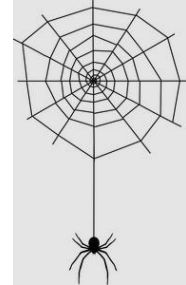


The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

October 2019



OCTOBER

10/2: Our speaker, Alexander Iams (Interim Director of Arlington Economic Development), gave us a briefing on the new Amazon headquarters in Crystal City. Alexander noted that with the vacancies caused by relocating 17,000 military personnel working in Crystal City, the vacancy rate increased to 20 percent by 2017. He said that Amazon will be gradually phasing up its employment over twelve years. Accordingly, the full complement of 25,000 new employees will not be finished until around 2030. He added that Arlington won Amazon's national competition for its new site against 238 competitors in 2017.



10/16: Our speaker was Scott Pedowitz, the Government Affairs Manager at the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. Scott spoke about the Chamber's work to



ensure a strong business environment in Arlington. He gave examples of how the Chamber engages on state and local issues, supports its members in their dealings with the government and rallies community support for good policy outcomes. (Photo by Shandra Niswander).

10/23: Meet & Greet resumed, at the newly remodeled bar in the Westin Arlington Gateway.



Attendees to our only Meet & Greet this fall are (l. to r.) Jeff Englander, Mark Zetlin, Sue Gartner, Barbara Nicastro, Sandy Bushue, Shandra Niswander, Robert Roudik, Debbie Whitenton, Richard Knight, and Mark Whitenton. Peter Wehmann had to leave before the photo was taken.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

11/06: The New China. Our speakers will be Mark and Debbie Whitenton, assisted by Dick McHugh. WGCC at 12:15.

11/20: The annual ISCC meeting: Please join us to show Optimists' support for our local Inter-service Club Council. There will be no extra charge for attending the luncheon, as the Optimist Club will make up the difference from the normal \$25 luncheon fee. Also, please thank Sandy Bushue for taking over our Club's liaison with the ISCC from Erica Burson. WGCC 11:30 to 1:00.

December

12/04: Our speaker will be Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Member. Thank you, Shandra Niswander, for inviting her. WGCC at 12:15.

12:11: The Annual Christmas Breakfast! Once again managed by Brian Kellenberger, this year will again feature Madrigals, public officials, and a keynote speaker in the very grand ballroom of WGCC. Note the time: 7:30 am to 9:00 am.

CHRISTMAS LOT UPDATE **by Sandy Bushue:**

Optimists,

Tree season will be here in less than four weeks! I will be sending out the tree lot schedule more frequently in the next few days. There are two calendars - lot work and cashier. Please sign up for one or the other by November 5. After that date, you will be assigned a date and time by yours truly. So, please signup before the 5th.

We need Optimist cashiers. Please focus, specifically, on the cashier calendar.

We have a new, nice chair for the cashier position and we will ensure to have a heating pad. It should be a warm and cushy job this year.

Kudos to Richard Knight who updated our liability insurance for the lot. He also recruited the Yorktown High School Crew Team to help with tree unloading.

Richard also interfaces with the County to get the lot's proper permits. Thank you, Richard, for all you do behind the scenes.

A big thank you to Frank O'Leary for contacting Arlington County Police Chief to get a Police cruiser on the lot to deter criminal activity. We have also hired security again for the lot.

JB will begin to set the lot up on Friday, November 22. Please come and help.

A big thank you to Zippy Shell Container who is donating a container for us to use!!!

Greg Clough quietly keeps our website up-to-date. If you need information about the tree lot, check out our website www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org.

Barbara Nicastro has been working hard on scheduling volunteers. Thank you Barbara. This is the first year in our history that we will not have an Optimist working directly on the lot handling trees.

Like last year, tree prices are up and there is a Christmas tree scarcity. It is not as severe as last year but supply is still low and demand remains high.

Let's go Optimists to make the 2019 tree lot a big success!!!!

Optimistically yours,

Sandy Bushue

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is getting to be that time of year! We will be in full swing with our fund raising activity Tree Lot sales.

Our biggest problem is manpower!

Why is that ..? We are down to 48 members and a lot of our members are getting older.

We need fresh blood bad! Not just for the Tree lot, but for the overall health of our club! We should all look at this next year as a full blown membership drive.

If every member will try to recruit at least one member we would be in great shape!

Lets break it down a little more. It might take 3 or 4 attempts at different prospects to get that one member. To quote a famous line from *Glengarry Glen Ross*, "Always be closing". That means keep telling friends and business associates about what we do and ask them to come to a luncheon! If you need some help once you get them there I will be happy to talk to them. Make sure you tell them the benefits about how rewarding the club can make them feel by doing volunteer work for the community!

Let them know about the fellowship we enjoy at the club! If a luncheon is not the right fit for the prospect invite them to a meet and greet! That is how I was approached.

If you want to talk about a strategy with a prospect don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can talk you through this.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season!
Warmest regards to all!

Mark Zetlin, President
Optimist year 2019-2020

Optimists Helping Boy Scouts

On October 12, Optimist Board member, Brian Kellenberger, who is a scoutmaster for local Boy Scout Troop 149, brought in Bill Terry to once again visit the troop at their annual "Guns and Arrows Campout" retreat in Pennsylvania and conduct their rifle safety and marksmanship class. For the seventh year in a row, Bill, a highly trained NRA rifle coach and head coach for the Arlington Optimist Junior Rifle Club, has volunteered to help Brian and the Scout troop. Kudos to you both.



Bill Terry and Brian Kellenberger (r.).



Bill teaching rifle class to the Boy Scouts.

New Optimist Board of Directors

Our 2019-2020 Officers and Directors started on October 1. Be sure to thank them for their commitment to serve our Club:

President: Mark Zetlin (automatic)

VP: Sandy Bushue

VP: Richard Knight

Treasurer: Gerry Marosek

Secretary: Shandra Niswander (new)

President-Elect: Jeff Englander (new)

Past President: Mark Whinton (automatic)

Senior Board members with one year left (2019-2020):

1. Michal Simek (automatic)
2. Brian Kellenberger (automatic)
3. Bob Patton (new -- was Shandra).

New Board members with two years (2019-2021):

1. Erin Mendenhall (since she only filled a partial term, replacing Gerry)
2. Erica Burson
3. Andreas Baltatzis



mw: 106

***Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005 ;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org***