

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth



September
2019

SEPTEMBER

9/4: Our speaker was Frank J. DiStefano, author of a new book, The Next Realignment. This lawyer, political trend-follower, and now author was a terrific speaker. If you missed his talk, you might listen to a recorded version on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERp28MVL0LA>. Happily, he ran out of his books to sign at the luncheon. We owe a great thanks to Sue Gartner and Peter Wehmann for lining him up to speak to us.



Peter Wehmann and Frank DiStefano listen to senior Optimist Club member, Morty Zetlin



Frank DiStefano speaking

9/18: Respect for Law Program: Again this year, this important tribute to Arlington law enforcement was managed by **Shandra Niswander**. She comments on the following photos. Her full report (in the form of a press release) is included as Appendix I.



Above, Shandra presents the Law Enforcement Award to Detective Jacqueline “Jackie” Pagan. Detective Jacqueline “Jackie” Pagan was nominated by Chief Jay Farr who was in attendance to honor her. Detective Pagan established a legacy with all her efforts leading the AAA Safety Patrol Camps for the Arlington County Police Department since 2014. These yearly summer camps have been a great way for police officers and youth to engage and work towards becoming a School Safety Patrol. Thousands of youth have participated in these camps. Detective Pagan is winding down her almost 30-year career at Arlington County Police Department and will be retiring in January 2020.



Left, Judge George Varoutsos presents the award for "Distinguished and Dedicated Service Advancing the Respect for Law Objective of Optimist International" to Caitlin Tracy of Arlington Court Services. Supervisor Caitlin Tracy was awarded the Court Services Award and nominated by Earl Conklin, Director of Court Services Arlington County. The Honorable George D. Varoutsos was in attendance and made some brief remarks about her noteworthy contributions.

Right, Sheriff Beth Arthur looks on as Shandra presents the Law Enforcement Award to Captain James "Jay" Ternent . Captain Ternent was nominated by Sheriff Arthur, who gave an address to our Club following the award



presentations. During his 35 years, Captain Ternent has received many commendations, merit awards and Letters of Appreciation for his service. One commendation in particular, was for his exemplary leadership as the Shift Commander during the 1991 Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF) fire, where he worked diligently to ensure the safety of inmates and staff. He has a wealth of intuitional knowledge on corrections' law and is quick to voluntarily assist others. Captain Ternent is to be commended for his rich and extraordinary career.

During the luncheon, Richard Knight presented a nice thank you from the Board to Mark Whitenton for his service as President during this past year. (See Mark's "Farewell Address" below). *Photo below provided by Debbie Whitenton.*



9/26: Annual Thank You for the Coaches. Managed again by Michal Simek, this



year's thank you for the coaches of the Arlington teams that we support took place as a Happy Hour at Texas Jack's instead of a more formal dinner. The robust attendance is a tribute to Michal's desire to be more respectful of the coaches' time (many have children at home). He also gave the Arlington Soccer's appreciation for our donation.

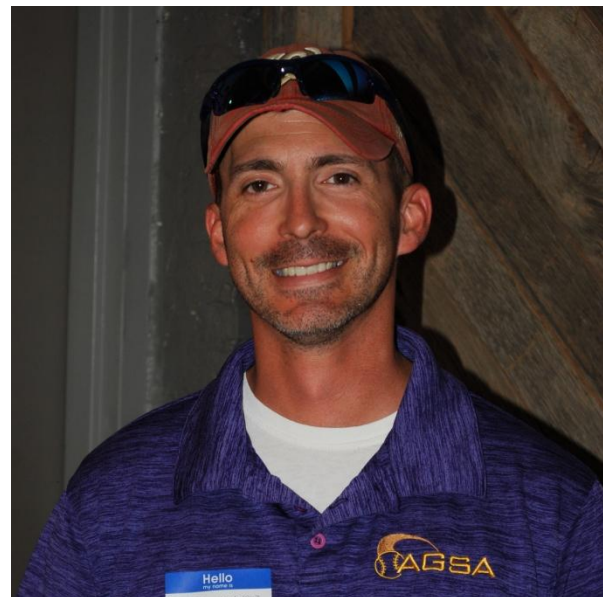
Michal (right) and Sandy Bushue both made it very clear to the coaches that the Optimist Club is using the profits from our annual tree lot sales to fund our donations to them -- and that our Club members are "getting older" and we need

maximum participation at the tree lot from the organizations to which we donate.

Arlington Hockey was represented by Steve Kresse (below left), who thanked our Club for helping with the ever-increasing cost of practice and game time on the ice. He said that approximately 100 Arlington athletes are now participating.



Babe Ruth Baseball was represented by Missy Heinzer (above right), who said that 1,300 Arlington youths are participating in this organization. She thanked us for our long-standing support.



Doug Lamb (above left) of the Optimist-Acorns Junior Rifle Club explained how valuable the OCA's donations are to assisting their athletes attend national

matches. He also added that the Acorns are increasing their team from 14 to 20 this year.

Chris Hernandez (previous page, right) of Arlington Girls Softball Association said that our first-time contribution to AGSA this year is being used to provide assistance to young girls who could not otherwise participate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

10/2: Our speaker is: Alexander Iams (Interim Director of Arlington Economic Development), speaking on the new Amazon headquarters. We will also welcome our 2019-2012 Board, headed by incoming President, Mark Zetlin. WGCC at 12:125.

10/16: Our speaker is to be announced. WGCC at 12:15.

10/23: Meet & Greet resume! This will be the only Meet & Greet until January 22, so use this opportunity to bring a potential member to meet your fellow Optimists. Pinzimini (in the Westin Arlington Gateway at 801 N. Glebe Road) from 5:30 to 7:00.

November

11/06: Our speaker is to be announced. WGCC at 12:15.

11/20: The annual ISCC meeting: Please join us to show Optimists' support for our local Inter-service Club Council. Please thank Sandy Bushue for taking over our Club's liaison with the ISCC from Erica Burson. WGCC 11:00 to 2:00.

December

12/04: Our speaker is to be announced. WGCC at 12:15.

12:11: The Annual Christmas Breakfast! Once again managed by **Brian Kellenberger**, this year will again feature Madrigals, public officials, and a keynote speaker in the very grand ballroom of WGCC. Note the time: 7:30 am to 9:00 am.

CHRISTMAS LOT UPDATE **by Sandy Bushue:**

The Tree Lot Committee had a planning lunch a few weeks ago. A big thank you to **Frank O'Leary** who has stepped up to be a lot manager this season along with **Dick McHugh**. And, **Diane Andrews**, one of our newest members, agreed to handle the WH ornament sells! Thank you Frank and Diane!!

This year we only have really three weeks to sell 2300 trees!!! And, we have less Optimists to work the lot!!! We will need to rely heavily on our sports teams and other volunteers.

Michal Simek organized a very successful "Coaches Night" this month and made a big pitch for the tree lot. The evening allowed a great opportunity to meet the coaches and to emphasize how much they are needed this year.

Richard Knight has been working on our insurance coverage to ensure the lot is properly covered. He has also been organizing the tree unloading activities. It looks like we will be unloading the two trucks on two different days. Presently, we are looking at unloading the trucks on Monday, November 25 and Tuesday, November 26 at 8:00 am for both days.

Another reminder that **JB Whitlow** will begin lot construction on Friday, November 22. More details will be available when the date nears.

The work schedule will be sent to all next week. Please let me know what dates and times you are available. This year we will have another schedule for

“cashier” opportunities. Please let Frank O’Leary know if you are interested.

I know - it is hard to believe that 2019 tree season is upon us!!!! Ho! Ho! Ho!!

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

I am proud to have been your president this past year (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019). This year has been unusually challenging, No one realized



the number of important duties Larry Gaydos, our Club Treasurer for twenty years, had been taking care of for the Club until he resigned from our Club effective December 31, 2017. Regular billing of our members ceased. Despite the best efforts of JB Whitlow in January, 2018, there was no accounting of billing and receipts for Club dues for the next six months. Accounting for attendance at luncheons was at best sporadic. Communication with Optimist International about our membership numbers also ceased. So too, did the complex payments to our past scholarship winners, which required following them through eight semesters of their secondary education.

Fortunately, the Club has benefitted from having a great Board during this past year that included a number of seasoned veterans. (I know it benefited me that this has been my third term as president since FY 2012-2013). As a team, we have been able to accomplish a lot since last October 1.

In the fall of 2018, the Board decided to hire a billing manager. Once the bills were sent out and it was finally determined who were still members of the Arlington Optimist Club, it was possible to project what our Club's Operating Budget for 2018-2019 should be. Unfortunately, after the billing was resumed, and along with several members lost this year, we have had to remove 13 members from our official rolls, while adding just two this year (Diane Andrews and Debbie Whitenton).

The Board recognized the financial limits of our reduced membership (now just 48) and has generally stayed within the Operating budget (as defined by our dues receipts) during this past year.

Another budget challenge was how to deal with the growing number of requests for Optimist donations from our Youth Club accounts (funded by the Christmas Tree lot net profits and the built up savings over many years). In the past two years, five new organizations have asked us for donations (OperaNOVA, Arlington Girls Softball, Yorktown Crew Team, Re-gratifying Foundation, and Arlington Thrive). In addition, we have doubled the awards for our Club's Essay Contest winners (with great success in increasing student participation in the contest, thanks to Jeff Englander).

Acting early to meet the growing funding challenges, last year the Board decided to change from our traditional scholarships, which awarded \$8,000 each of the four scholarship winners doled out over eight semesters, to a program initially suggested by Treasurer Gerry Marosek of providing a one-time \$5,000 award for each of the four high school winners. This change will save \$12,000 each year that can be used for other Youth donations (once all the \$1,000 per semester payments to previous scholarship winners still unpaid are completed next year).

In summary, this year the Optimist Club of Arlington gave donations to a total of ten organizations in addition to our \$39,000 for scholarships plus the awards for the Oratorical and Essay Contest winners. Although the Board's donations to all the Youth organizations this past year only slightly exceeded the net profits from last fall's Christmas Tree sales, the Board was concerned about the ability to fully fund all requests for Youth Club awards and donations going forward.

Accordingly, in consultation with Greg Clough, the Board has invested the considerable funds in the Youth Club savings accounts into five separate REIT and Bond portfolios. These investments are flexible and, hopefully, will produce additional annual income for the Youth Club account that can be added to the

Tree Lot profits in order to fund youth programs in the future without exceeding annual receipts.

Finally, the Board proposed changes to the Club's By-laws that assured that those persons who wished to join our Club under the Optimist International's recent "Friend of Optimist (FOO)" membership category were going to be treated fairly. The amendments to the By-laws, adopted by the membership on July 17, clarified that FOO's who are inducted into our Club have the same rights and limitations as our current Reserve members and streamlined our Club's induction process for future members.

I am proud of the hard work of this past year's Board to put the Arlington Optimist Club on a sound financial footing in order to allow the Officers and Directors for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to focus on membership building. Not only is Mark Zetlin a second-time president, but most of the new Board is made up of members of the current Board or past Board members. We can all look forward to this experienced and energetic Board to lead this Club forward.

Mark Whitenton



mw: 105

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

Appendix I: Press Release for Respect for Law Luncheon

Shandra Niswander: Optimist Club of Arlington's Annual Respect for Law Program honors local law enforcement and court service personnel who are making a difference in the lives of Arlington youth.

Arlington, Virginia – The Respect for Law program and luncheon honoring local law enforcement and Court Services officers was held this past Wednesday, September 18 at the Washington Golf and Country Club by the Optimist Club of Arlington. The Arlington Club's program was established in 1981 by Judge James F. "Jim" Almand and he organized the program up until a few years ago. With Judge Almand's guidance, Board Member, Shandra Niswander reinvigorated the program and coordinated the luncheon again this year. The Arlington Virginia Chapter of Optimist International exists for the goal of "Bringing out the Best in Kids" by sponsoring academic and sports activities. We believe it is important for children to grow up with a strong belief in abiding by the law, respecting law enforcement and doing what they can to maintain peace. As in past years, this year we have focused on recognizing those individuals in law enforcement and court services who are a friend of Arlington youth. All awardees received a certificate for distinguished and dedicated service advancing the respect for law objective of Optimist International by the Optimist Club of Arlington. Formal plaques of honor are being engraved and will be sent to the awardees.

Captain James "Jay" Ternent was nominated by Sheriff Beth Arthur who attended the luncheon and gave the closing remarks. Also in attendance was his supervisor, Major Jimmie H. Barrett. Captain Ternent has been a dedicated and loyal employee of the Arlington County Sheriff's Office for the past 35 years. He is a natural leader who has been an incredible asset to both the Arlington County Sheriff's Office and citizens of Arlington. Since December 3, 1984, he has continually proven that he is an exceptional leader who has distinguished himself from his peers. During his 35 years, Captain Ternent has received many commendations, merit awards and Letters of Appreciation for his service. One

commendation in particular, was for his exemplary leadership as the Shift Commander during the 1991 Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF) fire, where he worked diligently to ensure the safety of inmates and staff. He has a wealth of intuitional knowledge on corrections' law and is quick to voluntarily assist others. Captain Ternent is to be commended on his rich and extraordinary career. He is a true role model for everyone around him.

Detective Jacqueline "Jackie" Pagan was nominated by Chief Jay Farr who was in attendance to honor her. Also there to witness Detective Pagan's award presentation were her guests, Jenny Sexton, Patrice English, and her supervisor, Lieutenant Eliseo Pilco. She has served with the Arlington County Police Department since 1991. Detective Pagan has served with distinction and is a well-respected member of the agency. In 2009 she transferred to the School Resource Officer Unit. She quickly established a reputation for being a hard worker and always looked for ways to engage youth in the schools and the community. The Arlington County School Resource Officer Unit is tasked with operating the AAA Safety Patrol Camps. These yearly summer camps have been a great way for police officers and youth to engage and work towards becoming a School Safety Patrol. Thousands of youth have participated in these camps. Detective Pagan is winding down her almost 30-year career at Arlington County Police Department and will be retiring in January 2020. She has established a legacy with all her efforts leading the AAA Safety Patrol Camps for the Arlington County Police Department since 2014. Detective Pagan should be commended for all her efforts with the Safety Patrol program and summer camps. Because of her tireless efforts and dedication, Safety Patrol Campers received a first-class experience.

Supervisor Caitlin Tracy was awarded the Court Services Award and nominated by Earl Conklin, Director of Court Services Arlington County. The Honorable George D. Varoutsos was in attendance and made some brief remarks about her noteworthy contributions. She was also accompanied by her sister, Deirdre and her brother, Connor. During her career with the Court Services Unit of the

Arlington Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Caitlin Tracy has demonstrated the highest level of leadership and service as she helped law enforcement and victims of crime bring their cases to court. As she progressed from being a court clerk, to intake officer, and later to become intake supervisor, Caitlin's knowledge and expertise increased. Although her thorough knowledge of statutes and procedures significantly impacted cases, it was her personal warmth and commitment meeting other's needs that have been the key to her success. In the newest chapter of her work as probation supervisor, Caitlin will surely continue to be a model employee and agent of change in Arlington's evolving juvenile justice system.

The Arlington Virginia Chapter of Optimist International exists for the goal of "Bringing out the Best in Kids" by sponsoring academic and sports activities. We believe it is important for children to grow up with a strong belief in abiding by the law, respecting law enforcement and doing what they can to maintain peace. As in past years, this year we have focused on recognizing those individuals in law enforcement and court services who are a friend of youth. To learn more and become a member, visit <http://www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org/>