

# The Optimist Monthly

## Friend of Youth



February  
2019

### February 2019 Events

**2/06: How Arlington Police Department is working to keep schools safe: After a last minute cancellation, Shandra Niswander was able to arrange for Captain Vincent of the Arlington Police Department and Detective Kevin Treakle to inform us about the extensive**



measures the police department has been taking to make sure



that our students are safe in their schools.

Captain Vincent (right) noted the extensive training veteran police officers are being given before serving as SRO's - including how to take care of a shooter on their own without waiting for backup. Detective Treakle (left), who also was awarded by our Club this past September as part of our renewed annual

Respect for Law luncheon (also managed by Shandra Niswander), is a 21-year veteran of the Arlington Police Department who gave us a briefing on his ten years as an SRO.

**2/20: Meeting cancelled due to SNOW.** Our planned speaker, Paul Ferguson, Clerk of the Arlington Circuit Court, has agreed to speak to us on June 19. Again, thank you Shandra Niswander for finessing this cancellation and re-engaging Paul.

**2/27: Meet & Greet.** Again at the Westin Hotel, this second Meet & Greet for 2019 was well attended. Thank you, Shandra Niswander, for taking on who has volunteered to carry on the excellent job Tricia O'Hara has been doing.



Seated from l to r: Diane Andrews (accepted by not yet inducted), Tricia O'Hara, and Erin Mendenhall. Standing, from l to r: Ken Williams, Marty Williams (wife and guest of Ken), Mary Apostolico (also guest of Ken), Mowin Rodriguez (guest of Erin), Barbara Nicastro, Jeff Englander, Richard Knight, Robert Roudik, Sue Gartner, and Shandra Niswander. Not pictured is Sue Crow (guest of Tricia). (Photo by waiter).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **March**

**3/06: Dean M. Nidosik, JR., Booz Allen Hamilton, on "Embracing Change - Technology in the 21st Century. Gloria Mora, thank you for arranging this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.**

**3/20: Angelina M. Lopez, with Hillwood Mansion. Although Gloria Mora has handed the Speakers Committee chair to Shandra Niswander, Gloria continues to schedule interesting speakers for us. Thank you, Gloria. WGCC at 12:15.**

**3/27: Meet & Greet. At the Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.**

### **April**

**4/03: "Youth In Transition" Program (tentative) by Andrew Schneider, Arlington Thrive Executive Director and Caroline Jones, E.D., of Doorways for Women and Families. WGCC at 12:15.**

**4/017: Essay Contest Winners. Thank you, Jeff Englander, for managing this core Optimist program for our Club again this year [see his report, below]. WGCC at 12:15.**

**4/24: Meet & Greet. At the Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.**

### **May**

**5/01: Oratorical Contest. Again this year, Richard Knight has managed this vital AOC program. WGCC at 12:15.**

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

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

## **Essay Contest Report by Jeff Englander;**

I want to thank **Sandy Bushue**, **Linda Chandler**, **Tricia O'Hara**, **Andreas Baltatzis**, **Greg Clough**, and **Erica Burson** for reviewing and grading this year's essay contest entries. I greatly appreciate your support and efforts for our 68 participants this year. As a comparison, last year there were 23 participants. Our judges are outstanding!

Our 2018-19 winner is Thomas Dannenfelser, a senior at Bishop O'Connell who will be attending UVA in the Fall. When I met with Thomas today, he mentioned that he is in the running for the class valedictorian.

Our second place winner is Kyle Leverone of Bishop O'Connell.

The third place winner is Jennifer Gulley of Bishop O'Connell.

We have reserved the April 17th AOC luncheon for awarding the prizes to the winners. I hope all of you can attend to hear the winners share their essays with the AOC members.



**Jeff Englander**  
Chair, Essay Committee

## **The President's Column:**

**District Meeting:** On February 23rd, I attended the quarterly Optimist District (state) meeting in Fredericksburg. One of the incentives they reminded us of is Optimist International's 30/30 program. Any teacher or anyone under 30 years can join the Optimists for just \$30 for the first year. Of course, the catch is that they would have to pay full dues after the first year. Still, if anyone knows a

teacher or anyone who works with children in the school system that might be interested in joining our Club, please bring her/him to a Meet & Greet or a luncheon to help them meet us and appreciate all the great things we are doing for Arlington youth.

**Membership:** As we catch up on members' billing, we are continuing to correct our records. We now have 53 members, including our Friends of Optimists. That number includes our newest member, Diane Andrews, who is expected to be inducted at our March 6 luncheon. However, we still have two members who we have not yet confirmed. If you have any sway with either Frank Broome or Chris Cole, please encourage them to continue as members. Also, please join us at the March 6 luncheon to welcome Diane her to our Club.

With the Club' roster pretty much in hand, I've been able to update the AOC Membership Directory that was first compiled in 2017 by Andreas Baltatzis. A copy will be sent to all members shortly.

### **Behind the Scenes:**

- Richard Knight has prepared and filed the Youth Club's annual Business License.
- Treasurer Gerry Marosek continues to work with Robert Roudik, who has volunteered to produce a proper financial ledger for our Club.

**Mark Whitenton**



**MW # 99**  
**Arlington Optimist Club 16-005 ;**  
**Mid-Atlantic Region 3;**  
**Capital- Virginia District 16;**  
**Northern Virginia Zone 4**  
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