

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

February 2021



February

During February, our President, Jeff Englander, again had to cancel all Optimist planned events in order to be consistent with the restrictions the Virginia Governor put in place on December 10, which include prohibiting gatherings of more than ten people. The Governor's order did not only prohibit our two planned luncheons, but also our desire to restart our monthly Meet & Greets at Texas Jack's again this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

Our Governor has extended the indoor meeting limitation to 10 persons through March, although he is allowing outdoor meetings of 25 or less. Accordingly, the first March luncheon, March 3, has been CANCELLED. Stay tuned for whether arrangements can be made to hold the March 17 luncheon and/or the Meet and Greet on March 24.

President's Message by Jeff Englander

Fellow Optimists,

Despite everything going on around us, our club remains very active.

The big item to report is that the Board of Directors approved unanimously funding requests for Arlington Girls Softball Association, Youth

Ultimate League of Arlington (YULA) and Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball. However, the big news is with Babe Ruth baseball, where we not only funded their usual request to cover operations but also the Board agreed to fund their tee ball trial run. Their tee ball experiment will last a year and we are the only sponsors.

The next big item is our new membership program. We have nine people in our queue. Given that our by-laws require new member prospects to attend two events prior to joining has us in a bind. However, we will get these prospects through the process in April when we anticipate continuing our luncheons.

The Virginia Governor has extended his inside gatherings limitation to 10 for another 30 days, although outdoor groups can be up to 25. Hence, our luncheon on March 3rd has been cancelled. However, we are working on ideas to meet later in March while remaining compliant with the gathering regulations. Stay tuned to more information by email.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a very happy Spring Equinox (March 20th).

All the best of health and happiness to you and your family,

Jeff

Arlington Gazette Recognizes the Optimist Club

Thanks to the initiative of Tricia O'Hara, on January 26 the Arlington Board issued a proclamation establishing an annual Optimist Day in Arlington on the first Thursday in February each year and recognizing the Arlington Optimist Club for its contributions to the county. This proclamation was printed in last month's newsletter. Tricia also submitted a press release to the Sun Gazette, which printed a story on February 4 (see Appendix). Way to go, Tricia!



mw: 122
Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org

Appendix

Arlington County Board salutes Optimists

SUN GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS, February 4, 2021



Volunteers from Offender Aid & Restoration and Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic joined members of the Optimist Club of Arlington in unloading and setting up Christmas trees on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019.

Arlington County Board members on Jan. 26 formally designated Feb. 4 as “Optimist Day” in Arlington, saluting members of Optimist International at the local, national and international levels for their support of young people.

Optimist Day is celebrated throughout the world the first Thursday of every February to salute the 2,400 clubs and 70,000 members internationally. Collectively, the organization carries out more than 6,500 service projects that serve 6 million young people per year.

The Optimist Club of Arlington is perhaps best known for initiatives that include college scholarships, oratorical and essay contests, and support of youth-sports efforts.