

# The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

April 29, 2022



## April

**4/06: Hannah Dannenfelser, Community Engagement Director, Leadership Center for Excellence/Volunteer Arlington, gave us an inspirational and full of new**



**information about Volunteer Arlington and how Volunteer Arlington is a forum for connecting volunteers with organizations who are seeking volunteer opportunities. She described an organization very structured and active. The benefit to the OC is Volunteer Arlington may be a source of volunteers for various projects. Thank you, Richard Knight, for the summary, as well as the photos of this luncheon. Thank you, Erin Mendenhall, who invited her and introduced her. Additional**

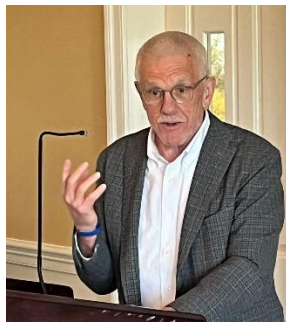
**guests in attendance were for Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball: Missy**



Heinzer and J.P. Cooney, President of BRB above, receiving the Optimist grant to their organization from Brian Kellenberger. In addition, Brian delivered the Optimist's 2022 grant to the Optimist-Acorn Rifle Club's Steve Tinter. As you may recall the Optimist Club has supported the Optimist-Acorn Rifle Club for many years. In 2016, a graduate of the Acorns, Ginny Thrasher, won the gold medal at the Rio Olympics for air rifle!!



**4/20: An update/introduction to the [IAEA](#) (International Atomic Energy Agency)**



by Dr. Andy Semmel, the US representative to the IAEA. Thank you, Clayton DePue for inviting him. See photo, left, by Mark Whitenton.

Also, the members present unanimously approved the slate of officers and directors for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, which begins on October 1, below:



From l to r: Mark Whitenton (Secretary); Directors Parker Rist, Shawn Harris, Mark Zetlin and Erica Burson; Andreas Batatzis (President); Brian Kellenberger (Past-President); Richard Knight (Vice President); Debbie Whitenton (President-Elect); Sandy Bushue (Vice President); and Gerry Marosek (Treasurer). Photo by JB Whitlow.

Finally, Brian Kellenberger presented the Optimist Club's 2022 grant to YULA (Youth Ultimate League of Arlington – frisbee league), represented by Kendra Rarden and Hamilton Humes.



**4/27: Meet & Greet:** Texas Jack's (2761 Washington Blvd) was held again this month. The usual gang was there, but we need more members to come to the event bringing prospective members!

## **May**

**5/04: Tina Leone-** Ballston Bid CEO. WGCC at 12:15.

**5/18: Jim Williams** as speaker. Jim, is a retired Foreign Service Officer who was stationed in Berlin when the wall came down. He belongs to a group who has periodic dinners known as the "Fall of the Wall." [Jim saw his daughter standing on top of the wall that night]. WGCC at 12:15.

**5/25: Meet & Greet:** Texas Jack's (2761 Washington Blvd) from 5:30 to 7:00. Again, Meet & Greets are the best way to introduce potential members to our Club!

## **June**

**6/01: Craig Syphax.** Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

## **President's Message**

Happy April!

It is such a great time of the year in Arlington. Everything is blooming and the weather is getting warmer.

One of our guest speakers, Charlie Clark, wrote about an article about the work Clayton Depue is doing to chronicle the Air Force Memorial and also mentioned the fact that Wells Fargo is not letting us use the lot. Here is the article: <https://www.fcnp.com/2022/04/15/our-man-in-arlington-471/>

I want to provide an update on the tree lot. Well, someone on the board of the Knights of Columbus who played Babe Ruth Baseball and worked the Optimist tree lot as a kid read this and said we have to help. He brought it to the board and they agreed to allow us to use their lot. Good news is that the lot is great, big, plenty of room and potentially some new clients. They have about 800 members. However, the lot is hidden from the road.

The other option is Overlee Pool parking lot. They have discussed it with their board. They had a few questions that we have answered and are just waiting for a final approval.

I think these are two good options and we will need to discuss and pick the best option. I was so impressed with the Knights willingness to help and partner with us, it made me feel good that there are still groups out there willing to help.

I also reached out to Matt de Ferranti on the Arlington County Board to see if we can use the lot at Quincy and 66 that they own and does not seem to be used. He is looking into it.

We have not yet given up on Wells Fargo. We are planning to have our sport clubs reach out to Wells Fargo with their dissatisfaction with their decision to boot us off the lot. More to come.

We had two representatives for YULA attend the last lunch and Arlington Babe Ruth and Acorns attended the first lunch to receive our donation for their work on the lot. They were so appreciative and said it is a great character builder for the kids that come out to help on the lot. All of our sport teams have really stepped up to help with the lot.

I hope you are enjoying the weather and look forward to seeing you soon!

Brian



mw: 135  
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