

April 30, 2018

www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

Upcoming

May

5/02: Oratorical Contest

Winners. Thank you, Richard Knight, for chairing this critical Optimist function again this year. WGCC: 12:15.

5/16: How Arlington's Fire Department is Protecting Us the Community. Thank you, Carla de la Pava, for inviting Fire Chief James Bonzano to speak to us. Also, the Club will vote on the officers and Board members for 2018-2019. See the slate recommended by the Board, below. WGCC at 12:15.

Notice of Elections

At the May 16 Luncheon the



April

4/04: Optimist Essay Contest winners.

Thank you, Jeff Englander (with support from long-time Essay Contest manager, Erica Burson). This year, the winners were all from Bishop O'Connell High School . Photo by Clayton Depue.



Jeff Englander; Kyleigh Fiel (first place); Kiaris Alvarado Rojas (second place); Mary Lou Wentzel (Bishop O'Connell HS representative); and Malia Stephens (third place).

Club membership will be asked to vote on officers and Board members for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which begins October 1. The current Board recommends the following slate of candidates, selected by the Nominating Committee chaired by Past President Mark Zetlin.

Officers:

- President - Mark Whitenton (automatic)
- **President Elect - Pending**
- Past President - Clayton Depue (automatic)
- **Vice President - Sandy Bushue**
- **Vice President - Richard Knight**
- **Treasurer - Gerry Marosek**
- **Secretary - Erica Burson**

Directors with Terms ending October 1, 2019:

- Jeff Englander (automatic)
- Erin Mendenhall (automatic)
- Tricia O'Hara (automatic)

Directors with Terms ending October 1, 2020:

4/05 -4/17: Oratorical Contests at Arlington Middle Schools. Richard Knight managed this most fundamental Optimist program again this year, holding primary contests at Bishop O'Connell and Swanson, and a final at Swanson Middle School on 4/17. Below is a photo provided by Richard of the overwhelming turnout of Swanson students for the contest:



Richard submits the following report:

The finalists of the boys and girls oratorical contests and their scholarship awards are:

Boys:

- 1. Guy SHOJI**
- 2. Will TORG**
- 3. Aidan McGOWAN**

Girls:

- 1. Alexandra FALL**
- 2. Karina LAZORCHAK**

- Brian Kellenberger
- Shandra Niswander
- Michal Stimek

A vote on the non-automatic positions of this slate (in bold, above) will occur at the May 16 luncheon. Nominations for any of these eight positions may be made from the floor, so long as the nominee has agreed to serve.

5/23: Meet 'n' Greet. Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax Dr. 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

June

6/06: Ending Homelessness in Arlington. Scott Miller, Senior Director of Development at A-Span, will tell us what his organization is doing to help with this problem. Thank you, Leigh Hurley, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

6/20: Animal Welfare League of Arlington. Chief Toussaint and Samuel Wolbert will give

3. Sophia BAILEY

All finalists are from Swanson except for McGowan from Bishop O'Connell. The topic this year, "Where Are My Roots of Optimism," generated great interest with a banner turnout of contestants from Swanson, Kenmore, and Bishop O'Connell.

The Arlington Club winners were Guy Shoji and Alexandra Fall, both from Swanson, and who both participated in the Zone Contest.

Alexandra Fall was declared the winner of Zone girls contest. She will be in the District Contest this May 19th in Ashburn Virginia competing for the top award. Alexandra was most impressive at the Zone and also in the Arlington Club contest.

Thanks are due to the judges in the school contests: Peter Wehmann, Sue Gartner, Frank O'Leary, Bob Patton, Clayton Depue, and Margaret Depue. The final winners of the Arlington Club contest were selected by the judge panel headed by Tricia O'Hara as Chief Judge and with Clayton and Margaret Depue as judges.

4/18: Theo Stamos, Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington and Falls Church, gave us a substantive picture of what her office has been doing to prosecute offenders. She also shared her

us a status report on their activities. Thank you, Leigh Hurley for inviting them, and for working so hard to fill our speakers calendar so far in advance!

6/27: Meet 'n' Greet. Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax Dr., 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

July

7/04: July 4th Holiday. No luncheon.

7/18: Annual Coaches Appreciation Night. This year, new member Michal Stimek will head up this important dinner to thank the many coaches helping our Club support Arlington youth sports. Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax Dr., at 5:30 pm.

7/25: Meet 'n' Greet. This is the last one until September 26, so please come down and bring a prospective member!

perspective on the opioid epidemic and gang impacts on Arlington. Thank you Carla de la Pava for inviting her.



NEW MEMBER INDUCTED: Also at the 4/18 luncheon, President Clayton Depue formally inducted Robert Roundik as our newest Optimist member. Robert was sponsored by Erin Mendenhall, all pictured below.



4/21: Zone Oratorical Contest at the Fairfax Springfield Government Center. Richard Knight announced that the

4610 N. Fairfax Dr. 5:30 to 7:00, pm..

August

8/01: History of Alexandria County. Optimist Frank O'Leary will talk about Arlington when it was a rural part of Alexandria in the 1700 and 1800's. WGCC at 12:15.

8/15: No luncheon.

September

9/05: Respect for Law! This historic tribute to Arlington's law enforcement stand-outs returns this year thanks to the leadership of Shandra Niswander and veteran Jim Almand, WGCC at 12:15.

9/19: The Importance of Aerial Intelligence by CIA Historian Gerry Haines. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

9/21: Optimist Fall Gala!!

first-place Arlington contestants did admirably , with Alexandra Fall coming in first place for girls and Guy Shoji almost coming in first for the boys. We look forward to hearing their winning oratories next luncheon.

4/25: Meet 'n' Greet. The April event was another big success, with Tricia O'Hara submitting the following photo and captions:



First Row (L to R): Richard Knight, Sue Gartner, District Governor Donna Aker, Kelly Aker (Gov. Aker's guest), Tricia O'Hara, Erin Mendenhall, Peter Wehmann. **Second Row:** Robert Roundik, Danielle Grant (Robert's guest), Barbara Nicastro, Les Aker (Gov. Aker's guest). **Third Row:** Clayton Depue and Jeff Englander.

Reserve a place on your calendar for the annual Optimist gala, this year again at the WGCC! This year's theme is going to be a tribute to our founding members, including celebrating our longest members.

Accordingly, it is possibly going to be a 1950's theme and hopefully, black tie!

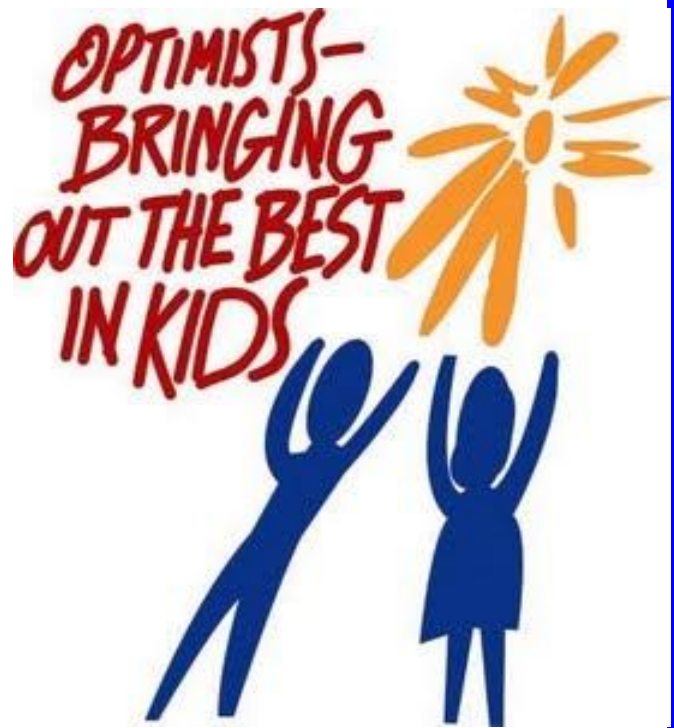
Thank you, Erin Mendenhall for developing and managing this highly-valued social event, which was revitalized last year by Mark Zetlin.

Please consider bringing couples that might want to join the Optimist Club! \$50 per person, \$100 per couple.

WGCC: 6:30 pm.

9/26: Meet 'n' Greet. Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax Dr. 5:30 to 7:00, pm.

Tricia adds that attendees not in the photo were Shelley Bennett, Sue Crow, Chanda Choun (Tricia's guest), Patty Gewartowski, Raoul Russell, and Maryna Mazur (Raoul's guest).



MW # 89

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

www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org

