

# Central Fairfax Optimist

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.

*Hope Lives Here*



April 2024

<https://fairfaxoptimist.org>

Central Fairfax Optimist Club P.O. Box 1271 Fairfax City, VA 22038 Email us at [fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com) Board meeting 2nd Tuesday each month at the VFW 8469 5703 Vogue Road 730PM. Zoom Jan-Feb. Club dinner meetings April-July on 4th Wednesday @ Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd.



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**Lieutenant Governor Zone 4:** Anava Grabowski  
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## Central Fairfax Optimist Club

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## Hope at Our March Meeting

Our club had a great evening on March 27, at the Fairfax VFW, where we honored the winners of this year's Essay Contest. Congratulations to the Essay Contest winners: Veronika Owen, 1st Place; Aahil Valliani, 2d Place, and Ella Ridgway, 3rd Place. And a big thank you to club member Douglas Harden who coordinated the contest this year. This year's essay topic was: "Optimism: How It Connects Us."

What a delight to meet Aahil Valliani, Ella Ridgway and their families, and to congratulate these students on a "job well done." Unfortunately, Veronika Owen, our 1st Place winner, was unable to attend. Ella Ridgway is the 3rd Place winner of the Essay Contest, and also the 2nd Place winner of the Club's Oratorical Contest. Because Ella cannot attend the April 24 dinner honoring the Oratorical Contest winners, she gave her speech "How to Change the World with Optimism" at the VFW.

The CCDHH, Essay and Oratorical Contests are important to our club and to our community because they offer students a chance to be seen and heard. Contestants are given topics to speak and write about expressing their thoughts and ideas and a chance to win a scholarship.

We want to thank Trinket Troy who did the amazing job of putting the evening together at very short notice. Thanks to her hard work the evening went very well. Also, we are grateful to the VFW for letting our club use their facility when we were unable to be at the Elks Club.

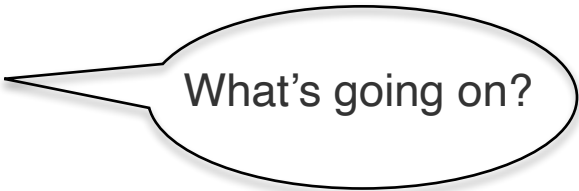
## Hot News

Ghana School pass-thru account approved!  
We are exploring ways to receive donations from those who do not write checks.

The new Board slate is ready for a vote but could still use a few more people.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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**APRIL 2024**

- 3** — Inter-Service Club Council 12-1 pm @ the Moose Lodge 3529 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax
- 9** — Club Board meeting 7:30 pm @ VFW 8469, 5703 Vogue Road, Fairfax Station & Zoom
- 14**— Horizon Day Camp Walkathon @ National Harbor
- 24**— Club dinner meeting 7pm for social time; dinner served at 7:30 @ Elks Lodge 8421 Arlington Blvd. Fairfax; **Club Officer Election** and Club Oratorical Contest Winners
- 30**— Limburg Scholarship Contest Application Deadline

**MAY 2024**

- 1**— Inter-Service Club Council 12-1 pm @ the Moose Lodge 3529 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax
- TBD**— Zone meeting prior to District meeting
- 14** — Club Board meeting 7:30 pm @ VFW 8469, 5703 Vogue Road, Fairfax Station
- 15** — **District Oratorical Contest winner results due at Optimist International**
- 17-18**— District meeting, place TBD
- 20**— **Club Officer Elect Report Due to OI**
- 22**— Club dinner meeting 7pm for social time; dinner served at 7:30 @ Elks Lodge 8421 Arlington Blvd. Fairfax Limburg Scholarship Winner
- TBD**— Respect for Law: Safety Patrol Oak View Elementary 5th Grade
- TBD**— Respect for Law: Safety Patrol Laurel Ridge Elementary Peter Drake Award

**BIRTHDAYS**

**APRIL**

- 17th Kim Moden
- 19th Norm Buchanan
- 27th Bob Devery
- 27th Joanie White

**MAY**

- 25th Bob Evans
- 30th Maxwell Osei Anokye

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**APRIL**

- 22nd Tom and Trinket Troy
- 26th Norm and Jennifer Buchanan

**MAY**

- 23rd Claudia and Giovanni Morcelo

**FINANCE SUMMARY  
(4/17/2024)**

Operating Account	\$2,898.21
Community Service	\$5,283.85
Youth Fund (12/30/23)	\$5,236.73



# Club News

## PRESIDENT'S POINTS

“It’s a small world!” How many times have you encountered someone and either said or heard this expression? Barbara and I went to watch the sun set in Key West and joined a couple sitting on a bench by the water. We found out that the husband and I were both in the Army Transportation Corps and stationed at Fort Eustis, VA at the same time. I was on the school staff and he was a student. When I told him my name, he exclaimed “I know you!”

Yes, it may be a small world, but it doesn’t have to be. It is up to you if your world is small, medium or large.

My world is small, medium and large! The small world is Barbara and myself. I frequently say “It’s you and me, kid!” The medium size includes the extended family and associated animals. The large size includes people we have known from schools, the military, camping, jobs, and Optimist International.

The Optimist International world is amazing, and you are part of it. From an individual’s perspective, it’s a small world if the only involvement is with an Optimist Club. That small world can be really busy, like our Club. Isn’t it great to be able to make a difference in the life of a child? When you start to get involved at the Zone and Capital Virginia District levels, the world expands more than geographically. You discover interesting, talented people who are doing some of the same things that our Club does. You also learn about new approaches to things like childhood health, recruiting new members, retaining current members, making meetings fun, putting the fun in fun(d)raising, and so much more.

Even our Optimist Club is expanding the scope of our support for children. What a difference in the life of so many children in Ghana will be as we raise money to build and sustain the coming middle school building. The importance is not just that they won’t have to walk two hours to school. The facility itself will change their lives as their world will expand educationally. We take for granted a clinic in a school. That does not currently exist in this village’s schools. In the new school, there will be a small place for a child who is sick or injured to be attended.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.  
Hope Lives Here, in Ghana, and wherever there is an Optimist Club.  
WE make things happen!

Yours in Optimism,

*Dee*

President



# Club News

## March Meeting: Essay Contest Winners

by Anne Grabowski and Kim Moden

Hope Lives Here. We held our Club's March dinner meeting at the VFW. It was a great evening honoring the winners of the Essay contest. The two students who attended were a delight to meet as well as their families. It is always a great opportunity to see and hear these young people and congratulate them on a "Job well done".

A big thank you to Trinket Troy who did an amazing job of putting this all together on very short notice. Thanks to her hard work the evening went very well. Also, thank you to Kim Moden for stepping in to help setting all of it up. We are grateful to the VFW for letting us use their facility when we were unable to be at the Elks Club.

The CCDHH, Essay and Oratorical programs are very important to our Club and our community because it gives students a chance to be seen and heard. They are given topics to speak and write about expressing their thoughts/ideas and a chance to win a scholarship. It is important for the members to support these programs and these contestants. We are sorry for those who missed the program but hope that you will all be able to attend the dinner meeting on April 24th at the Elks Club. We will be honoring the Oratorical Contest winners. Your attendance and support for these students is very important. Do hope to see you there.

## Essay Contest Winners by Douglas Harden

This year, we had a fantastic cohort of entrants to the Fairfax Optimist Club Essay Contest! We received essays from students at Fairfax High School, W.T. Woodson, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Robinson Secondary School and South Lakes High School. The students did a great job, and we appreciate the submissions and the support from the respective schools. Also, special thanks to our judges, especially Sheila Halloran. This year's Essay Contest Winner is Veronika Owen from South Lakes High School with the essay, "Optimism: How it Connects Us". Congratulations Veronika!

Unfortunately, Veronika could not attend the dinner meeting. Pictured below is our Second Place winner Aahil Valliani and his family. His younger brother was asked to draw the 50/50 winning ticket, and he won!!





## Club News (continued)

### Club Board of Directors

Each April our Central Fairfax Optimist Club elects a new Board of Directors. Below on the left is the slate of nominees that we will vote. If you are able to serve in one of the open positions, please notify Dee now.

#### Board for Optimist Year 2024-2025

President	Anne Grabowski
Vice President	Maxwell Osei Anokye
Vice President	
Secretary	Carol Williams
Treasurer	Susan Bond
Director	Fred Kaiser
Director	Kim Moden
Director	Dee Rushforth
Director	Trinket Troy
Director	
Director	
Club Foundation Representative	Kim Moden

### AWOROSO L/A School Ghana Project Update

The Optimist International Foundation has approved our Ghana School account and we can begin soliciting and sending donations **very soon**. Checks will be made payable to the Optimist International Foundation. The memo line approved by the OIF is "Central Fairfax Ghana School Fund." This seems too long for the memo line and we will be consulting the OIF about this issue.

At the last Board meeting there was a lot of discussion about finding ways to accept donations with other than checks, preparing for the Optimist International Convention, and many other topics associated with the collection, distribution, and accounting for the money associated with this project.

The Board will be exploring all the identified aspects over the next two months. Also, we will be developing handouts to use to help solicit support and fundraising.

More to come!



# Club News (continued)

## Scouting: Our Hope for the Future

Hope Lives Here. Our Club sponsors two Cub Scout Packs, a Girl's Troop and a Boy's Troop. They are all active and sometimes they could use our help in specific projects. Our Club members are notified via email about these opportunities.





# OI Foundation News

Capital Virginia District Governor Skip Foy has set a goal of 100% of our Optimist Club members to contribute at least \$36.50 to the Optimist International Foundation. The OIF funds scholarships, grants, and many other things that support our ability to make a difference in the life of a child. Without funds from the Foundation, our Club could not fund the opportunities that we currently offer. At a minimum, we would not have the scholarships for the Essay, Oratorical, and Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We would not be able to solicit tax-deductible contributions for our Fairfax Youth Fund and our Ghana School fund. Please donate now!



## Dime-A-Day

**O**ptimist International and Optimist International Foundation coexist as two separate organizations that support each other. Optimist International Foundation is the fundraising arm of Optimist International, and works to develop funds to support the endeavors of Optimist International and its mission.

When Members and Clubs make a contribution to support Optimist International Foundation, they are, with that gift, supporting Optimist International itself and themselves as a Club as well.

With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children.

Would you consider making a gift of just a dime a day to assist the charitable work of Optimist International?

The Dime-A-Day level is reached by a contribution of \$36.50 to the Foundation within one Optimist Year, and is recognized by the presentation of a pin.

Building a future where every kid counts  
Can you spare a **dime a day**?

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation. (Enclose check, payable to Optimist International Foundation, referencing "Dime-A-Day" in the memo section.)

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation. Charge my  MC  Visa  Discover  American Express

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up! Please deduct \$3.00 per month from my checking account.

Checking account number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please include a copy of a voided check)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Club Number \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_





# OI Foundation News

Please consider donating to our own OI Foundation. The Dime-a-Day is a great program to support. Michele Hanson, our Club OIF Representative (CFR), can tell you about ways you can help support both our Club and Optimist International.



January 19, 2024

Dear Optimist Friend:

Thank you for your support of the Optimist International Foundation (OIF). Enclosed you will find your 2023 tax receipt. Tax receipts are based on the 2023 calendar year giving.

Your generosity, along with many other donors, made it possible for the Foundation to fund important projects for Optimist International (OI).

The mission of the Foundation has always been to have impact on our communities and with our children through the partnership with OI. We are proud of the efforts we have made in the past year furthering our partnership with Optimist International. Take great pride that your donations and support have helped many.

**Many great things were accomplished during the year:**

- Continued support of all Optimist International programs and services in this challenging year. All scholarships programs (Oratorical, Essay and CCDHH) were taken care of.
- Underwrote all the World Oratorical Championship scholarships for participants from the U.S., Caribbean, and International Regions.
- Awarded grants to Clubs via the Club Grant, Childhood Health and Wellness Matching Grant, and Disaster Relief Program totaling over \$60,000.
- Supported the Junior Optimist Program with \$135,000 in funding to continue their great work.
- Continued support with Optimist Junior Golf Program to assist in the growth of that program.
- Revamped the OIF Awards Program to move it from an incentive based effort into a recognition effort. Which allowed OIF to reallocate funds to programs.

These and many more OI programs and services were supported because of the great support OIF received from you. Thank you for your kind gifts during 2023. We look forward to your continued support as OI moves into 2024 and for many years into the future.

Thanks for being a great supporter to our endeavor of "Helping Optimist Help Kids"!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boring'.

Craig Boring  
Executive Director





# Optimist International News

#OICON2024

## 106<sup>TH</sup> OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

# NIAGARA FALLS

Sheraton Fallsview and Crowne Plaza, Niagara Falls, ON Canada

**JUNE 22-26, 2024**

**SCHEDULE**



### Saturday, June 22

- 9 a.m.-12 p.m. .... VPs/GOVs Training
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. .... VPs-Elect/GOVs-Elect Training
- 3-7 p.m. .... Registration Open
- 3-7 p.m. .... House of Optimism (Expo) Open
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. .... First Timers Program
- 6:30 p.m. .... Ribbon Cutting
- 7 p.m. .... Opening Ceremony  
Parade of Flags / National Anthems / Welcome / Etc.)
- 8 p.m. .... Taste of Canada Reception

### Sunday, June 23

#### Bringing Out the Best in Youth

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. .... House of Optimism (EXPO)
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. .... Registration
- 9-11 a.m. .... General Session w/ keynote
- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. .... Heritage of Optimism Brunch
- 1:30-3:45 p.m. .... District Chair Training
  1. Growth
  2. Member Engagement & Retention
  3. Marketing
  4. Leadership Development
  5. District Secretary-Treasurer
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. .... Workshops
- 2:45-3:45 p.m. .... Workshops
- 4:30-6 p.m. .... Foundations Donor Appreciation Recep  
By Invitation
- 8-10:30 p.m. .... Trivia Night

### Monday, June 24

#### BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN COMMUNITY

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. .... House of Optimism (EXPO)
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. .... Registration
- 9-11 a.m. .... General Session w/ keynote
- 12-4:30 p.m. .... Service Project(s)
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. .... Workshops
- 2:45-3:45 p.m. .... Workshops
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. .... Pre-Banquet Reception
- 7:30-9:30 p.m. .... President's Banquet/Gala
- 9:30-11:30 p.m. .... President's Gala/Dance

### Tuesday, June 25

#### Bringing Out the Best in Ourselves

- 7:30-9 a.m. .... Foundations Past Pres Breakfast  
By invitation
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. .... House of Optimism (EXPO)
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. .... Registration
- 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m. .... Credentials
- 9:15-10:30 a.m. .... General Session w/ keynote
- 10:45-11:30 a.m. .... Town Hall
- 1-2:45 p.m. .... Business Session
- 3-5 p.m. .... Closing General Session  
w/ President Tracy Huxley
- 5:45-7:15 p.m. .... Wm. H Harrison Recep  
By Invitation
- 6 p.m. .... District Night Out/Dinners

### Wednesday, June 26

- 7:30-9 a.m. .... International President-Elect  
Breakfast  
Meet 24-25 Int'l President Jan Oord Graves
- 10 a.m.-6 p.m. .... Free Time for Local Site Seeing Tours

# Optimist International News (continued)



The International Candidate Qualifications Committee has announced its slate of officer candidates for the 2024 election, to be held May 1 to May 30.

President-Elect Nominee:

Tom Kendo (OH)

Board of Directors Nominees:

Paula Reyling (INDS)

Michael Boles (EMO)

Vice President-Elect Nominees:

Northeast & Great Lakes — Debbie Berry (MI)

Southeast — Rose Medley (CAR)

Mid-Atlantic — Dale Hoffert (MDSD)

Middle America — Liz Christman (EMO)

Great Plains — Tom Lloyd (IA)

Southwest — Terri Kearney (COWY)

West Coast — Sophia Sherman (PC)



# The Puzzle!

What do you think of in April? Our Board election? Hope Lives Here? Spring has arrived? How about doing this Word Find? Are you up for it?

G O Q L H O W Y S P R I N G T  
 Z R A O W V A J W P S H C J R  
 L B U E C D N E P M R P W I Y  
 B O N B A Z Q P B A E H A I B  
 F R O E M K L D O C W E N Y B  
 S L M H N I Y I A Y O R V I B  
 J I O A C O L K R A H E E H Z  
 D E T W W S I M D D S D O Z L  
 Y Z H H E O B T N O Z I R O H  
 A U O O P R R G N I D L I U B  
 E P A H E H S O U E J V N K S  
 E D R A O B C W S Y V Q C Z E  
 M W K E L E C T I O N N A X V  
 R E G I S T R A T I O N O Q I  
 P I H S R A L O H C S T D C L

Print this page and circle the words or just go down the list and find them.

Words can go in any direction.  
Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

AWOROSO  
 BREAK  
 CONVENTION  
 DIMEADAY  
 FLOWERS  
 HOPE  
 LIMBURG  
 NEW  
 SCHOLARSHIP  
 SHOWERS

BOARD  
 BUILDING  
 DAYCAMP  
 ELECTION  
 HERE  
 HORIZON  
 LIVES  
 REGISTRATION  
 SCHOOL  
 SPRING

What words would you like to see in next month's puzzle?  
 Send them to:  
[fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com)



# And in conclusion!!

## The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself --  
 To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
 To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.  
 To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
 To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
 To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.  
 To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
 To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
 To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
 To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
 To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

*Christian D. Larson*

## Mission

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

## Vision

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

## Purposes

1. To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;
2. to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
3. to inspire respect for the law;
4. to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;
5. to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.



Member FDIC

Our Kids thank you for your continued support!



Contact our own Bob Devery to plan your travel. Thanks for your support Bob!

Thanks to all our sponsors! Your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

### Smiles for Centreville

14245-P Centreville Square  
Centreville VA 20121



### Prestige Dental Specialists

7617 Little River Turnpike Suite 910  
Annandale, VA 22003