

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

December 2020



December

December 02: Patrick Hope, Delegate: "What's going on in Richmond." Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for arranging for him to speak.

December 16: The annual Christmas Breakfast on 12/16 had to be cancelled this year due to COVID restrictions.

UPCOMING EVENTS for January are **CANCELLED!**

Our President, Jeff Englander, has cancelled all Optimist events planned for January in order to be consistent with the restrictions the Virginia Govern put in place on December 10, which include prohibiting gatherings of more than ten people through January 31 (Executive Order #72). The Governor's order would not only prohibit our two planned luncheons, but also our desire to restart our monthly Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's.

Thank you, Frank O'Leary and Sue Gartner, for arranging for two fine speakers for our January luncheons [Darren Aversa of Edward Jones and Jon Darnes of Exclusively Fit]. It is hoped that Frank and Sue can re-schedule them for luncheons later this year. Due to the uncertain environment going forward, Frank has not yet scheduled speakers for February. Please watch for notices in your email and in the next newsletter, to be published near the end of January.

President's Message by Jeff Englander

Dear Optimists,

Friday, December 11th, at 12:35 pm, was a date and time we looked forward to for many months. We sold our last Christmas tree and ended our best fundraiser in the Club's history. Our 2300 trees, along with handmade wreaths, garland and ornaments, sold out in just 14 days!

Sandy mentioned on a call this week that we are the largest Christmas tree lot in Northern Virginia. WOW!

On Sunday, as we dismantled the tree lot (with the help of the awesome Optimist-Acorn Rifle Club), we had over 20 people stop by looking to purchase a tree. We told them to come back next year closer to Thanksgiving in order to secure a tree.

I am very optimistic that our lot will have another incredible performance in 2021.

Frank O'Leary commented to me that the Christmas tree program was a complex operation. I agree. We could not succeed without the dedication and caring from the members of the tree lot committee. Led by an outstanding member Sandy Bushue, they worked tirelessly to ensure the lot operations were working well. Thank you Andreas, Barbara, Brian, JB, Tricia, Bob, Richard, Frank, Erica, Greg, Gerry and Mark Z.

To everyone who volunteered on the lot, we greatly appreciate your efforts.

Since August, we have been the only service club to meet in person. This is one of the many reasons why we are expecting to add a total of seven new members by the end of January.

We have persevered through a challenging social and economic environment by ending on several great notes. I am honored to be your president. Thank you. May you and your families have a safe and wonderful holiday celebration.

Optimistically yours,

Jeff

Optimist Tree Lot Update: by Sandy Bushue



Optimists,

What a SUCCESSFUL and CRAZY Optimist Tree Lot Season!!!! Congratulations! This season broke many records!!! Here are the stats:

- 1). Trees sold - 2300
- 2). Garland Sold - 250
- 3). Wreaths Sold - 275
- 5). WH Ornaments - 200 (to date)
- 6). Medium Tree Stands - 60
- 7). Large Tree Stands - 14
- 8). Number of selling days - 14 days
- 9). Trees sold per day - 164
- 10). Volunteers - the best ever
- 11). Tree Committee - SPECTACULAR
- 12). Customers - kind, cheerful, patient and generous
- 13). Optimists - the best ever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

JB and crew (Jeff and Brian) struck down the lot on Saturday, December 12, assisted by the Optimist-ACORNS. They cleaned the lot up wonderfully and all that is left is the Zippy Shell**, which I believe will be picked up this week. Another cleaning of the parking lot will occur and the 2020 Optimist Tree Lot will have come to a final end.

BabeRuth Baseball and YULA and Yorktown High School Honor Society and Yorktown Crew were our sports' teams and youth who were tremendous in supplying volunteers. There is no way we could have pulled out this success without their tireless and energetic efforts.

The tree lot committee were absolutely amazing in carrying out their tasks and ensuring excellence - JB Whitlow, Frank O'Leary, Brian Kellenberger, Andreas Baltatzis, Jeff Englander, Barbara Nicastro, Tricia O'Hara, Bob Patton, Richard Knight, Gerry Marosek, Erica Burson, Mark Zetlin and Greg Clough. YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!!! Thank you!!!!!! Also, a special acknowledgement to our new member, Bob Bohle, for his great job on updating and changing the website. Throughout the tree sales Bob was great in keeping the lot news up-to-date. Many of our customers used the website and asked many questions through it. The website also proved to be useful to inform potential customers and our volunteers that we had "sold out".

Optimist Members - All of you have been very supportive of the tree lot this season and have contributed mightily to its success. I appreciate everyone signing up to work, sending emails of encouragement and being optimistic.

I am so proud to be a Arlingtonian but I am most proud of being a part of a great organization that raises money to do good in our community like the Arlington Optimist Club. We have a great Club and I hope you are all proud to be a part as well.

It is funny to be sending this email before the holidays as we are usually finished with the lot after the holidays. Again, what a SUCCESSFUL and CRAZY Optimist Tree Lot Season.

Wishing all a very joyous, healthy and optimistic Christmas and New Year,

Sandy Bushue

****Zippy Shell** is a sponsor. They give the Optimists a big discount for the "shell" we use. They are 100X better than POD. POD sold out to a private equity firm and quality and service have suffered.

Editor's Note: Sandy Bushue has been selected by the Arlington Inter-Service Club Council to be their president for 2021 and 2022. Well deserved, especially for ISCC's 2016 Woman of the Year! **Congratulations, Sandy!**

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**



mw: 120
Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org

Appendix: Christmas Tree Lot Photos

Unless otherwise noted, photos are by Mark Whitenton.



Biggest tree, sold to Mark Zetlin
(Photo provided by Mark Z)



New wreath-maker, Justin Stalcup, with Debbie Whitenton and Peter Wehmann.



Unloading the third (and last) shipment on Dec. 2. (Photo by Clayton Depue).



BabeRuth completing a double play



Richard Knight and Lola Reinsch (Photo by Sue Gartner).



Barbara Nicastro and Sue Gartner



BabeRuth Baseball coaches and player



**An example of the lines at the tree lot -- note the near line is for the cashier, not the saws!
(Photo by Jeff Englander).**



Merry Christmas sleigh (Photo from Optimist website).



Cashier position manned by beloved ex-member, Tom White, here with a coach volunteer. (Photo by Sue Gartner).



Jeff Englander (r) sells last tree sold to loyal customer (Photo provided by Jeff).