

# The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth  
April 28, 2023



## April

**04/05: Elections in Arlington by Scott McGeary.** Long-time member of the



Arlington Election Commission, and close friend of **Frank O'Leary**, Scott has supervised the election processes and results for decades. [ No, that's not why Frank was re-elected so many times!] Also during the luncheon, Robin Rodensky,



Director of Marketing at the Arlington Girls Soccer Association, was present to receive our 2023 grant to their club. **Jeff Englander** did a perfect job presenting our check to her, but this photo, left, was too fun to not use.

**04/19: What's New on the Pike by Kim Klingler.** Kim is the Executive Director of the Columbia Pike Partnership. Founded over 35 years ago, the partnership is dedicated to “creating a sense of place and shared identity among Columbia Pike’s population. More information can be found on their website at [www.columbia-pike.org](http://www.columbia-pike.org). Thank you, **Frank O'Leary** for inviting her. See photo below, left.



There were two sports clubs present to receive this year's Optimist grants. **Michal Simek** presented the check to Arlington Soccer Association's Soccer Coordinator, Frank DeMarco (in photo, above right). **JB Whitlow** presented our award to Arlington Babe Ruth baseball, which attended with three guests: Aaron Peters (Coach); Beth (League coordinator) and Brett Mikey, new league president (photo below). The presentations were covered by Dave Facinoli with the *GazetteLeader* Newspapers, formerly the *Sun Gazette*. His story is posted at: <https://www.gazetteleader.com/arlington/sports/optimist-club-makes-donations-to-babe-ruth-and-soccer-leagues-6885187>. Kudos to **Sandy Bushue** for making the arrangements for the luncheon grants and to **Tricia O'Hara** for securing the press coverage.



## **04/26: Meet & Greet.**



**Attendees** l to r: Clayton Depue, Tim Landis, Jeff Englander, Jose Quiroz (Sherriff, Arlington County), Eric Turner, Erin Mendenhall, Frank O'Leary, Sue Gartner, Brian Kellenberger, JB Whitlow, Peter Wehmann and Andreas Baltatzis. Photo by Sandy Bushue.

## **May – June Schedule**

**05/03: Save Our History! by Tom Dickinson.** Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. Also, our Club's grant to Hockey and YULA. WGCC at 12:15.

**05/17: Tales of the Treasurer's Office by Kevin Appel.** Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

**05/24: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's.** 5:30 to 7:00.

**06/07: Scholarship and Oratorical Contest Awards.** Erica Burson & Richard Knight.

**06/21: Paralyzed Veterans: The price they pay for their service by Susan Prokop.**

**06/28: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's.** 5:30 to 7:00.

**07/ 05: No luncheon due to the July 4 Holiday.**

**07/19: Missing Middle by Libby Garvey.**

**07/26: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's. 5:30 to 7:00.**

## **President's Message** by **Andreas Baltatzis**

Dear Optimists,

We have had a very exciting April and look forward to the same in May. At our two luncheons, we continue to award grants to deserving sports organizations. We held our Oratorical contest on May 24<sup>th</sup> and will participate in Zone contest on April 29. We were joined by Sheriff Jose Quiroz at our April Meet and Greet. We will award grants to two more sports organizations in the first May meeting and I encourage you to attend.

We also continue to have great speakers. But we need your help to invite new speakers. Remember that speakers are not limited to Arlingtonians and we welcome any guests with topics that would interest our members.

Finally, I want to congratulate Lola Reinsch for being inducted into the Arlington Business Hall of Fame for 2023. The honors will be presented at the Chamber's 37th annual Arlington Best Business Awards dinner, to be held May 16. Lola's commitment to community service and philanthropy are second to none and the award is well deserved. Congratulations! Here is the link to the article about Lola: [3 set for induction into Arlington Business Hall of Fame - Gazette Leader.](#)

Optimistically yours,  
Andreas



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Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;  
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;  
Capital- Virginia District 16;  
Northern Virginia Zone 4;  
[www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org](http://www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org)