

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

January 2020



January

1/08: "It's OK to Eat Meat". Kay Johnson Smith, President & CEO of the Animal Agriculture Alliance, gave us a real appreciation for the challenges facing the livestock industry, particularly in the face of all the Global Warming hype. It was with some irony that Kay spoke to us in the private room at Texas Jack's BBQ, while standing in front of the restaurant's wall-sized mural of cattle. Thank you, Erica Burson, for inviting her to speak to us.



1/22: "Culpepper Garden, affordable Senior Housing". Our speaker was Linda Kelleher, Executive Director of Arlington retirement Housing Corporation. Linda



explained that she is excited to be overseeing the renovations and expansions of Arlington's premier affordable elder care facility. There are 340 apartments, offering both independent and assisted living. Thank you, Barbara Nicastro, for inviting her.

1/29 : Meet & Greet, Our monthly opportunity to socialize and introduce potential members resumed again at Texas Jack's BBQ. About 15 folks were in attendance, including two guests invited by Erin Mendenhall (see below) and one guest invited by Sandy Bushue, Ed Johnson. The appetizers were reported to be delicious! Every month through October (except August), a Meet & Greet will be held on the third Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00. Please use these opportunities to invite someone who might want to join our Club.



From l. to r.: Megan Caulfield (guest of Erin Mendenhall), Sue Gartner, Trisha O'Hara, Erin Mendenhall and her second guest, John Charles Stamm. (Photo provided by Erin).

UPCOMING EVENTS by Frank O'Leary

Frank O'Leary, with the assistance of other members, has taken over recruiting and scheduling speakers for our luncheons. (He welcomes your suggestions.) Here's the current planned program for February and March.

February

2/05: "China Medicine" by Rosemary Gibson, of the Hastings Center. In her latest book, Ms. Gibson explores the safety of low-cost Chinese medicines available over the Internet. (What price good health?) Ms. Gibson will have copies of her book available for sale at our luncheon. Thank you, **Sue Gartner**, for inviting her. WGCC at 12:15.

2/19: "Our Electoral Process" David Bell, Arlington's former Clerk of the Court, retiring from that office in 2005, has since served for more than twelve years on Arlington's Electoral Board. What is the Electoral Board and what are its responsibilities? How does the Board ensure that our elections are fair and honest? (Do you know that voting will be occurring in Arlington on March 3rd?). WGCC at 12:15.

2//26: Meet & Greet: Texas Jack's BBQ. From 5:30 to 7:00.

March

3/04: Lucy Bowen McCauley Dance Company. Since creating her dance company in 1996, Ms. McCauley has created over one hundred works ranging from lyrical ballets to highly physical contemporary pieces set to rock music. We are pleased to have Lucy Bowen McCauley herself to tell us about her terrific company. Thank you **Shandra Niswander**, for inviting her. WGCC at 12:15.

3/18: Richmond Review Arlington Delegate Hope (47th District) will report on this year's activities and new laws enacted in this year's session of the VA Legislature and how they impact Arlington. Delegate Hope chaired the legislative committee on Public Safety and faced many challenges (and exciting moments) in dealing with proposed laws affecting private ownership of guns. WGCC at 12:15.

3/25: Meet & Greet, Once again at Texas Jack's BBQ from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS LOT REPORT **by Sandy Bushue:**

Optimists,

The 2019 Arlington Optimist Tree Sales season was a huge success. The credit goes to each of you for your support and hard work.

We sold 2246 trees, 200 wreaths, 250 WH ornaments, 200 ropes of garland, 62 medium size stands and 2 large stands! What a busy tree lot!

The lot opened on Friday, November 29. On Monday December 16, there were only 15 trees left and all trees 2246 were sold by the 17th. If not for the rainy weekend, we probably would have sold out breaking a record.

We had terrific volunteers this year. Thank you, Barbara Nicastro. The lot was nicely constructed and the entire structure was taken down by JB Whitlow and crew before Christmas. Thank you JB!!! The lot captains were terrific - Greg Clough, Brian Kellenberger, Andreas Baltatzis and Bob Patton. The tree unloading "parties" were flawless - Volunteers and trucks on time! Thank you Richard Knight! Dick McHugh and Frank O'Leary made a mighty team. Frank did a great job in counting and managing the revenue; he is a "natural". Debbie Whinton helped Frank out inputting the credit card information when the credit card device broke down. Thank you Debbie. We had good publicity due to Tricia O'Hara's good work! Diane Andrews handled WH ornaments and did a very nice job. We appreciate your good work Diane. Our President, Mark Zetlin, supported the Committee with good ideas and instruction. Thank you Mark!!!

Another big thank you to Greg Clough who continually updated our FaceBook page and website. The website page received 31 phone calls and 158 hits during the tree season.

Betsy Cody, Collin Brown and Debbie and Mark Whinton worked the lot the most!! Collin Brown signed up for a double shift on a Saturday! A big thank you to Steve Bouchard who sent a couple of his guys to help JB. Thank you Steve. Your guys were terrific!

The biggest and busiest days were December 6, 7 and 8. The second weekend has consistently been our busiest. Thank you to those who signed up for that

weekend. Fridays are the busiest week day.

A big thank you for our perennial business and corporate sponsors:

Wells Fargo
Zippy Shell, Bill Shannon (Fairfax)
Better Lawn Services (Charlie Dirkens)
“Ethan” (equipment repair)

We would not have been so successful without our sports teams, other grantees and you. Although our Club is small, the Club’s perseverance, hard work, intellect and spirit are mighty! For 72 years, we have been selling trees at the corner of Lee Highway and Glebe Road. Thank you for your service and hard work in making the Arlington Optimist Club strong and relevant in Arlington County in supporting its Youth! Way to go Optimists!!!

Optimistically,

Sandy Bushue

President's Column by Mark Zetlin:

We had a record-breaking year of selling Christmas trees so that we will be able to donate an almost record amount for the benefit of the Youth of Arlington during 2020!

This comes from a lot of hard work by our members and our other volunteers, who were mostly from the organizations that we support!

I am sure in the future that we will continue to be very successful in selling trees, although we have a big problem. That problem is membership!

Our membership is dwindling! That means we have less manpower to staff the tree lot! It is also not healthy for the long-term survival of our club, which has a long history, dating back to the end of the 1940's.

It would be a shame if our club fails due to lack of membership!
We do great work in the community! It is up to everyone to think about recruiting new members. Tell everyone you know about our Mission, to support the Youth of Arlington!

Please invite someone to lunch or a Meet & Greet and let them have a look-see. You should take a handful of our brochures should the opportunity arises! Copies are available at any luncheon.

If you need some help, call or email me.

Have a great February!

Always be closing, as Alec Baldwin said in the movie Glen Gary Glen Ross.

Thanks,

Mark Zetlin

mw: 109

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

