

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

March 2020



RECENT EVENTS

February

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. Thank you, Frank O'Leary for inviting David. No photos were provided to the newsletter for this event.

2//26: Meet & Greet was held at Texas Jack's BBQ. No photo was provided.

March

3/04: Lucy Bowen McCauley Dance Company. Unfortunately, there was a scheduling mix-up and Ms. McCauley was able to attend. Instead, the members present at the luncheon engaged in social conversation.

3/18: Richmond Review by Arlington Delegate Patrick Hope (47th District) was POSTPONED. Thank you, Frank O'Leary for inviting the Delegate and working on an alternative date.

3/25: Meet & Greet, CANCELLED

UPCOMING EVENTS by Frank O'Leary

Notice: The Governor of Virginia has ordered the closing of many social establishments -- including the Washington Golf & Country Club -- until June 10, subject to revisions in the future. Accordingly, all of Frank O'Leary's great work to fill our upcoming luncheons with speakers has been preempted for the near term.

April

4/01: Aerial Observation in Military Intelligence by Dr. Gerald K. Haines, former Chief Historian for the CIA. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for working with Gerald to try to make this talk happen in the future.

4/15: Oratorical Contest winners. CANCELLED for 2020. Richard Knight who once again has been managing this fundamental Optimist program, regrettably reports that the Optimist International Oratorical Contest has been cancelled for this year. He adds that if the current restrictions are loosened after the school year, it may be possible to consider a plan to hold our own club contest. This may or may not be feasible; time will tell.

Richard also reports that the Arlington Better Sports Club has cancelled their marquis Sports Banquet [in which the Arlington Optimist Club has maintained a role] held annually in early June to honor high school all around athletes going to college, and it plans to consider some kind of recognition in its place, perhaps in January.

4/22: Meet & Greet: CANCELLED

May

5/06 AND 5:20 Luncheons are CANCELLED pending any changes announced by Governor Northam and the WGCC.

5:27: Meet & Greet: Emails will be sent to let you know if this meeting will also be cancelled.

President's Column by Mark Zetlin

Dear fellow Optimist!

These are very unusual times we are dealing with. I never remember this country dealing with a health crisis like the outbreak of the Coronavirus!

It is important to try to be safe and socially compliant. keep the six feet rule in place as well as avoid handshakes etc. In addition, please remember it is allergy season which might cloud who is actually sick with common allergies.

Also remember that our club had great success with our tree sales again this year, which supports our ability to give back to our local community. However, such successes require manpower to run the tree lot so we can raise this money for our youth!

Please remember to ask you friends and associates if they would like to attend one of our Optimist functions. These opportunities include either a luncheon or our Meet and Greet happy hour! Sadly we will not be having any Optimist functions until at least May. As soon as circumstances return to normal, we can reevaluate where we are!

Remember, you don't know if you don't ask. Ask your friends about attending one of our functions and tell them about the great work and fellowship that we have.

Thanks.

Essay Contest Update by Jeff Englander

The 2020 Optimist Contest is in the books!

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.

And the winners are (drum roll please):

First Place (\$1,500 prize) awarded to Abigail L. Martinage, a senior attending Washington-Liberty HS

Second Place (\$1,250 prize) awarded to Lucy Robinson, a senior attending Washington-Liberty HS

Third Place (\$1,000 prize) awarded to Camilla Regalia, a senior attending Washington-Liberty HS

Congratulations on the winners. Although we were scheduled to present the prizes and hear their essays at the May 6th luncheon, given Governor Northam's order and the closure of the Washington Golf & Country Club, we will reschedule the event for late June or July. Stay tuned!

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

(1) Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of the prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.

(2) When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.

(3) Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

(4) We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

(5) We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.

(6) On an old man's shirt was written a sentence, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember: Good friends are rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

Anonymous.



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