeant Kira Wharton, Historian and Librarian of the United States Marine Band. She will be bringing a few of her fellow- band members to enliven our luncheon! Thank you, Matt Kuhns, for inviting this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.

5/25: Meet 'n' Greet. Please come out and join your



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April

4/02: District (State) Oratorical Contest. Our two finalists, Leah Hall and Patrick Roney (featured in the March newsletter) , won the Zone Contest on 3/12 and then competed with other District zone finalists in Richmond, where they excelled, but were not chosen. Thank you, Richard Knight , for attending, and for all your work to coordinate this vital Club function.

4/06: How Optimist Support for the Rifle Club is producing National Champions. Our speaker was ex-Olympian and Coach Thrine Kane, who explained the value of our support for the Optimist-Acorn Rifle Club. She noted that one of last year's Optimist-Acorn graduates, Ginny Thasher, (now shooting on a

colleagues at this month's Meet 'n' Greet. March's event was a blast, as seen in this picture by Peter Wehmann:



Standing from l to r: Mark Zetlin, Tricia O'Hara, Sandy Bushue, Leigh Hurley with guest Matthew Hurley, Richard Knight, Barbara Nicastro, Stephen Toth, Sue Gartner, and Peter Wehmann.
Sitting l to r: Sue Dickerson (guest of Stephen Toth) and Joanie Stewart (guest of Sue Dickerson).

June

6/01: How Do They Do It All?
Presenting the 2016 Optimist Club Scholarships to winning seniors at each of our four high schools. These young people boggle our minds with their superior high school records in academics, sports, and community service. Financial

scholarship to West Virginia University) shot so well this year that she won a place on the US Olympic Team competing in Brazil this summer.



Thrine Kane, here at last summer's Coaches Appreciation Banquet (7/15) with Optimist-Acorn Head Coach, Bill Terry.

Ginny is the youngest athlete in history to place on a US Olympic shooting team. Thank you, Mark Whitenton and Ned Thomas, for inviting Thrine, and thank you, Bill Terry, for your continuing work as head coach of the Optimist-Acorns!

need also is a factor in selecting these recipients. Thank you Matt Kuhns and Mark Whitenton for managing this inspiring program.

6/15: Speaker TBA.



Optimist President Matt Kuhns and Essay Chair Erica Burson congratulate the 2016 Essay Contest winners.



High school senior Ginny Thrasher receiving awards from Optimist-Acorn President Chuck Miller at their banquet May 3, 2015.

4/20: Essay Contest Winners. This year's three Arlington Optimist Essay Contest winners presented their exemplary essays on "Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction."



Essay Contest winners l to r: Claire Stemberger (3rd Place), Olivia Eichner (1st Place), and Grace DiLuigi (2nd Place).

All the winners are students from Bishop O'Connell. Olivia Eichner (1st

Arlington Optimist Club 16-005 Mid-Atlantic Region 3
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Place) and Claire Stemberger (3rd Place) are seniors --both have been accepted by the University of Virginia - while Grace DiLuigi (2nd Place) is just a freshman. Thank you, once again, Erica Burson (photo, above left), for managing our Essay Contest. Kudos!

4/27: Meet 'n' Greet. Il Forno. This event was again very successful, as indicated in the photo below. This monthly event is a great way to introduce potential new members to our Club. Thank you, Tricia O'Hara, for bringing two potential members:



L. to R.: Paul Wehmann, Stephen Toth, John Hilton (Tricia's guest), Tricia O'Hara, Mike Lane (Tricia's Guest), Sue Gartner, and Richard Knight.

