

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

BRINGING OUT THE BEST



INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

December
2018

December 2018 Events

12/05: Janet Kopenhaver, founder of "Embracing Arlington Arts," explained her passion in organizing and providing a public forum for the Arlington arts. **Mark Zetlin** recommended her after throwing an event for her organization at his Mercedes-Benz dealership. Thank you, **Gloria Mora**, for inviting her.



12/12: Christmas Breakfast. Once again, **Brian Kellenberger** produced a superb annual event. Perhaps **Sandy Bushue** stated in her email to us all, " Brian Kellenberger pulled together another successful and wonderful Optimist Christmas breakfast. The music from the harpist, the W&L choir, the delicious breakfast and the beautiful decorations of the WGCC added to the celebration. This is one of our best events!!! Brian pulls this event off single handedly." **Tricia O'Hara** placed several stories on local papers. An especially good one is in **Inside Nova**, with fine quotes from both Sandy



and Brian. Read it at: http://www.insidenova.com/news/arlington/arlington-optimists-pause-to-salute-local-public-servants/article_e7815644-fec7-11e8-98b2-8f7fe44afb7a.html.

The guest speaker was Keith David Reeves, photo at right, who spoke to the inherent goodness of the human spirit and its desire to help those unfortunate and its ability to overcome evil. We were also treated by the Washington-Lee Madrigals singers, who put on an especially splendid recital, led by their director Theresa Severn. See photo, below:



For additional photos, see [Appendix 1](#) to this newsletter.

12/15: Last tree sold at the Christmas Tree Lot! A 1:00, [Clayton Depue](#) and [JB Whitlow](#) closed the lot when only a few four-foot trees remained unsold. [Gloria Mora](#) and [Steve Klintberg](#) were also there, supported by nine members of the Optimist-Acorns Junior Rifle Club and adults. Steve is standing next to the LAST TREE SOLD in photo at right! See [Sandy Bushue's](#) "Message from Santa" for a full report, below. Also, please take a look at [Appendix 2](#) for the photos sent in by fellow Optimists.



Upcoming Events

January

1/02: Advertising Day: At Tricia O'Hara's suggestion, this luncheon will revive the past traditional "Advertising Day" that the Optimist Club used to hold the first luncheon in January while the WGCC is closed for two weeks. Accordingly, our luncheon will be held at the Westin Hotel at 12:15.

1/16: "Women in the Arlington Fire Department": Anne Cormack Marsh, Battalion Chief, will speak on this topic. Thank you, Gloria Mora, for arranging for this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.

1/23: Meet 'n' Greet. The first one for 2019! Westin from 5:30-7:00.

February

2/06: Vanessa Kauffman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you, Gloria Mora, for arranging for this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.

2/20: Paul Ferguson, Clerk of the Arlington Circuit Court. Thank you, yet again, Gloria Mora, for arranging for this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.



Message from Santa: Sandy Bushue, Chair of the Christmas Tree

Committee, submits the following update:

Way to go Optimists!! We sold out of trees on December 15. I am confident this is the earliest date ever. I think the count of trees sold was around 2200 but will know more once I reconcile the shipping orders as we did not get all of our trees this year. The grower just could not fill the total order due to tree shortage. For many reasons, it was a stressful season for the Committee. We have been working together for 10 years. This season developed new challenges for us to conquer. And, I think the Committee did a marvelous job! Three cheers!!!

Would like to take the opportunity to introduce the committee:

First, I would like to recognize the lot captains - Greg Clough, Brian Kellenberger, Andreas Baltatzis and Bob Patton. Brian had the busiest week and Bob had no week. Although Bob helped close out the lot and notified Optimists of the need not to show up. All the captains helped with unloading and pulling together the pop-up lot. Thank you, guys. Your jobs are important and you did a great job!!

Clayton Depue led a mean team of cashiers. They were fabulous!!! When you are selling this many trees, it is imperative that we have people handling the money on the lot. Clayton, Dick McHugh, Gloria Mora and Frank O'Leary did a great job!!!! Tricia O'Hara also helped out.

Dick and Clayton also kept the lot supplied and organized and running throughout the three weeks. I know that they are relieved it is over!!! Thank you guys!!!

JB Whitlow challenges himself every year in making the lot infrastructure better. I thought the layout (which seemed bigger) was wonderful. I also liked the two cutting stations. They were certainly needed this year! JB was on the lot, daily, trouble shooting and taking care of the saws. At right, see the lot construction photo provided by JB of Greg Clough, Brian Kellenberger, and himself.



Speaking of saws..... “Ethan” has his own lawn service in the area. He also does other miscellaneous work. For the past 5 years, he keeps our saws sharpened and in working order.....Free. He is an “angel”!

Barbara Nicastro did not disappoint with volunteers. Yorktown Honor Society (a few shown at left in photo by Clayton Depue), our sports clubs and OAR were all there supporting our efforts. Thank you, Barbara!!!



Tricia's good work paid off with two articles in **No. VA Sun** and a article in **Arlington Now**. We paid for an ad in the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. I think all these efforts paid off. Thank you, Tricia.

Richard Knight, our in-house attorney and more, supports the lot in every way. He had a real challenge with this year's unloading. In the end, it worked out in a very inspiring way for all. He also interfaces with AC and our insurance needs. For these efforts, he deserves five stars!!

Many kudos to JB, Greg, Brian, Clayton and Frank for their work on the "pop-up", the satellite sales venue initiated this year in the Gold's Gym parking lot on December 5 and 7. I think it went well for the first time. We will build on the success we found this year.

Lastly, I would like to recognize you and say thank you. Working a tree lot is outside our normal work environment. Not many of us go to work in jeans, wool socks, insulated boots, work gloves, etc.; nor are we use to working in the elements of rain, snow, wind, or lifting nine-foot trees, wrangling a chain saw, and hoisting trees on top of cars. But, every year for 72 years, we Optimists have done it. We may not like it at first, but the tree lot is a good reminder how blessed we all are. It is also a good reminder of the beauty of nature and the delight it brings to us all. Again, thank you for supporting this important effort with your time and sweat.

Here is wishing you and yours a blessed Merry Christmas and a safe and optimistic new year!

Sandy Bushue

The President's Column:

Billing: On November 17, each Optimist was sent an individual email with their bill for the period April 1 through September 30. This serves as a reminder email asking for you who have not paid your past bills to send in your checks, payable to The Optimist Club of Arlington, P.O. Box 100224, Arlington, VA 22210-3224. For those whose payments have not been received by December 31st, the amount you owe will be added to your 1st Quarter bill (for October 1 through December 31), which will be emailed to you early January. If you prefer, you will be able to pay your bills by credit card at the January 2 and January 16 meetings.

In that connection, thanks to the efforts of Robert Roudik, Richard Knight, Erica Burson, Michal Simek, and the Christmas Breakfast team of Barbara Nicastro and Erin Mendenhall, we have records for all six meetings in the 1st Quarter. Accordingly, we will be able to send accurate bills this time to each member.

Vacant Positions:

- **President-Elect:** We are still seeking a dedicated Optimist to serve as President-Elect, a position that still remains open. Please consider whether you might want to take on this position and be next year's President, beginning October 1, 2019. If you are willing to serve, please send your interest to our Nomination Committee Chair, Clayton Depue.
- **Speaker Coordinator:** Gloria Mora, having filled our schedule for speakers all the way through the end of February, has decided that other Optimists need to step in going forward. We need a new chair and volunteers to contribute their contacts for possible future the slots.

- **Scholarship Committee Chair:** We also need someone to take on the position of Scholarship Chair --preferably, someone who has had children who have come through the Arlington school system and is willing to take this duty on for a few years. The annual scholarships to college-bound Arlington seniors has been a major function of the AOC for many years.

Please contact me by email (mark.whitenton@gmail.com) or by phone (703-795-8759) if you are interested in either of the above two positions. Remember, the strength of our club depends on contributions by all our members.

Budget: At its December 5 Board Meeting, the Board voted to make every effort this year to maintain the principle in our two savings accounts [the Youth Fund and the Operating Budget (the Operating Budget is a 501(c)(4) while the Youth Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable account)] by limiting the AOC's expenditures to its annual receipts with respect to each account. The Board further decided to investigate better financial opportunities to invest the principle in the two savings accounts to promote more annual income from each.

Mark Whitenton



MW # 97

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

Appendix 1: Christmas Breakfast Photos



Program photo by Erin Mendenhall.



Brian Kellenberger working the crowd.



Reception: Dick McHugh, Barbara Nicastro, and Erin Mendenhall.



Benediction by Capt. Alvaro Porras



Mitch Opalski, Theo Stamos & Carla de la Pava



John Vihstadt & Kathy Sibert of A-Span



Gerry Marosek and Al Pierce.



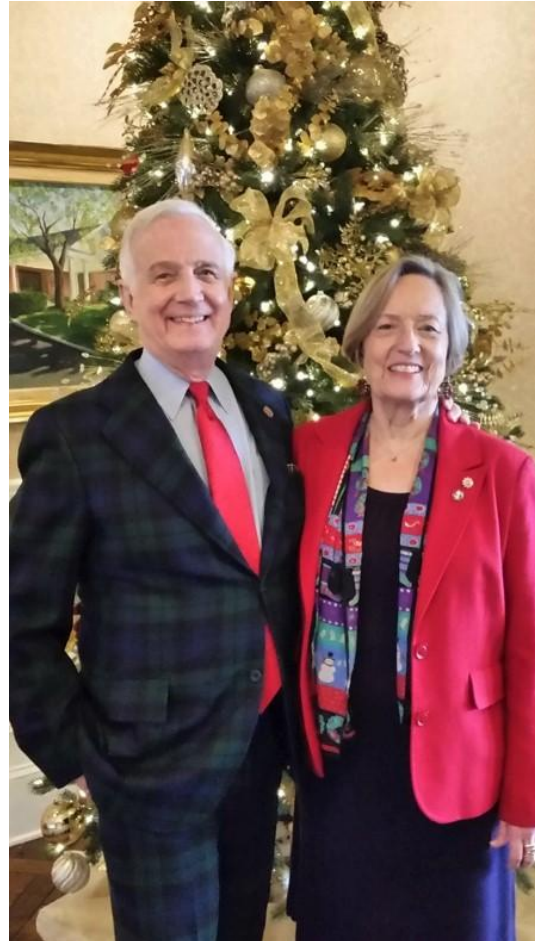
Dorothee Mulumba, winner of AOC's Oratorical Contest in 2013 and Essay Contest in 2014, with Peter Wehmann, and her mother, Marie-Josée Mulowayi.



Optimist group photo provided by Erin Mendenhall.



WGCC Christmas tree. [Photo by Erin Mendenhall].



**Peter Wehmann and Sue Gartner.
[Photo provided by Peter Wehmann].**



Greg Clough



Mark Zetlin and his assistant, Hailee.



JB Whitlow and his sister, Mary.



Debbie & Mark Whitenton. [Peter Wehmann].



Peggy and Gerry Williams.



Louise Rhoads and Conley Ricker.



Gloria Mora and keynote speaker, Keith Reeves.



Clayton Depue.

Appendix 2: Christmas Tree Lot Photos



Optimist's sign.



Tree cutting team. [Photo by Clayton Depue].



Lot workers on December 11, including W-L Hockey team. [Photo by Clayton Depue].



OAR heavy lifting. [Clayton Depue].



One of the last trees sold. [JB Whitlow].



On December 15, surrounding Gloria Mora (under the yellow hat) are the final crew of enthusiastic volunteers who have made the Christmas Tree lot so successful. This photo includes at least nine Optimist Acorn rifle team athletes and parents. [Photo by Thrine Kane, head coach for the Acorns].