

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth



May
2019

May 2019 Events -- A really big month for Youth!

5/01: Oratorical Contest. Again this year, Richard Knight has managed this vital Club program. This year Richard has provided for five winners because of a change in O/I contest rules. Ellie Chang, standing next to Richard in the photo below, was First Place winner and won one of the two spots in the Zone Oratorical Contest to compete in the District (State) Contest on May 4.



Photo above, from l to r and from 1st to 4th Place : Richard Knight, Ellie Chang, Rose Haron, Cassie Elsberg, and Grace Varrieur, all from Swanson. Caleb Finkel from Kenmore, Fifth Place winner, could not attend the luncheon.

Also at this meeting, Mark Zetlin was unanimously elected as President-Elect, replacing Leigh Hurley, who moved out of Virginia and had to resign from the Club last summer. Mark served as President of our Club for the 2016-2017 year and, among other achievements, re-introduced the long-forgotten Optimist Gala. He will automatically become President on October 1.

5/15: Scholarship Winners. The Arlington Optimist Club was pleased to present our 2019 college scholarship awards to deserving graduating seniors from each of Arlington's three public high schools and Bishop O'Connell.



From l to r: Mark Whitenton, Liliana Martinez (Yorktown), Renee Dixon (Bishop O'Connell), Grace Tayloe (W-L), and Anne Felipe (Wakefield).

Thank you, Mark Whitenton, for managing this essential program again this year.

5/15: Acorns Hold End-of-Year Dinner: The Optimist-Acorns Junior Rifle Club held their end-of year dinner and invited the members of the Arlington Optimist Club to join them and have a free lesson with the air rifle at the Isaac Walton Facility in Centreville. The Optimists present were Bill Terry, Thrine Kane, Stan Sitnik, Jeff Englander, Debbie Whitenton, and Mark Whitenton (who was coached by graduating senior Amy Kohan of Wakefield High School). Doug Lamb, President of the Optimist-Acorns, thanked the Optimists for their continuing support of the Acorns. He added that five of the 15-member team graduated this year. All are going on to colleges. He hopes to increase the number of team members this coming season. Doug provided us with the 2018-2019 Acorns official poster, which is included as Appendix 2, below.

Bill Terry, who has resumed his role as head coach of the Optimist-Acorns, provides this summary of the Rifle Club's participation in the National Jr. Olympics:

During April, five members of the AO Rifle Team (Acorns) attended the National Jr. Olympic Rifle Championships. Held at the prestigious Olympic Training Center, in Colorado Springs, participants must first qualify. This is a highly competitive process which began in December 2018, where less than 200 men and 200 women nationally made the cut. We are very proud of our athletes. This year's men's team was represented by Josh Hilbert and Ben Wolin. Representing our female team were Becca Lamb, Stephanie Rigidiano and Moira Antal. See photo, next page. Of note, Moira was our first team member to attend as an adaptive shooter, where she won two medals in her category. Thanks to your support as an Optimist, we were able to award travel scholarships to these five athletes at our May end-of-season party. During the summer the team will also attend more national-level championships, so stand by for another update this fall. On behalf of the Acorns, thank you so much for following us and supporting this amazing sport! See photo of the Junior Olympians, next page.



Optimist-Acorns National Jr. Olympic Rifle Championships members, l to r: Becca, Stephanie, Moira, Ben, Josh. Only one is graduating, and will be attending George Mason and will study computer science.

5/22: Meet & Greet. Shandra Niswander organized this month's Meet & Greet.



From l to r: Chanda Choun, Shandra Niswander, Sue Gartner, Jeff Englander, Robert Roudik, Peter Wehmann, and Jeffrey Nowak (guest of Jeff Englander).

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

6/05: Dr. Irma Becerra, President, Marymount University. Having Dr. Becerra speak to us is a significant achievement. Please use this opportunity to invite a guest, especially if it is a potential member! Also, please RSVP to **Shandra Niswander** if you are coming. Thank you, Shandra, for inviting her. WGCC at 12:15.

6/19: Paul Ferguson, ex-Arlington County Board member (1996-2007) and now Clerk of the Circuit Court of Arlington and Falls Church. Thank you, once again, **Shandra Niswander**, for arranging for this speaker. WGCC at 12:15.

6/26: Meet and Greet. At the Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.

July

NO Luncheons on July 3 or July 17.

7/24: Coaches Night: Michal Simek will be managing this annual event again this year. Location to be determined.

August

8/07: Luncheon- Jennifer Toussaint, Chief Animal Control Officer and Kat Williams, Director of Development Animal Welfare League of Arlington. WGCC at 12:15.

8/21: No Luncheon

September

9/4: To be determined. WGCC at 12:15.

9/18: Respect for Law Program: Again this year, this important tribute to Arlington law enforcement will be managed by Shandra Niswander. WGCC at 12:15.

9/25: Meet and Greets resume. Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.

President's Column

The Board met in a "Vision Meeting" on May 14 and made a number of decisions regarding the operation of our Club. See the details in Appendix 1, attached. Those decisions that require By-laws amendments are noted in the attachment and will require presentation to the members at a future luncheon for approval.

On May 3, I sent out the revised Optimist Club of Arlington's Membership Directory. Please note that this Directory is not to be publically shared, as it may contain confidential information regarding our members. Also, the personal information and comments that you provided to Andreas Baltatzis back in late 2017 may not still be relevant today, so please feel free to contact me with your requested edits. I'll send out an updated version of the Directory in a few months.

Mark Whitenton



mw: 101

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

Appendix 1. Vision Meeting Decisions by Board May 14, 2019

1. How to treat FOO's (requires By-laws amendments):

- a. Decision by Board to induct (and expel) FOO's is pursuant to the same processes as induction and expulsion of regular members.
- b. FOO's may not hold Club office or vote, same as rules for Reserve members.

2. Email Voting ; (Policy decision that does not requiring a By-laws change): There must be a majority of the Board and officers (officially 13) with affirmative votes to adopt motions by email. Email votes may not be used concerning expenditures of more that \$500 of new spending (for new programs or increases to currently funded programs).

3. Quorum for Board Meetings (requires By-laws amendment): Leave official quorum at five, but require at least five affirmative votes for adoption of motions. Policy decision made to require that a quorum must have a majority of the currently serving Board and officers.

4. Nominating Committee (requires By-laws amendment to): Still chaired by immediate Past-President (as provided in the current By-laws), but add that the committee must include the President-Elect, and the current President. If any of the three are not able to serve, then must add Sr. Vice President and then other Vice President. The Committee may add other Club members as they wish. All recommended nominees for the next year's slate must be approved by a majority of the Board and officers before the slate is presented to the Membership at a meeting. Nominees must be announced at two general meetings before the members may vote, except that having the slate published in the newsletter will suffice for one of those general meetings.

5. Membership Records (Policy decision): The President will assign someone to be responsible for the official membership list for the O/I official roster, billing, the Club Directory (and on the webpage, if that is agreed to), and the badge box.

6. Admission to Membership (requires By-laws amendment to Art. II, Sec. 1.c.): The Board will approve of all applicants for membership (including FOO's), without publication of the application in the newsletter (as required in the current By-laws) or a general membership vote.

7. Meet & Greet (requires By-laws amendment): Add that attendance at two Meet & Greet will satisfy the requirement that an applicant attend at least one regular meeting as a prerequisite for consideration for induction.

8. Tree lot contribution (Policy decision): Reaffirm that all members (including FOO's and Reserve) should contribute their time and energy to the tree lot sales to the extent they are able.

Appendix 2. The 2018-2019 Optimist-Acorns Jr. Rifle Club Official Poster.

