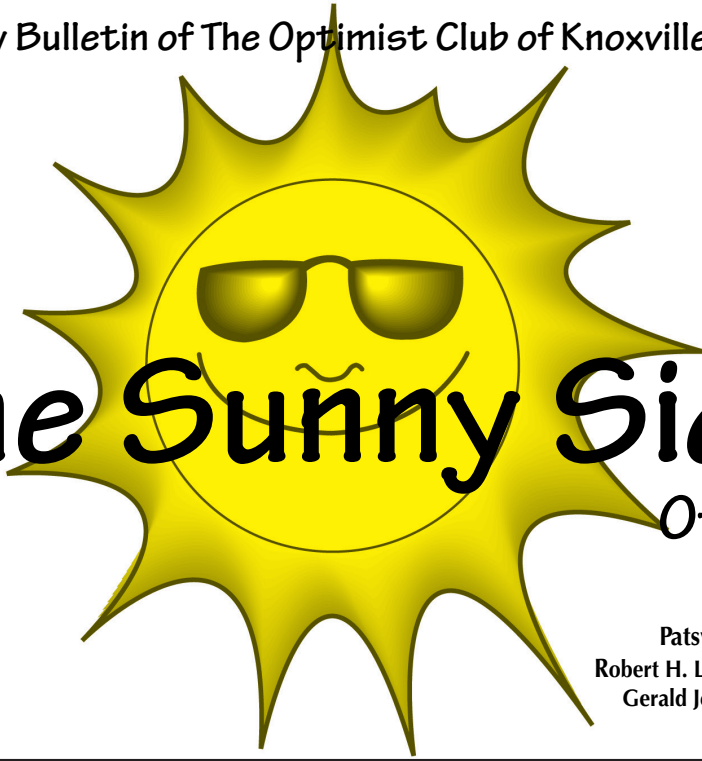


A Look At

# "The Sunny Side" Of Everything



Club Chartered 21 December 1920

Patsy Garner- OI President  
Robert H. Leonard - OI Past President 1967  
Gerald Johnson - GATEway Governor

Volume 102, Number 7

"Kids grow up with or without Optimism . . . The Choice is Yours."®

February 15, 2022



## LAST WEEK FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2022

BRENDA STATON presented our annual Dessert Silent Auction Fundraiser. Members made (or bought) sweets and donated them to the auction. During the meeting last Friday, everyone attending the meeting had opportunities to bid silently on the donated goodies. When the clock ran out, winning bidders had donated just over \$1,000.00 to our club. Several bidders were pleased to be taking home the 2022 version of a favorite for which they had plans to out bid the competition. Some lucked into a tasty find as the auction ended. All seemed happy. "Love was in the air!"

Funds raised benefit our DOROTHY WEBER Y.E.S. Awards program. When honoring the memory of DOROTHY was first discussed, organizers knew that she would have wanted a new program to have new funding – thus the auction. LISA HUBER was instrumental in getting the auction off the ground – and from last Friday's results, it appears to be flying high!

ANNIE LaLONDE reports that requests for nomination for the Y.E.S. Awards are in process. You help make all of this possible through donations of sweets and "high" bidding.

Plans for the day included a presentation by TEJA CAIN regarding her homeland of Slovenia. Members and guests alike were fascinated by her presentation which was cut short by the antics of the auction. Program Chairman MICHELE COX and President DARRIN RHINES have arranged for TEJA to return to the microphone on Friday 25 February 2022.

It was a full meeting in another respect. PATRICK RICE, Assistant Commissioner of Cemetery

Operations for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services and KEVIN KNOWLES, Director of the State Veterans Cemeteries off East Governor John Sevier Highway and Lyons View Pike, made a surprise visit to our meeting to honor BRENDA STATON. She has served as Coordinator for Wreaths Across America at the Lyons View site for the past three years. They presented her a State Flag flown over the Tennessee State Capitol and certificate from Governor BILL LEE.



## THIS WEEK FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2022

STEPHANIE MUELLER, Officer and Ranger on Seven Islands State Birding Park and Tn Wildlife Ranger.

The diverse natural landscape of aquatic and grassland habitats makes Seven Islands State Birding Park a premier birding destination with more than 190 species of birds sighted. The park encompasses 416 acres along the French Broad River in Knox County, approximately 19 miles east of Knoxville. This peninsula of land features more than eight miles of natural trails, rolling hills, and views of the Smoky Mountains. In addition to being a wildlife refuge popular for hiking and wildlife observation, the park is a research and educational facility for schools and other groups and a demonstration area for land use and habitat management techniques. Songbirds, hawks, and waterfowl can be seen along



## Officers 2021-2022

President..... Darrin Rhines  
 President-Elect.....  
 Vice President.....Dan Green  
 Vice President.....Bob Gibson  
 Secretary..... Kelly Pratt  
 Treasurer..... David Harter  
 Sergeant-At-Arms..... Mac Prevost, Dianna Mercier  
 Past President..... Bradley Pruitt

Director ..... Essie Johnson '22 1 Yr Term  
 Director ..... Zach Kipp '22 1 Yr Term  
 Director ..... Brenda Staton '22 1 yr term  
 Director ..... Bob Bright '23 2 Yr Term  
 Director ..... Teja Cain '23 2 Yr Term  
 Director ..... Bud McKelvey '23 2 Yr Term

### Henry Naff Trustees

Annie LaLonde • John Temple 2021

Glen Weber • 2022

Craig Leuthold • John Mays • 2023

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2020-2021

Adopt-a-Mile.....Darrin Rhines  
 American Hero of the Year..... Don Lindsey  
 Bulletin Editors..... Buzz & Donna Buswell  
 Camp Eagle's Nest..... Bud McKelvey  
 Chaplain.....  
 Cheese Sales..... Gwin Harshaw, Glen Weber  
 Childhood Cancer..... Kelly Pratt, Chris Albrecht  
 Christmas Dinner and Haslam Center Party  
 for Boys & Girls Club..... Lisa Huber, Jim Adcock  
 Dessert Auction.....  
 Dorothy Weber "YES" Award.....  
 Election.....  
 Essay Contest (OI)..... Mac Prevost  
 Finance Committee.....  
 FISH..... Bradley Pruitt  
 Football Time in TN..... Zach Kipp  
 Freaky Friday..... Bud McKelvey  
 Induction..... Deno Cole  
 Interclub Visitation..... David Harter  
 Johnny Mauer Day.....  
 Lawn Mower Safety Clinic.....  
 Membership.....  
 OI Foundation..... Essie Johnson  
 Oratorical Contest (OI)..... Sharon Pound, Don Linsey  
 Professional Development Program.....  
 Photographer..... Bob Freeman  
 Programs..... Michele Cox  
 Public Relations..... Chris Albrecht  
 Respect For Law Day..... Bob Gibson  
 Social..... John Temple  
 Tri-Star Sports(OI).....  
 Website Administrator.....  
 Youth Appreciation Week (OI)..... John Meade



2020-21

DIME A DAY

\$100.00 CLUB

\$250 PRESIDENT'S CLUB

CHRISTIAN D. LARSON  
 PARTNERS

110. BUZZ BUSWELL  
 142. PAUL H. HARBIN  
 167. DONNA J. BUSWELL  
 170. BOB LEONARD  
 197. ESSIE JOHNSON  
 291. DAVID C. HARTER  
 376. MIKE RAGSDALE  
 383. HARRY D. BRYAN  
 462. MELINDA BASLER  
 490. WILLIAM "EARL" WHITE  
 506. ALLEN COLLIER  
 528. JONIDA ROBINSON  
 558. MARIE LEONARD  
 605. JOHN W. MONTGOMERY  
 628. ESTEL HAMILTON  
 704. BETH O'BRIEN  
 710. CHRIS COX  
 714. CINDY HAGAN

Contact ESSIE JOHNSON  
 to make your donation for the  
 2018-19 year

the meadow trails and several old barns are a favorite refuge for Barn Owls. For paddlers and anglers, there is a small canoe/kayak launch that provides access to the French Broad River.

## NEXT WEEK

### THURSDAY

## 24 FEBRUARY 2022

Join your fellow Optimists as we gather for a Social at K-Town Tavern, 320 North Peters Road, Knoxville, TN 37922 on Thursday, 24 February 2022. The premise is simple: an opportunity for Optimists their families and friends to socialize with no program nor agenda. Appetizers are half-price from 4:00 to 6:30 PM. We will raise a glass to Social Chairman JOHN TEMPLE and toast to his return to our midst as soon as possible. Please join us.

## NEXT WEEK

### FRIDAY

## 25 FEBRUARY 2022

Slovenia, Part Two is our program ending the month of February. We are pleased that TEJA CAIN is going to step to the podium to conclude her presentation begun during the Sweets for the Sweet auction last Friday. Invite a friend and share your Optimism as we learn more about rejected American Yugo automobiles and smuggling coffee and detergent across the border with Austria.



## PLAN AHEAD

### FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2022

The Optimist I Oratorical Contest gives youngsters the chance to speak to the world. More than \$150,000 in college scholarships funded by the Optimist International Foundations is awarded annually from this program.

First conducted in 1928, this is the second most popular Optimist International Program. Nearly 2,000 clubs participate in this program each year. The winners at the Club level receive medallions and Zone winners receive a plaque. Districts have the opportunity to provide a first-place scholarship of \$2,500, a second-place scholarship of \$1,500, and a third-place scholarship of \$1,000. Our club contest will be presented by Chairman SHARON POUND.

### FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2022

Knoxville Inner City Kids Outreach (KICKO)

The mission of KICKO is to transform our inner-city by equipping and empowering its children to fully realize their potential and discover their God-given destiny. Join us at The Foundry as we welcome MICHAEL CLARK, Executive Director of KICKO.

### FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022

If you have lived in the area for more than a couple of years, you know that there is no "downtown" in Oak Ridge AND you know that one (in a variety of difference attempts) is being planned. We welcome WAYNE BLASIUS, City of Oak Ridge Development Director to tell us about a plan many believe will create a "downtown" for our neighbor. WAYNE helped develop downtown Knoxville many years ago. Now he is in Oak Ridge. Invite a friend and share your Optimism as we "Share The Downtown Oak Ridge Vision".

The Sunny Side is published weekly for the members of the Optimist Club of Knoxville. Your calls, letters and comments are welcome. Submit articles and photographs; their safe return is guaranteed:  
 The Sunny Side • Editors Buzz & Donna Buswell  
 1101 Remington Road, Knoxville TN 37923  
 604-4443 • 603-0094 evenings & weekends  
 Email: buzztof@comcast.net  
 Deadline: 5:00 pm Sunday prior to publication the following Monday  
 Photos by: Robert Freeman  
 Reporter: Brenda Staton  
 Publisher: Donna Buswell  
 Circulation: Distribution to each member of the Optimist Club of Knoxville by First Class Mail Monday of each week or electronically on Tuesday.



## POSTPONED – DATE UNCERTAIN

JOAN CRONAN, University of Tennessee Women's Athletic Director Emeritus, and Author of Sport is Life with the Volume Turned Up: Lessons Learned That Apply to Business and Life.

Join us as JOAN answers the question: "Why Compete?"

JOAN CRONAN is a nationally known speaker and business consultant. For nearly thirty years, she was Director of Women's Athletics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She was appointed United Way Chair and Chair of Leadership Knoxville, as well as serving on the First Tennessee Bank Advisory Board, as a Trustee for the U.S. Sports Academy, and on the Board of Trustees at Carson-Newman College. Sports Business Journal named her a Champion in Sports Business. She was elected President of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics. CRONAN has been inducted into the Louisiana State University Hall of Distinction, the College of Charleston Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Hall of Champions.

## SEE SOME OF WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE AUCTION



**FRIENDS AND  
FAMILY  
JOINED US  
FOR OUR  
SWEETS  
FOR THE  
SWEETEST  
AUCTION**



### 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



### Optimist Mission Statement

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

OUR WEBSITE: [www.knoxoptimist.org](http://www.knoxoptimist.org)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/OptimistClubofKnoxville](http://www.facebook.com/OptimistClubofKnoxville)