

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

June 2020



Please Vote for Candidates for the 2020-2021 Board by email response to this newsletter. See story, page 4.

Optimist Club 2020 Oratorical Contest Winners

Our thanks to Richard Knight for heading this contest again this year, and to Tricia O'Hara for working with Richard to review the video presentations of 20 candidates. Once our regular luncheons are resumed, every effort will be made to have the recipients attend a luncheon to receive their awards in person.

Richard provides the following report:

Optimism reigned supreme for the 2020 Oratorical Contest in the Swanson Middle School. With no officially scheduled contest and complete uncertainty if a contest would occur, 38 students took the initiative to prepare their orations and to digitally video their speeches. The topic was “Just iMagine a World without Borders,” and the students made the most of it. The Swanson Middle School sponsors, teachers Kathryn Merlene, Leah Graham-McFarlane and Sarah Lyford, provided the venue for creating the 38 video presentations. They then compiled the 38 speeches into a You Tube channel for viewing, one after another. Trisha O’Hara again served as Chief Judge. After consultations, the sponsors reduced the final contestants from 38

to 20 orators. Trisha O'Hara and Richard Knight then listened to the 20 speeches and tallied up their points to determine the winners. Each contestant developed a unique theme in their speech.

The Winner is Ainsley Meck, age 14 in 6th grade, whose speech focused on "The Importance of Scientific Limitations. She concludes a world without boundaries would be perfect, but have hidden casualties, like everything else that is perfect.

The First Runner-up was Leonardo Fall, 14 years old in 6th grade, and he spoke to a world without any economic boundaries, where everyone could follow their goals without worrying about the lack of education or where their next meal would come from.

The Second Runner-up is Ananya Sinha, 14 years old in 6th grade, whose speech theme arose from "Overcoming my Own Expectations." She finds that a world without boundaries would relieve her from the boundary of her own expectations and every action would be genuine.

The Third Runner-up is Audrey Shiplett, 13 years old in 6th grade, whose speech spoke to "Consequences." She asks if you pick what you need to do over what you want to do; do you think about the consequences and rewards of each?

Abbey Welker, age 14 and in 6th grade, was the Fourth Runner-up. Her speech was about "The Limits That We Can Take." She addressed her female gender and the future of having no gender boundaries."

Unfortunately, no District (State) Contest is scheduled this year, so our two outstanding winners (usually two are allowed) will not be presenting at the District Contest. Perhaps the overriding theme this year is the Contestant's Optimism to have the confidence that their speeches were not prepared in vain. as our Arlington Optimist Club continues its unbroken tradition of sponsoring the Oratorical Contest.

Ainsley Meck, First Place



Leo Fall, First Runner-up



Ananya Sinha,
Second Runner-up



Audrey Shiplett
Third Runner-up



Abby Welker
Fourth Runner-up

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1: The luncheon has been cancelled.

July 15: WWI Memorial, by Edwin Fountain. Although the Washington Golf & Country Club is open for us, if too few members indicate they will attend, it will be cancelled. **PLEASE RSVP to debd509@aol.com if you are coming.** Thank you, **Frank O'Leary,** for arranging for Edwin to speak to us.

July 22: July Meet & Greet: is tentatively scheduled for Texas Jack's BBQ from 5:30 to 7:00 depending on interest. Ample notice will be provided by email.

Nominations for 2020-2021 Board

Fellow Optimists,

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce their slate of officers and Board members for the 2020-2021 Board. Thank you to this year's Nominating Committee, which consisted of the Chair (as Past-President) Mark Whitenton and Mark Zetlin, Jeff Englander, Sandy Bushue and Richard Knight.

President: Jeff Englander (automatic)

President-Elect: Brian Kellenberger (new)

Vice President: Sandy Bushue

Vice President: Richard Knight

Treasurer: Gerry Marosek

Secretary: Debbie Whitenton

Past-President: Mark Zetlin (automatic)

Board of Directors:

One Year Left:

Erin Mendenhall (automatic)

Erica Burson (automatic)

Andreas Baltatzis (automatic)

New Board Members with two-year terms: *

JB Whitlow

Mark Whitenton

* Note that the Board voted unanimously on June 3, 2020 to reduce the number of Directors in each new annual class to two (instead of three) starting on October 1, 2020.

Please Vote for Candidates for the 2020-2021 Board by email response to this newsletter. You may vote for or against the slate or for or against any single member up for election.

Meet & Greets Return!

June 24: The Meet & Greet returned to Texas Jack's BBQ in Arlington. Six intrepid members brought three guests. Lola Reinsch, always a terrific supporter of the Arlington Optimist Club, not only brought a guest, but contributed \$1,000 to the Club after the event. Thank you Lola!! See photo below, provided by Erin Mendenhall:



From left to right; Chanda Choun, Erin Mendenhall, Lola Reinsch, JB Whitlow, Mark Zetlin, and Jeff Englander. Having left before the photo was taken are Sandy Bushue, her guest Ed Johnson and Lola's guest, Lorraine Nordlinger.



mw: 114

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