

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

August 29, 2022



August

8/03: The Changing World of the Civil War Hobby by Debbie and Mark Whinton.

Debbie and Mark shared their experiences over the past decade in Civil War living history and reenactments (battles). They wore period correct attire, with Mark dressed in period civilian wear instead of his more common grey, which has become unpopular these days. In fact, that was the theme of their talk -- that the environment for acknowledging the Civil War has changed dramatically since 2015. It is not just the removal of statues and street names, but that the frequent parades (including Alexandria, Manassas and Fairfax City) have stopped inviting Confederates as have many small-town events, Civil War marker dedications, most reenactments and talks with school groups. The hobby has always been about history, not racism.



September

9/07: Sgt. Robert Bauer (Ret) MA, Warriors Heart USA. Bob Bauer is the National Director of the Stronger Alliance. Also, he is the Founder and President of Robert

Bauer Associates, PLLC, which operates Warriors Heart USA and the author of *Power to Change Workshops*. Since retiring as a career law enforcement officer, he has answered a heart-calling to serve the men and women who are or have worn the uniform of our country and communities that may have brought the battlefield home with them. <https://www.strongeralliance.com/first-responders-national> Thank you, Tricia O'Hara, for inviting him.

9/21: TBA. WGCC at 12:15.

October

10/05: Respect for Law. Erin Mendenhall is organizing our annual Respect for Law luncheon again this year. Thank you, Erin, for taking this very important Optimist opportunity to thank Arlington's police, firemen and court administration. Also, induct the 2022-2023 leadership team! WGCC at 12:15.

10/19: Paul Ferguson, Clerk of the Court of Arlington. WGCC at 12:15.

President's Message by Brian Kellenberger

I hope everyone was able to spend some time away with family and friends this month. I always love August, it brings about fun times, change and new opportunities. We usually go on a trip in August. This year we had the opportunity to visit Nantucket for the first time with some friends. It was a wonderful experience and vacation. One of the best ever! If you have never been, I highly recommend it. We also dropped our son off at Virginia Tech for his senior year, so we are empty nesters again. What did you do this month?



We continued to see a flurry of activity this month around the tree lot. We had some people reach out to us after our news story ran on ABC7. The segment caught the attention of a couple of Air Force Generals (ret.) living in the area. They were upset to learn about what WF was doing. Brigadier General Mark Beesley took the lead and contacted his fellow AF Academy, two-star General ret.

colleague who sits on the WF BOD. Her name is Suzanne Vautrinot. He confirmed that the issue landed in Mr. Sharff's (CEO) office and Mary Mack, Senior EVP, CEO of Consumer & Small Business Banking, was delegated the assignment to review.

Conley Ricker wrote a letter to the editor of the Sun Gazette that was published. He also sent the letter to the CEO and other executives of the bank.

Frank O'Leary wrote a letter to BJ's requesting use of their lot to sell our trees.

Thank you to everyone's efforts to get Wells Fargo to change their minds. Unfortunately, at this point they seem unwilling to let us come back.

We have had multiple members of the Knights of Columbus reach out to us offering the use of their parking lot. JB and I met with them and walked their lot. While the location is not ideal and not as visible, the lot is much bigger and the Knights have been super nice and want to partner with us and do whatever it takes to make it a success. Which is rather refreshing after dealing with the bank.

Please join us for lunch in the coming months. We have some great speakers lined up!

Brian

Please see the Appendix for summer photos submitted by your colleagues!



mw: 139

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

Appendix: Summer Photos



Left: Mark Zetlin (right) with his wife, Zsuzsi, (with the pink flowers) and her friend, Ester, Ester's son, his daughter Sherri, and his brother-in-law Peter. The photo is at a castle in Eger Hungary that dates back to the Turkish invasion.

Below: Sue Gartner at far right, next to her, standing, is her daughter-in-law, Dawn; daughter, Pam standing at left and Sue's five grandchildren, while celebrating July in D.C.





Jeff Englander with his daughter, Sally, and at right: Jeff's son, James, with Sally at an undisclosed beach in North Carolina.



Frank O'Leary and Linda vacationing in Nova Scotia, Eh?



Andreas Baltatzis with sons Alex and Luke, and wife Nikki at the Matanuska glacier in Alaska.



Andreas Baltatzis and his wife, Nikki, at the approach to Exit Glacier in Alaska.



Greg Clough at a spectacular hole at a golf course in Scotland. [Note: no rain or fog].



Tricia O'Hara with friends at Pistones celebrating the passing of Elvis Presley with (left to right): Mark, Janice, Tricia, Joyce. We were honoring Elvis' life on the day he passed 45 years ago. Joyce, author, was there signing her book, *Don't Ask Forever*, about her life with the King. She dated Elvis back in the late 60's early 70's.

Below left: **Mark & Debbie Whitenton** sailing the Adriatic, here posing with two performers. [Far left was a good dancer. Obviously, the performer at far right was picked because he was tall].



Right: **Mark Whitenton's** sons, John (left) and Brian, at John's graduation from his residency program at Norfolk General Hospital.



Left: Erin Mendenhall with family and pup, Mason, on the 4th of July at Summerfield, NC.
Right: Whiz Mountain's granddaughter graduating with a Masters in International Criminal Law from Columbia University. [Watch out, Putin!]



Left: Erin Mendenhall with her sister in Daniels Island, Charleston, S.C.
Right: Erica Burson dropping daughter, Lizzie, off at Christopher Newport University.





Richard Knight & Linda with daughter Pam and grandson Alex in N.C. over 4th of July.



Eric Turner with his family (l. to r.): Eric, Merrill, Brooks, Robin and Griffin Turner, at Brooks' ceremony for his Masters in Aviation Management from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida.



JB Whitlow at a WAWA in Cambridge, MD on his way to golf at the Sinepauvent Bay Golf Course. No wonder he is so happy!



Left and below right: **Brian Kellenberger's** photos of Kevin DiLallo, and new members, **Sydney Kellenberger** and **Gavin Authier**. while vacationing in Nantucket.



Eric Turner's family at Martha's Vineyard.





Left to right: Frank O'Leary, Sonia Johnston (a previous luncheon speaker), Debbie Whitenton, Dan Price (also a previous luncheon speaker and a potential member) and Mark Whitenton, enjoying Dan's Bee Farm at Lake Manassas.



Clayton Depue's photo of the Depue family visiting relatives in San Diego in August.