

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

August 2020



August

August 1: Optimist Hockey Trophy Awarded W-L: Michal Simek attended the annual Yorktown v. W-L hockey game at the MedStar Capitals Iceplex. At the



event, Michal presented the Optimist Youth Hockey Arlington trophy. He said that he was allowed to hold it for the photo op, but due to Covid concerns was not able to stay for the game. This year, W-L won!

August 5: Essay Contest Winners: At the luncheon, President-Elect Jeff Englander, manager of this year's Essay Contest, brought two of the three Essay Contest winners to the luncheon to read their winning essays. The two winners who attended the luncheon were: 1) First Place (\$1,500 prize) winner Abigail L. Martinage, a senior then attending Washington-Liberty HS who will be attending Wellesley College this fall; and 2) Second Place (\$1,250 prize) winner Lucy Robinson, a senior then attending Washington-Liberty HS, who is going to Colby College (Maine) this fall. Due to COVID concerns, the Third Place (\$1,000 prize) winner, Camilla Regalia, also then a senior attending Washington-Liberty HS, has submitted a video of her reading her essay. Camilla will be attending Brown

University this fall. Videos of Abby and Camilla reading their essays have been submitted to Jeff and are in process of being uploaded to the Club's website at optimistclubofarlingtonva.org under "programs". See photo, below, of Jeff with Second Place winner, Lucy Robinson, at the luncheon.

As Jeff noted in his article printed in the Optimist newsletter of March 2020:

"This was a very interesting year for the essay contest as we had fewer entries compared to last year. However, the essays were truly exciting to read. We invited Arlington high school students from Washington-Liberty, Bishop O'Connell, Yorktown, HB Woodlawn, Wakefield and the Arlington Career Center to compose an 800 word essay with the topic "Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dream You Imagine?" We had some fabulous Optimist members step up and judge the entries. My sincere thanks are extended to Andreas Baltatzis, Clayton Depue, Gloria Mora and Linda Chandler for their work reading the essays and critically grading each entry."



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2: US Dependence on China for Generic Drugs. We are lucky to have Rosemary Gibson to inform us just how serious this dependency has become. Thank you, Sue Gartner for arranging for this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.

September 16: American Immigration Policies in the 20th Century by David North. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

September 23: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's BBQ from 5:30 to 7:00.

October 7: Arlington Legislative Matters by Delegate Patrick Hope. Thank you Frank for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

October 21: Arlington Historical Society. Cathy Hix was invited by Frank O'Leary. WGCC at 12:15.

October 28: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's BBQ from 5:30 to 7:00.

November 4: The World War I Memorial by Edwin Fountain. Thank you again, Frank, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

November 18: Aerial Observation in Military Intelligence by Dr. Gerald Haines. Thank you yet again, Frank, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

2020 Optimist Tree Lot Report by Sandy Bushue



Ho, Ho, Ho!

The Optimist Tree Lot Planning Committee met in July to discuss and prepare for the 2020 Tree Lot Season.

The Committee did discuss and debate whether or not to have tree sales this year because of the lingering COVID issues. All members agreed to proceed and to take protections and to implement processes as the guidelines dictate. We also checked with our sports teams to ensure that they were committed to supply man power. We've received two thumbs up so far.

Therefore, the Arlington Optimist Club will proceed with the 2020 Tree Lot with opening day beginning on Friday, November 27 at noon!

This is the first year where the Optimist membership cannot support 100 percent coverage of the lot with Optimist members. We also need a volunteer(s) to commit to being a daily volunteer lot manager. Below are the responsibilities. This position can be shared. If anyone knows someone who would like to help out, please let me know.

JB Whitlow has volunteered to handle White House ornaments this year. **Dick McHugh** has handled this task for years and I am certain he would be happy to tutor.

Jeff Englander stepped up to be a lot captain. Accordingly, the 2020 Tree Lot Captains are Jeff, **Brian Kellenberger**, **Andreas Baltatzis** and **Bob Patton**. Thanks guys!!

Barbara Nicastro is leading volunteers again this year. She is already getting things organized. Thank you Barbara!

Andreas Baltatzis agreed to handle contracting the security firm. Believe it or not, we have had major theft in past years. The last 2 years, we have had a security firm watch the trees for a few hours each night. It has made a difference. The Committee approved to hire the firm again.

I will be sending an email in a few weeks asking members to provide three dates and times to work the lot. Most Optimists will only be scheduled for two shifts. If you can do three or more, please let me know.

Tree Lot Daily Manager: First, a few points -

- 1) It needs to be one person or he/she can find a substitute, if needed;
- 2) Since the tasks are daily, we find that someone who is retired works best;
- 3) Tree season begins the Friday after Thanksgiving and ends around 12/20, if not earlier.

Responsible for opening and closing lot daily. Here are the hours:

M - TH - 2:00 to 8:00 pm
Friday - Noon to 8:00 pm
Sat - Sun - 9:00 to 8:00 pm

Duties include:

- 1) Ensuring at the beginning of the shift there is cash to handle cash transactions;
- 2) Turning on the power and getting the saws ready;
- 3) Welcoming volunteers and ensuring the Optimist or Optimist designee cashier arrives;
- 4) Ensuring lot is manned;
- 5) Working closely with weekly lot captain. Lot captain is to help troubleshoot and handle problems;
- 6) Training first cashier on credit card machine; and
- 7) Close lot - ensuring equipment being put back in POD, Locking POD, Turning off power and escorting cashier across the lot to Wells Fargo Bank to deposit cash in the night depository.

Sandy Bushue
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Optimist International Foundation seeks Contributions

A letter from Barbara Grizzard, DFR of CAPVA District: First and foremost I want to thank everyone for your support since 2015 as your Capital Virginia District Foundation Representative

(DFR) and especially this year. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve this Capital Va District.

We are nearing the end of this 2019-2020 Optimist year, However, this year is not over until September 30, 2020. Any amount you are able to give will still be greatly appreciated and will count for this years goal of "GO for the GOLD".

The future of our youth depends on all of us supporting the Foundation.

I know this year has been tough on all Optimist clubs and members since the second quarter. We all had to STOP!! meeting, holding fund raisers and supporting youth activities. However we have found ways to get back to doing some things even if it meant changes. Like ZOOM meetings and a virtual International Convention, which BTW was amazing.

OI Foundation President Bill Myers has a great article in the OI magazine on page 28. Please check it out. The foundation has managed to fund so much this year with your donations.

Your new DFR for 2020-2021 will be Skip Foy, member of the Lake Gaston O. C. He will do a great job and I will be right there cheering him on.

If you want to mail donations to me, to count for our last month of this 2019-2020 year, please keep in mind to mail checks to me no later than September 15th in order for me to forward them to OIF so they receive them by September 30, 2020 or you can mail direct to the foundation: see both addresses below.

Barbara Grizzard
DFR CAPVA 16
3102 Frederick Ave
Colonial Heights, VA. 23834 - or -

OI Foundation
P. O. Box 952126
St. Louis, MO. 63195

P. S. you can still go online to donate with a credit card or debit card:

info@oifoundation.org.



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