

**February 28, 2018**

[www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org](http://www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org)

# The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

# Upcoming

## March

### 3/07: Helping Foster Children.

Ramon Montes, Founder of the Regratifying Foundation, "Happy Foster Kids," will inform us about what his foundation is doing to increase high school graduation and college enrollment of Arlington's foster kids. Thank you, Clayton Depue, for inviting him. WGCC 12:15.

### 3/21: Aerial observation as a vital tool in protecting our

Nation by Dr. Gerald Haines, former Chief Historian of the CIA. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. WGCC 12:15.

3/28: Meet 'n' Greet. Note the new venue and new time: Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax



## February

2/07: Interesting Facts About Arlington. Charlie Clark, life-time Arlington resident, columnist, and author, told us many interesting tales about Arlington history. Thank you, Mark Whitenton, for inviting Charlie.



Also during the luncheon, President Clayton inducted two new Friends of Optimists (FOO's), both sponsored by Erin Menenhall (photo below).

Drive, 5:30 to 7:00. These monthly social meetings have proven to be one of the best ways to recruit new members, so please join us and bring a colleague who is a potential Optimist. Thank you, Tricia O'Hara, for continuing to organize these important events.

## April

**4/04: Optimist Essay Contest winners.** Thank you, Jeff Englander (with the advice and support from long-time Essay Contest manager, Erica Burson). Jeff reports the results as follows: FIRST PLACE: Kyleigh Friel, Bishop O'Connell High School. SECOND PLACE: Kiaris Alvarado Rojas, Bishop O'Connell High School. THIRD PLACE: Malia Stephens, Bishop O'Connell High School. **WGCC at 12:15.**

**4/18: To be announced.**



Erin Mendenhall with Collin Brown (I) and Raoul Russell .

**2/21: "What Our Boys Faced on D-Day."** Historian Jim Lewis gave us a unique presentation on the Allies' critical landing against Rommel's Atlantic Wall, particularly Omaha Beach. Thank you, Mark Whitenton, for inviting Jim, photo below.



Also, President Clayton inducted a new active member, Michal Simek, who was sponsored by Peter Wehmann (on the

**4/25: Meet 'n' Greet.** Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax Dr. 5:30 to 7:00.

## **May**

**5/02: Oratorical Contest Winners.** Thank you, **Richard Knight**, for chairing this critical Optimist function again this year. WGCC: 12:15.

Richard informs us that the Club's contests all start at 7:00 pm at the following locations:

1. April 5. Kenmore Middle School at 7 PM
2. April 10 Bishop O'Connell.
3. April 12 Swanson Middle School.
4. April 17 Final Contest is at Swanson M. S.

NOTE: The Zone Contest is Sat. April 21st at 2PM at the Fairfax Springfield Govt Center.

**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

left), pictured below.



### **Larry Gaydos' last luncheon.**



Importantly, the highlight of this luncheon was to honor **Larry Gaydos**, who is retiring from the Club after being an Optimist for 22 years and serving as our Treasurer for the past 20! The event roughly coincides with Larry's birthday (exact number of candles needed for the cake, photo below, was not available).

Speak to us. WGCC at 12:15.

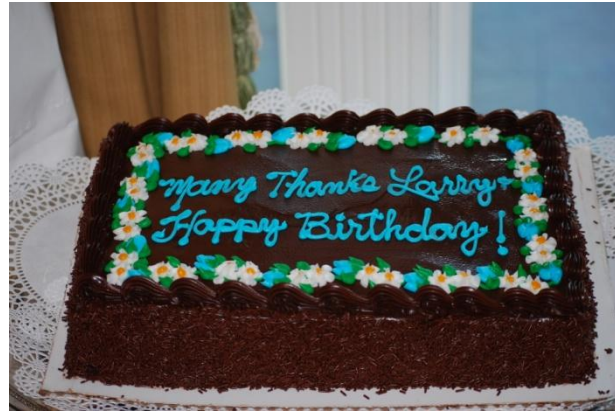
5/23: Meet 'n' Greet. Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax Dr. 5:30 to 7:00.

## 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.

## Board Changes

With the Board retirement of our long-time Treasurer Larry Gaydos and the reluctant resignation of current Board member Linda Chandler (who will move from Active member to FOO because she is now the president of the Arlington Kiwanis Club), the Optimist Board has the pleasure of



Larry's long-time friend, Conley Ricker, called in from Thailand to engage in a long conversation with Larry and the Club (assisted by the use of Barbara Nicastro's cell phone). Then, Sue Gartner gave a lovely tribute to Larry describing his enormous contributions to our Club over the many years of his service.



Clayton Depue announced that the Club's annual contribution to the Arlington Pediatric Center -- which was

announcing the following changes:

**Treasurer:** With the retirement of Larry Gaydos, current Board member Gerry Marosek has



agreed to serve as our Club Treasurer. Gerry is CFO of a real estate firm.

**Assistant Treasurer:** The Board approved a temporary position of "Assistant Treasurer" to help Gerry with the formidable tasks that Larry Gaydos has been doing for our Club for so many years. JB Whitlow, a three-time past president and successful chiropractor, has agreed to

always pressed for by Larry -- shall henceforth be named the "Larry Gaydos Arlington Pediatric Center Fund." Thank you, Clayton, for putting this all together, including making the banner (photo above) and arranging for the cake.

**2/28: Meet 'n' Greet.** The new venue, the Holiday Inn at 4610 N. Fairfax Dr., proved to be a big success, with no less than six guests! Photo below taken by Shelley Bennett and captions provided by Tricia O'Hara.



First Row Left to Right: J.C. Stamm (Erin Mendenhall's guest); Chanda Choun (Tricia O'Hara's guest); Rob Roudik (Erin Mendenhall's guest); Erin Mendenhall; Tricia O'Hara; Jay Rightmyer (Clayton Depue's guest); and Barbara Nicastro.

step up and help Gerry out in this temporary position with all



membership matters, including tracking attendance at luncheons and billings.

**Two vacant Board positions:**

Due to Gerry Marosek accepting the officers position of Treasurer and Linda Chandler's resignation, the Board approved the appointment of Erin Mendenhall and Jeff Englander (photos opposite) to fill those slots. Both of those Board positions will expire on September 2019.

Second Row Left to Right: Danielle Grant (Erin Mendenhall's guest), Sandy Bushue; Sue Crow; and Susan Good.

Third Row Left to Right: Raoul Russell; Clayton Depue; and Jeff Englander.

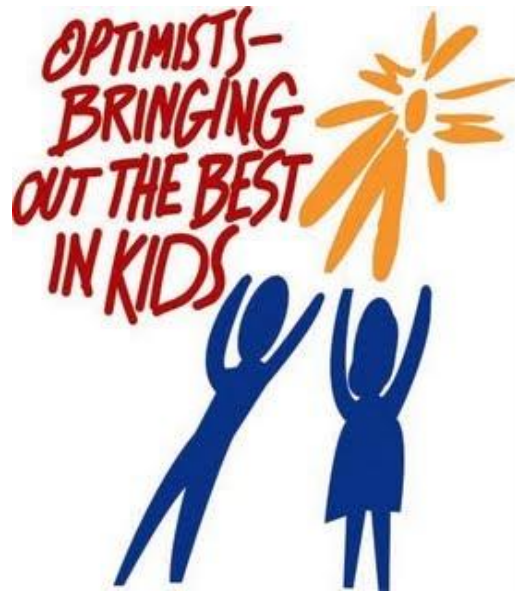
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**Erin Mendenhall**



**Jeff Englander**



**MW # 87**

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

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