



# Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna - April 2025

## News and Notes

### Calendar

#### This Month

##### Board Meeting

10 April 2025  
7 PM (virtual)

##### Caboose Opening

19 April 2025

##### TR Cook Awards

22 April 2025

##### Special Olympics

26 April 2025

#### Coming in May

##### Viva Vienna

24-26 May  
Caboose Volunteers  
Needed!

### Special Olympics Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist at the upcoming Special Olympics Track & Field event on 26 April at Episcopal High School in Alexandria.

Volunteers can participate in one of three shifts during the event:

Entire day (8:30 AM – 3 PM)

Morning (8:30 AM – 12 PM)

Afternoon (12 PM – 3 PM)

Lunch is served to volunteers from 11:30 AM – 1 PM.

Please use the Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0848A4A923A1F94-55293418-optimists>

### TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence

This year's TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence program will be held on Tuesday, 22 April at 7:30 pm in Madison High School's Warhawk Hall.

Juniors from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools will be recognized in the following categories: Academics, Citizenship, Fine & Performing Arts, Science, Sports, and Technology. Holly Seibold, Virginia State delegate, will be the guest speaker.

The event is great exposure for the Optimists as there will be 80-90 students and family members in attendance. Please join us in supporting the Club and our local students.



Serving the youth of greater Vienna for more than 65 years!

Visit us:

[www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org), [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#)



## Calling all Caboose Volunteers!

The Caboose is once again open for visitors through December. Volunteers from the Club are needed as people come from all over the DMV to see the Caboose and Club members act as hosts during their shift.

Please sign up for a shift (no experience necessary) using the Sign Up Genius link below. On each available date there are two shifts: 1 PM – 3 PM and 3 PM – 5 PM. Please note: It is especially important that we get volunteers for 24-26 May as these are the dates of Viva Vienna.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0848A4A923A1F94-54140364-redcaboose#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0848A4A923A1F94-54140364-redcaboose#/)



## Helping Hands Awards Ceremony

The 2025 Helping Hands awards ceremony will be held in the auditorium of the Community Center at 7 PM on Wednesday, 7 May. A 6th grade student selected by teachers at each of the 11 area FCPS elementary Schools will be honored. The students were chosen for their outstanding community service both within and outside the school community.

A large club member turnout would be appreciated and would demonstrate that OCGVA members truly care about the youth in our community who make a difference.

## From President Monica Isaac

*Dear Fellow Optimists,*

*L.M. Montgomery once said “That is one good thing about this world...There are always sure to be more springs.” While spring may be struggling to fully emerge, we know it will arrive. In many respects, spring is synonymous with hope. The cold temperatures, blustering winds, and dark skies of winter often times feel endless and relentless. But with anticipation of change and improvement, we experience renewed life brought along by warmth and brighter days. It is hope that helps us reach spring with renewed vigor and the strength to carry on. I highlight this because, once again, many of you have shared your concerns with me about current events and how it is affecting your outlook on life. You worry about the future and how this will affect younger generations. For this reason, maintaining hope is vital. Our youth are looking to us for guidance, and therefore we must remain steadfast in our hopeful outlook individually and as a club.*

*To ensure our club continues to lead by example and remains sustainable for years to come, the BOD has worked very hard over the course of the past several months to modernize and make improvements. Specifically, this strategic work has involved a concerted effort to maximize our resources, operate more efficiently and transparently, while preparing for a new slate of incoming Board Members. As previously mentioned at the holiday party last December, I am stepping down from the position of President after two years. I have enjoyed my experience and learned a great deal while serving the club. Even though I will remain on the Board as past President and co-manager of the Farmers Market, it is time to pass on this opportunity to another member. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to review the ballot sent via email and vote for the candidates. I am confident they will do an amazing job to lead us with hope and bring forth brighter days for our community.*

*In solidarity,*

*Monica*

## **Board of Directors 2024-2025 Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Monica Gomez Isaac
Secretary (acting)	Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	VACANT
VP, Community	Susan Bauer
Director, Community	Bill Comerford
VP, Digital Communications	Brian Isaac
Director, Digital Communications	Jacque Brewer
VP, Membership	Dan Woltman
Director, Membership	VACANT
VP, Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director, Youth	Ed Wonder

## **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  
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. Larsen*