

# The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

July 31, 2023



## July

**07/19: Missing Middle by Libby Garvey.** Ms. Garvey gave us a brief autobiographical sketch and then explained her pursuit of the “Missing Middle”



zoning program. She explained that it will dramatically increase the affordable housing available in Arlington by permitting multi-family residences to be built on the same footprint as a single family dwelling in a neighborhood. In photo below, from left to right: **Frank O’Leary**, who invited Ms.



Garvey, with Libby Garvey and **Jeff Englander**, who acted as M/C for this meeting in **Andreas Baltatzis’** absence while on vacation.

In a rare treat, Whiz Mountain, who will be celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member of our Club this September, attended this luncheon with ex-member Dick Rhodes. Whiz has served as a Vice President, but most memorably, as Chair of the Scholarship Committee for many, many years. Thank you for your service, Whiz.



Finally, with the leadership of Jeff Englander in the absence of Andreas Baltatzis, a vote was taken and the meeting unanimously adopted the slate approved by the Board. [The list was included in last month's newsletter]. We look forward to the new Officers and Board members who will continue our good works into the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, starting on October 1.

07/26: Meet & Greet: Unfortunately, there were only five members, no guests and no photo. Remember, the point of having Meet & Greets is to get together as a group for some social time and to recruit new members. Our next Meet & Greet is on September 27, so please come and bring a potential member.

## August – October Schedule

08/02: Missing Middle Response by Jon Ware of Arlingtonians for a Sustainable Future. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him to represent the other opinions of the Missing Middle initiative. WGCC at 12:15.

08/16: No luncheon due to August vacations.

08/29: Optimist Coaches Night. 5:30 to 7:00 at the Knights of Columbus. This event is an opportunity to thank our sports' coaches for their dedicated work and service with our youth!!! Door prizes will be awarded. Please come and join us. More information in the near future. Thank you, Sandy Bushue for organizing this needed event.

**09/06: Work Program by Andreas Tobar.** Thank you, **Andreas Baltatzis**, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

**09/20: Arlington Fire Department Update by Chief David Povitz.** Thank you, **Erin Mendenhall**, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

**09/27: Meet & Greet** at Texas Jacks. 5:30 to 7:00.

**10/04: Speaker TBA.** WGCC at 12:15.

**10/18: Respect for Law.** Thank you, **Erin Mendenhall**, for managing this important annual event again this year. WGCC at 12:15.

**10/25: Meet & Greet** at Texas Jacks. 5:30 to 7:00.

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

Dear Optimists,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. I want to congratulate the new slate of officers that was approved at our last meeting. Thank you to all those who will serve the club starting in October.



Please note our August schedule as there are some changes from normal. We will not have our second meeting. Coaches' night at the Knights of Columbus will replace the Meet and Greet. Thank you, Sandy, for bringing back this Coaches' Night. I encourage everyone to make an effort to attend. This is a great chance to thank the coaches and to recruit potential new members.

Don't forget to share you summer vacation pictures. My family took a two-week trip to Greece. It was a fantastic experience. Don't forget to see Appendix 2 to this newsletter for several photos submitted by members (including me).

Please take a look at Appendix 1 for Sandy Bushue's swearing-in on July 12 as the Governor's representative on the Virginia Public Rail Authority. Way to go, Sandy!

See you soon,

Andreas

**Christmas Tree Update.** Sandy Bushue spoke with Scott McCaffrey of the Gazette Leader after which Scott filed a story in the July 13 edition, which can be found at <https://www.gazetteleader.com/arlington/news/optimists-already-gearing-up-for-annual-sales-of-christmas-trees-7267411>.

**Congratulations, Mark Whitenton, on your 150<sup>th</sup> Optimist newsletter!**



mw: 150

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)



## Appendix 1

Our own Sandy Bushue was appointed by Governor Youngkin to serve as his representative on the VA Public Rail Authority  
- [www.vapassengerrailauthority.org](http://www.vapassengerrailauthority.org).

See photo, below, of her swearing in by the Honorable Paul Ferguson on July 12 at the Metro 29 Diner. Sandy is accompanied by her friend, Ed Johnson. Photo was taken by Peter Wehmann.





## Appendix 2

Here are the vacation photos submitted by members so far. If your photos are not among them, please submit (or re-submit in case I missed yours) your favorites by August 22 to [mark.whitenton@gmail.com](mailto:mark.whitenton@gmail.com).



**Andreas Baltatzis and family at the Parthenon, Athens**



**Mark Zetlin with Zsuzsi on a safari in Crete and below, of Mark on a jet boat heading to Santorini**







Greg Clough with family and friends in Nantucket





**Mark & Debbie Whitenton** on a Viking cruise at Ullapool, Scotland and below,  
visiting Burgess Falls, Tennessee







**Sue Gartner and Peter Wehmann with Sue's granddaughter, Alexandra and her new grandson-in-law, Charlie. Photo taken before the wedding (left) and at the wedding (below).**







**JB Whitlow's photo of Claire in their front yard with Honey and Mr. & Mrs. Bones**