

# The Optimist Monthly

## Friend of Youth



April  
2019

*All the news that fits, we print.*

### April 2019 Events

4/03: “Youth In Transition” Program by Andrew Schneider, Arlington Thrive Executive Director. Andrew told us about Thrive’s collaborative “Youth In Transition Program” with Doorways for Women and Families. Andrew explained that this program is similar to Arlington Thrive’s Daily Emergency Needs Assistance Fund in that the Youth in Transition Fund provides immediate emergency financial assistance to youth (ages 17-24) facing a short-term crisis. Thank you, Shandra Niswander for inviting Andrew to speak to us. (Photo provided by Shandra Niswander).



**4/017: Essay Contest Winners.** Thank you, Jeff Englander, for managing this core Optimist program for our Club again this year. Jeff thanked the Optimists who came forward to serve as judges for this year's essay contest entries: Sandy Bushue, Linda Chandler, Tricia O'Hara, Andreas Baltatzis, Greg Clough, and Erica Burson. The task of selecting the top three essays was a formidable one, since no less than 68 students submitted essays this year. Jeff noted that as a comparison, last year there were 23 submissions. All three winners are students at Bishop O'Connell. We were joined by the Head of Bishop O'Connell, Dr. Joseph Vorbach, as well as several family members of the winners.

Our 2018-19 first place winner is Thomas Dannenfelser (below left) , a senior at Bishop O'Connell who will be attending UVA in the Fall. Jeff announced that Thomas is in the running for the class valedictorian. The second place winner is Kyle Leverone of Bishop O'Connell (below, middle). The third place winner is Jennifer Gulley, also of Bishop O'Connell (below, right).



See group photo, next page.



**Jeff Englander, Thomas Dannenfels, Kyle Leverone, Jennifer Gulley, and Dr. Joseph Vorbach, Head of School.**

Also at the April 17 luncheon, we were pleased to induct **Debbie Whinton** as a Friend of Optimist. Debbie has been a valued worker at the Christmas Tree lot for the past four years and is currently working with **Gerry Marosek** on member billing matters. At left, **Mark Whinton** proudly inducts his wife. (Photo taken by **Richard Knight**).



**4/24: Meet & Greet.** This time hosted by Tricia O'Hara, the Optimist members welcomed three new guests! See photo below:



Sitting (l to r): Sue Crow, Elena Fomina Keith (guest of Tricia O'Hara), and Sue Gartner. Standing: Peter Wehmann, Mark Whitenton, Debbie Whitenton, Fatima Argun (guest of Peter Wehmann), Richard Knight, Chanda Choun, Clayton Depue, Barbara Nicastro, Jeff Englander, Tricia O'Hara, and John Nguyen (guest of Chanda Choun). Not included in this photo, but in attendance, is Sandy Bushue. (Photo by waiter).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **May**

**5/01: Oratorical Contest.** Again this year, Richard Knight has managed this vital Club program. This year Richard has provided for six winners because of a



change in O/I contest rules. Please note that also at this meeting we will vote on Mark Zetlin as President-Elect. See notice below. WGCC at 12:15.

5/15: Scholarship Winners. Please join us to celebrate our Club's 2019 scholarship winners from Arlington's three high schools and Bishop O'Connell. Thank you, Mark Whitenton, for managing this essential program again this year. WGCC at 12:15.

5/22: Meet & Greet. At the Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.

## June

6/05: Dr. Irma Becerra, President, Marymount University. WGCC at 12:15.

6/19: Paul Ferguson, ex-Arlington County Board member (1996-2007) and now Clerk of the Circuit Court of Arlington and Falls Church. WGCC at 12:15.

June 26: Meet and Greet. At the Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.

## Nominee for President-Elect



A few months after the Optimist Club voted on the 2018-2019 officers and Board members last summer, Leigh Hurley, who had been elected President-Elect, had to leave the Club because she and her husband moved to North Carolina. Clayton Depue, Past-President and this year's Chair of the Nominating Committee, has found (persuaded?) a terrific candidate, Mark Zetlin, to fill this position. Mark served as President of our Club for the 2016-2017 year and, among other achievements, re-introduced the long-forgotten Optimist Gala. Election of

Mark would automatically elevate him to the position of President for the 2019-

2020 year beginning this fall on October 1. The Board of Directors strongly endorses previous President, Mark Zetlin, to this position, and offers his nomination to the Arlington Optimist Club membership for a vote at our luncheon on May 1. If elected, Mark will automatically be confirmed as incoming President for the 2019-2020 slate of candidates who will take over on October 1.

## President's Column

I have completed the updates to the Optimist Club of Arlington's Membership Directory that Andreas Baltatzis prepared and circulated in late 2017. The delay in circulating an updated Directory has been due to uncertainties about who are still members, complicated by the December 31, 2017 departure of our beloved Larry Gaydos, who had been our Treasurer for over twenty years. With regular billings resumed for the First Quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year (starting October 1, 2018), it has become more clear which historical members are no longer continuing their memberships.

I will be sending all current members the revised Directory after our luncheon meeting on May 1. The personal information and comments that you provided to Andreas back in 2017 may not still be relevant today, so please contact me with your requested edits after you receive your Directory this week. I'll send another version of the Directory out in a few months.

Mark Whitenton



*mw: 100!!*

*Arlington Optimist Club 16-005 ;  
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