

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

July 31, 2022



July

7/06: Scott Miller- PathForward. Scott explained the extraordinary role the



PathForward organization has been doing for Arlington's homeless. Run with grants, contributions and volunteers, PathForward has reduced homelessness in Arlington by 64 percent since 2013. They also visit dozens of homeless who insist on living outdoors. Thank you, Sandy Bushue, for inviting him.

7/20: A Cordial Meeting at the WGCC: This "luncheon" was instead a cocktail event on the patio of the WGCC on a beautiful, if warm, evening. Cocktails, sliders and appetizers were plentifully available to the 20 members and about 15 guests in attendance. Photo below provided by Erin Mendenhall (after a few had left).



Cocktail Party photos by Mark Whitenton and Brian Kellenberger:



Jeff Englander & Mark Zetlin



Mark Whitenton, Peter Wehmann & Brian Kellenberger



Erin Mendenhall's guest, Sue Gartner, Erin, Tricia O'Hara & Debbie Whitenton



Brian Kellenberger & Steve Bouchard



Bob Patton, Richard Knight & Clayton Depue

August

8/03: TBA. WGCC at 12:15.

President's Message by Brian Kellenberger

Hello, fellow Optimists!

I hope everyone got a chance to see the great news clip that Jay Korff with WJLA News 7 did on the tree lot! If not here is the clip: [https://wjla.com/news/local/arlington-county-christmas-trees-sells-optimist-club-organization-parking-](https://wjla.com/news/local/arlington-county-christmas-trees-sells-optimist-club-organization-parking-lot-wells-fargo-bank-community-answers-location-donations-non-profit-education-college-scholarships)

[lot-wells-fargo-bank-community-answers-location-donations-non-profit-education-college-scholarships](https://wjla.com/news/local/arlington-county-christmas-trees-sells-optimist-club-organization-parking-lot-wells-fargo-bank-community-answers-location-donations-non-profit-education-college-scholarships)



Great spots by JB Whitlow, Frank O'Leary, Erica Burson, JP (President of ABR) and Mekyah Dunbar (past scholarship winner from Wakefield). I thought it was well done. Thank you to Mark Zetlin and his connection at WJLA and convincing them to do the story! Thanks to everyone who participated, especially Sandy for organizing the day Jay interviewed everyone. It was a group effort for sure.

Because of the news story, Sandy was contacted by the Larry O'Connor Morning Show on WMAL talk radio program. Sandy sounded great of course and had a great conversation about Wells Fargo and the tree lot. Larry O'Connor said to forget about Wells Fargo no matter what! And, he invited the audience to come forward and offer sites to sell our trees! Fun fact: Larry O'Connor was an Optimist Oratorical contest winner when he was in middle school and said that winning that was his start in doing what he does today! How about that! He said we can come back when we find a location closer to the season.

Ironically, how about the fact that JP was an Arlington Optimist Oratorical contest winner in middle school and also claims it was the start of his professional development.

We do such amazing things for the youth of Arlington and it is great to hear these stories. You all have a lot to be proud of being Optimists!!

Thank you to everyone that attended the Happy Hour last Thursday. That was the most Optimists I have seen together in a very long time! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to those that brought guests, especially Erin who had 7 guests!! We have had 2 new members join since then and they attended the Happy Hour. Please welcome Gavin Authier and Sydney Kellenberger to the club! They were voted in unanimously and will be inducted at a future meeting.

We will have a Board Meeting and Lunch on August 3rd, but no meeting August 17th. We will pick up again in September.

Thank you,
Brian

Please send in your summer photos for the August newsletter. Since we only have the one meeting in August, the August newsletter has traditionally been an opportunity for Optimist members to share photos of family having summer fun. Please send your photos to mark.whitenton@gmail.com.



mw: 138
Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org