

The Optimist Monthly

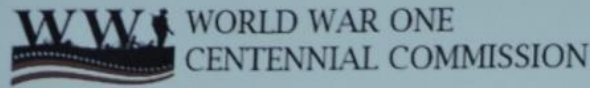
Friend of Youth
November 29, 2021



November Events

11/03: *The Great War Remembered* by Edwin Fountain of the American Battle Monuments Commission, who has been the driving force behind the creation of a monument to those American soldiers who served and fought in World War I. Over 2,000,000 went "*Over There!*" and more than 117,000 never returned. In April of this year, his dream became a reality. He generously agreed to speak once again to update our club on all aspects of the Memorial, how it was created, and future plans. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him.





National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park



11/17: ISCC Luncheon. The annual luncheon of the Inter-Service Club Council was held at the WGCC. This year, the meeting was led by our own **Sandy Bushue**, current president of the ISCC. The high points of the luncheon were the announcements of the ISCC's Woman and Man of the Year, presented by our immediate Past-President, **Jeff Englander**. This year's ISCC Man of the Year is none other than **JB Whitlow!!** Woman of the Year was Ernie Bridges Borden. Sandy also arranged for the event's speaker, Matti de Ferranti, Arlington County Board chair. See photos, below. Also see, the *Sun Gazette's* Scott McCaffrey article in the November 25th - December 1st issue on Page 1.



Jeff Englander presents JB Whitlow with his ISCC “Man of the Year” certificate as ISCC President Sandy Bushue looks on. (Photo by Erin Mendenhall).



From left to right: our speaker, Arlington County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti; ISCC Woman of the Year, Ernie Bridges Borden; JB Whitlow, ISCC Man of the Year; and President of the ISCC, Sandy Bushue. (Photo by Mark Whitemton).

11/20-23: Tree Lot Construction and Tree Unloading.

JB Whitlow again managed the building of the tree lot and supervised the pod placement. On Monday and Tuesday, **Richard Knight** managed the unloading of two large truck-loads of trees – about half of the 2,500 trees ordered. See the before and after photos taken by JB, below. Many additional photos are included in Appendix 1.



December Events

12/01: Take a tour of Arlington's most famous bordellos and gambling houses (back in the day). Come find out more from noted historian, George Axiotis. Learn the facts about Jackson City, the well-meaning, early-development project that went awry. WGCC at 12:15.

12/15: Christmas Breakfast. Once again, **Brian Kellenberger** is organizing our annual Christmas breakfast. It will also be the occasion to celebrate our **Optimist Club's 75th Anniversary (December 12, 1946)**! Please see Brian's President's Message, below. WGCC at 7:30 am.

January Events

1/05: Delegate Patrick Hope – “Preview of events in Richmond”. Again, thank you, Frank, for arranging for Delegate Hope. Please note there is a different venue, since WGCC is closed this week. Please stay tuned for details.

1/19: Darren Aversa, Edward Jones - Economic and financial outlook for 2022. WGCC at 12:15.

1/26: Meet & Greet Returns! Texas Jack's from 5:30 to 7:00.

President's Message by Brian Kellenberger

Greetings Optimists,

We have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season! I'm thankful for being part of a longstanding Arlington service club with amazing members. Can you believe this is the club's 75th year?!!

The Optimist Club of Arlington was chartered by Optimist International on December 12, 1946. Pretty spectacular that we have such a long history here in Arlington. We will be celebrating throughout the year.

If you haven't already, please congratulate JB on being the ISCC Man of the Year. He devotes many hours to the club and this was a well-deserved honor. Also, please thank JB for his work and guidance over the past weekend to get the tree lot constructed. He had some help, but JB knows where everything goes and we could not do it without him!

Speaking of the tree lot, it looks especially nice this year! I think it will be our best year yet. It has already been great! I showed up at 8 on the first tree delivery day and there must have been 30 people there to unload. The volunteer effort has already far surpassed that of years past. The second load of trees was finished by 8:00am. Thank you to Richard Knight, who has the tough job of organizing the tree unloading and always does a fantastic job! Sandy was out there both days directing traffic and cheering on the volunteers. We have already had help from Arlington Babe Ruth (lot set up and tree unloading), Washington-Liberty and Yorktown Crew!

The annual Christmas Breakfast is Wednesday December 15th from 7:30-9:00. Every year we honor and have as our guests the local elected officials, school board, judges, law enforcement and high school principals to thank them for their service to our community. We have lined up a guest speaker, a harpist and the Bishop O'Connell Choir to sing some holiday songs. Please mark your calendar and plan to bring a guest to enjoy some holiday cheer as we also celebrate our Club's 75th anniversary. We will not have a lunch meeting on December 15th.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the lot or at one of our events this month!

Thank you for your service to our club and community. I appreciate all of you.

Optimistically, Brian Kellenberger

Tree Lot Update by Sandy Bushue

Optimists,

Tree lot season is here and it has opened with a "BANG"! Friday was opening day and the lot was slammed. Sue Gartner and Peter Wehmann worked six hours!! JB Whitlow had planned to open and get the lot prepared, and he ended up staying five hours!!! JB said it was crazy. The craziness continued throughout the weekend where the ACORNS were in charge. The coaches and

kids got a big workout I understand. Of course, JB showed up both days and stayed to help with the customers! JB is "Man of the Year" and we know why!

Andreas Baltatzis coordinated the security. Sadly, we need to have a security firm to watch the trees overnight. We have experienced stealing in year's past of large amounts of our inventory. Security helps to ensuring our trees are safe.

Despite the lost truck for the first unloading party, the second unloading party worked perfectly. The 18-wheeler truck was unloaded before 8:00 am. The next unloading is Wednesday (12/1) at 8:00 am and Richard Knight is ready for it! (Note - date change due to truck driver issues.)

The media has been excellent! Thank you, Tricia! The *Sun Gazette* was all about our Club with JB's "Man of the Year" award and our tree lot article. It was great!!! December is always a very busy month for the Optimists!

Frank O'Leary is wearing his "Treasury" hat and is watching the tree lot sale's revenue. He has designed a process that we activated last year which works well. Thank you, Frank for your efforts!!

Traditional volunteer help from OAR and the high schools does not seem to exist this year. This is to say that we are leaning heavily on our sport's teams. With the brisk sales, I predict we will sell out by 12/10 or 11. If you are signed up later in the month, you may want to drop by to help out. The first weekend in December is historically the biggest weekend. The lot will be slammed!!!

Although the tree lot is hard work, it is rewarding in many ways! Our customers are the best!!! They are patient, kind and very generous!

See you on the lot,

Optimistically, Sandy Bushue



mw: 131
Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org

Appendix 1: Christmas Tree Lot Photos



Photo by Brian Kellenberger.



Photo by Brian Kellenberger



Photo by Brian Kellenberger



Photo by Brian Kellenberger



Photo by Erin Mendenhall



Photo by Erin Mendenhall



Photo by Richard Knight of the Yorktown Crew team unloading trees.



Photo by Peter Wehmann of the first day's sales on Nov. 26.