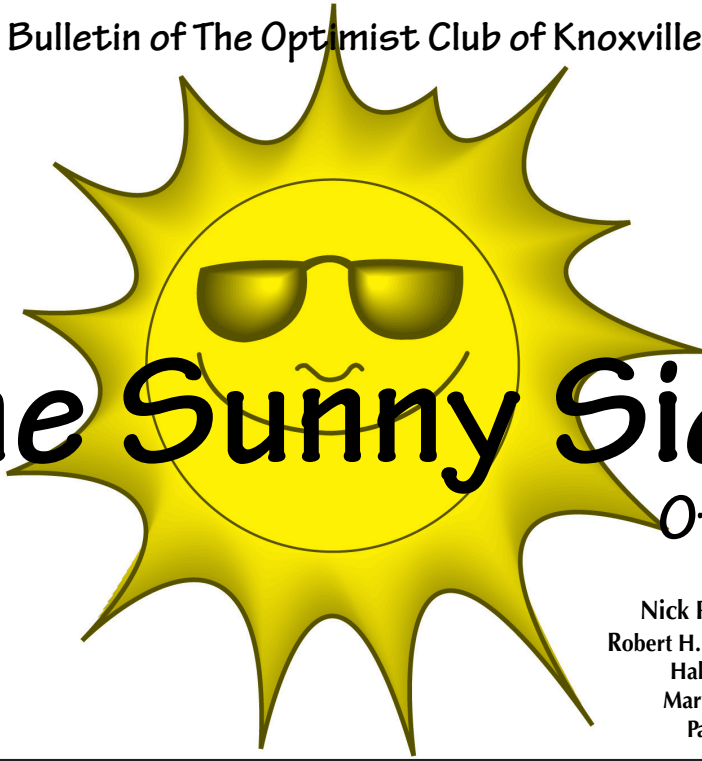


A Look At

"The Sunny Side" Of Everything



Nick Prillaman, Jr. - OI President
Robert H. Leonard - OI Past President 1967
Hal Sewell - OI Vice President
Mary Still - GATEway Governor
Paul Nichols - Lt. Governor

Club Chartered 21 December 1920

Volume 98, Number 16

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

February 27, 2018



**MANDI BEELER
RANDOM ACTS
OF FLOWERS**

LAST WEEK

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2018

JOHN TEMPLE hosted our February Social at the new Chesapeake's, 9630 Parkside Drive in West Knoxville. Reports were favorable – so favorable that JOHN has announced our March event, set for 27 March, will be in the same location. Invite a guest to enjoy the companionship of fellow Optimists and their guests in a social setting.

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2018

We extend our thanks to NANCY WELCH for bringing us information regarding VAT. CAC's Volunteer Assisted Transportation (VAT) program is a nonprofit, Volunteer-driven program dedicated to providing accessible and affordable transportation services to Knox County seniors and people with disabilities who require aid and assistance to travel safely. Volunteers utilize agency-owned hybrid sedans and wheelchair accessible mini-vans while accompanying seniors to appointments, shopping, and other errands.

Here is a volunteer opportunity for you. Receive first aid certification, CPR certification, and AAA membership discount for volunteering. Scheduling is tailored to fit your availability. Help someone keep medical appointments and run those essential errands. Email vat@cactrans.org or call NANCY at (865) 673-5001

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2018

Members of your Optimist Club volunteered at FISH Hospitality Food Pantry (Pantry/Food Warehouse). President BETH O.BRIEN led a contingent including her spouse TOM ZURAF and CHRIS ALBRECHT, BUZZ & DONNA BUSWELL, GARY & MICHELE COX, CHRIS COX, VEE PANAGAKOS and her friend CLAUDIA LOWD, PAT & SHERI LEONARD, DON LINDSEY, DAN McGEHEE, DARRIN RHINES & four young volunteers, BRENDA STATON and TIFFANY SHERRILL.

Each month the FISH program provides food for 8,000

families in the Knoxville area. At a recent program we learned about the kids' boost bag program. Each year over 12,000 kids are provided boost bag upon their arrival at the Pantry. The cost? \$72,000.00! None of the food for the boost bags is donated but has to be purchased through FISH funds. When a child arrived with a parent or guardian at the Pantry, each and every child was given a boost bag which contained juice, milk, yogurt, cheese sticks, raisins and some fresh fruit, all organic items. We saw children open the bags on the spot and begin to eat.

One of our members said of his participation, "It was a humbling experience. I would do it again without reservation." Similar comments suggest to your Editor that this may become a regular Opportunity for Involvement.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2018

MANDIE BEELER, Program Director, Random Acts of Flowers (RAF) is a native of Seymour, Tennessee, where she developed a love for serving others and being engaged in her community. After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Communication, she earned her Masters of Education from the University of South Carolina.

MANDIE first learned of Random Acts of Flowers when her grandfather was a recipient in 2013. She joined the RAF Knoxville team as the Program Director in April 2017 after a 10 year career in higher education, most recently serving for several years as Associate Dean of Students and Director of Servant Leadership at Tennessee Wesleyan, where she directed a variety of aspects of Student Life including community engagement and civic responsibility. In that role, she established ongoing community partnerships for service-learning designated coursework and developed and implemented opportunities for students to serve in their communities. She was also responsible for selecting and training AmeriCorps VISTA members for a variety of programs, such as the Love Thy Neighbor Project food bank, CASA Corridor of East TN, the YMCA's after school and summer



Officers 2017-2018

President Beth O'Brien
President-Elect..... Chris Cox
Vice President..... John Kerrigan
Vice President Brenda Staton
Secretary Tom Zuraf
Treasurer David Harter
Sergeant-At-Arms..... Jim Black
Past President Kathryn McCullough
Director..... Jim Adcock 2018
Director..... Melanie Hogg 2018
Director..... Joe Peterson 2018
Director..... Vee Panagakos 2019
Director Ben Goodson 2019
Director..... Darrin Rhines 2019

Henry Naff Trustees

Annie LaLonde 2018 • John Temple 2018
Michael Cermak 2019 • Al Stigall 2020 • John
Mays 2020

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2017-2018

American Hero of the Year..... Michele Cox &
Steve Fowler
Angel Tree Sharon Pound
Bulletin Editors Buzz & Donna Buswell
Camp Eagle's Nest..... Allen Collier
Chaplain..... Wayne Mulkey
Cheese Sales..... Gwin Harshaw & Glen Weber
Christmas Dinner and Haslam Center Party
for Boys & Girls Club..... Lisa Huber
Dessert Auction Jim Adcock & Brenda Staton
Dorothy Weber "YES" Award..... Jim Adcock &
Annie LaLonde
Election Chris Cox & Beth O'Brien
Essay Contest (OI)..... Mac Prevost & Beth O'Brien
Finance Committee Michael Cermak
Football Time in TN Michael Cermak &
Matt Armstrong
Fountain City Christmas Parade..... Bill Gentry
Fundraising..... David LaFratta & Don Lindsey
Induction..... Dan McGehee
Interclub Visitation..... David Harter
Johnny Mauer Day.... Bruce Duncan & Britt Bowden
Membership Dave Harter & Wayne Mulkey
OI Foundation Essie Johnson
Oratorical Contest (OI) Erin Favier &
Vee Panagakos
Professional Development Program ... Annie LaLonde
Photographer..... Bob Freeman, Glen Weber,
Beth O'Brien
Programs Helen Hewitt,
Don Lindsay, Sharon Pound
Public Relations - Marketing..... Tom Zuraf &
Don Lindsey
Respect For Law Day Bob Gibson
Shoney's Kidcare ID Annie LaLonde
Social John Temple
TLC Erin Favier
Tri-Star Sports(OI) Frank Leuthold & John Kerrigan
Website Administrator Kathryn McCullough

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2017-18

DIME A DAY
JIM ADCOCK
CHRIS ALBRECHT
RALPH ALEXANDER
JIM BLACK
JASEN BRADLEY
BUZZ BUSWELL
DONNA BUSWELL
ALLEN COLLIER
ERIN FAVIER
BOB FREEMAN
GWIN HARSHAW
DAVID HARTER
NANCY HARTER
ESSIE JOHNSON
JOHN KERRIGAN
MARIE LEONARD
PATRICK LEONARD
FRANK LEUTHOLD
DENNIS MCBRIDE
CAROLYN MONDAY
BETH O'BRIEN
SHARON POUND
WILLIAM PRUITT
H.W. RIMMER, JR
JONIDA ROBINSON
BRENDA STATON
SAVANNAH STATON
AL STIGALL
GLEN WEBER
JACQUELINE ZURAF
THOMAS ZURAF

\$100.00 CLUB
RALPH ALEXANDER
ALLEN COLLIER
BOB FREEMAN
GWIN HARSHAW
ESSIE JOHNSON
DENNIS MCBRIDE
BETH O'BRIEN
JONIDA ROBINSON
GLEN WEBER

\$250 PRESIDENT'S CLUB
ALLEN COLLIER
GWIN HARSHAW
ESSIE JOHNSON
DENNIS MCBRIDE
BETH O'BRIEN
JONIDA ROBINSON

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

Contact ESSIE JOHNSON
to make your donation for
the 2017-18 year

LET'S
FILL THIS
COLUMN!

SPONSOR A NEW OPTIMIST 2017-18

SHELBY VIGNES sponsored by KATHRYN MCCULLOUGH
KELLY PRATT sponsored by SHARON POUND
TIFFANY SHERRILL sponsored by HELEN HEWITT
CHRIS ALBRECHT sponsored by BUZZ BUSWELL
DELORES MABINS sponsored by CHRIS COX
SHERI LEONARD sponsored by PATRICK LEONARD

feeding program, and the United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties Ready to Read program.

MANDIE is currently completing her doctorate in Learning and Leadership at the University of Tennessee – Chattanooga. Her dissertation research examines the role of required volunteerism programs, like the Tennessee Promise, on students' perceptions of civic responsibility.

She lives in Farragut with her husband, PATRICK, and their daughter, EASTON KATE. She has a passion for engaging others in service and believes that we all have a responsibility to improve the quality of life for everyone in our community. JIM BLACK offers the Invocation and leads the pledge to the flag.

NEXT WEEK

FRIDAY 9 MARCH 2018

CLIFF RODGERS, Knox County Election Commission joins us for a look at the election process. Early voting begins 11 April. Why not invite a guest and share your Optimism as we learn about elections. BUDDY RIMMER offers the Invocation and leads the pledge to the flag.

PLAN AHEAD

FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2018

Meg Mabbs and Bill Gooch love to dance and sing. They have taught and performed recreational Scandinavian and Balkan dance for over 30 years. Their dance research, study, teaching, performing and most of all, fun-seeking have carried them to many workshops and camps across the USA and in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Meg is a founding director of Nordic Fiddles and Feet (2001), a week-long Swedish and Norwegian traditional music and dance camp for kids, families, and adults. She is particularly instrumental in developing the singing program for NFF. She is a retired piano teacher with outstanding music pedagogy training and experience who enjoys guiding individuals towards musical success. BILL is the author of "Glad I att Dansa", a book of nearly 200 traditional Swedish dance descriptions used as a resource for the Swedish dance community world-wide. GLEN WEBER offers the Invocation and leads the pledge to the flag.

FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2018

Our annual club Oratorical Contest will take place during our regular Friday meeting at The Foundry. Please do what you can to arrive by 1215. To prevent distraction for the contestants, the audience will remain seated during each speech. There will be a brief break between speakers – your opportunity to get that dessert!

A 'Girl's Contest' and a 'Boy's Contest' will yield a boy and girl winner to advance to the Region D contest to be conducted at Sherrill Hills Resort Retirement Community, 271 Moss Grove Blvd, Knoxville, TN 37922 on Saturday 31 March 2018 beginning at 10:00 am.

TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018

JOHN TEMPLE says the new Chesapeake's; 9630 Parkside Drive in West Knoxville is the site of our next social Tuesday 27 March 2018 beginning at 5:30pm. The site of last month's social, Chesapeake's received rave reviews from our members and their guests. Why not join us next month?

FRIDAY 30 MARCH 2018 – NO MEETING

We will not meet on Good Friday.

ORATORICAL CONTEST 2018

"Where Are My Roots of Optimism?" is the topic assigned by Optimist International.



President BETH O'BRIEN and our Club Oratorical Contest Chairman ERIN FAVIER share the following Opportunities for Involvement (OI).

There are three preliminary contests – so called school events: Monday, March 5th 4:00pm at Sacred Heart Academy; Tuesday, March 6th 4:00pm at The Webb School and Thursday, March 8th 4:00pm Home School students at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Our Club Contest will take place at our regular Friday meeting March 23rd at 12 noon.

Winners from our club will join winners from other clubs in East Tennessee for the GATEway District, Optimist International Region D Oratorical Contest to be conducted at Sherrill Hills Resort Retirement Community, 271 Moss Grove Blvd, Knoxville, TN 37922 on Saturday 31 March 2018 beginning at 10:00 am.

Region winners will gather at GATEway District, Optimist International Oratorical Contest on Saturday 28 April 2018 at the Courtyard by Marriott Rome, 300 West 3rd Street, Rome Georgia.

You are invited to attend any or all of these oratorical contest events.

PICS

See these photos? See the list of names on this page? Every Friday you check in at the badge box. Your attendance is noted. Should you miss a Friday meeting, you may attend a social or volunteer as we did at FISH or attend a Board of Directors meeting or in some other way participate in an Optimist activity. Your leadership pays attention to this and will give you credit for a make-up of a missed Friday. Pay attention to this; participate regularly and at year's end you will be recognized for a year's worth of perfect attendance. See the back of each issue of The Sunny Side where years of perfect attendance are shown by a number in brackets prior to your name.

JOHN TEMPLE hosted our February Social at the new Chesapeake's on Parkside Drive in West Knoxville last Thursday. President BETH O.BRIEN and Secretary TOM ZURAF were joined by RALPH ALEXANDER, CHRIS ALBRECHT, BUZZ & DONNA BUSWELL, CHRIS COX, VEE PANAGAKOS and her friend CLAUDIA LOWD, BOB FREEMAN, NOEL GILBREATH, DAVID LaFRATTA, ANNIE LaLONDE, KATHRYN McCULLOUGH, BRENDA & SAVANNAH STATON and JOHN TEMPLE.

Club Optimist International Foundation Representative ESSIE JOHNSON has a suggestion. If you have already given a Dime –A-Day for this Optimist Year, consider



donating in the name of a fellow Optimist that can't be with us on Friday. She made a donation on behalf of JOHN W. MONTGOMERY. A member of this Optimist Club since October, 1960 when JOHN E. MONTGOMERY became President of the club, JOHN has experienced health issues that keep him from being physically present on Fridays. ESSIE'S thoughtful suggestion is a great reminder of the positive influence this second generation Optimist and Past President (1968) has had on this club.

A trip to Keeneland in Lexington, Kentucky will raise funds for our Optimist Club. Organizer DAN GREEN says it is a day trip to the races on Sunday 22 April 2018. For \$99 you receive admission to Keeneland, travel via luxurious Gentry coach, snacks, wine, beer and great fellowship. Bus leaves Land Oak offices in West Knoxville at 8:30am and returns to the same location 9:00-10:00pm the same day. Contact DAN GREEN (865) 567-2420 or dan@dangreenrealtor.com



DON LINDSEY served as Chairman of the Day last Friday. He introduced NANCY WELCH with Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's Volunteer Assisted Transportation program. VAT is a nonprofit, Volunteer-driven program dedicated to providing accessible and affordable transportation services to Knox County seniors and people with disabilities who require aid and assistance to travel safely.



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



Optimist Mission Statement

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