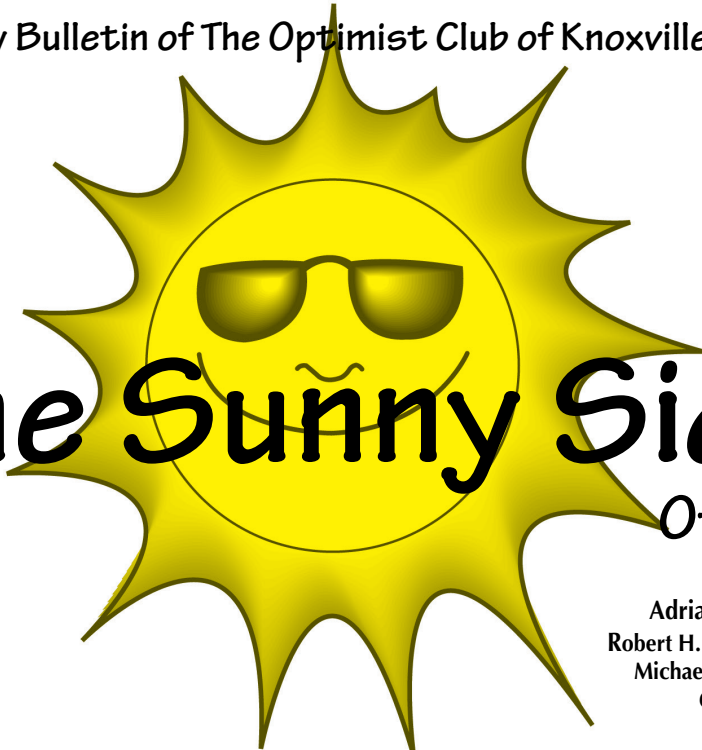


A Look At

# "The Sunny Side" Of Everything



**Adrian M. Elcock** - OI President  
**Robert H. Leonard** - OI Past President 1967  
**Michael Brown** - GATEway Governor  
**Chris Cox** - Lt. Governor

Club Chartered 21 December 1920

Volume 100, Number 17

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

March 3, 2020



## LAST WEEK

### FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

DROCELLA MUGOREWERA, is the Executive Director of Bridge Refugee Services, an agency serving the refugee community in east Tennessee, and a Refugee Congress Delegate. Her passion for serving refugees came from her own experiences as a refugee dealing with the challenges of starting over in the United States.

DROCELLA grew up on a farm in Northern Rwanda, where she developed a love for farming. She received a government scholarship to study at the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences in Kiev, Ukraine. After completing that program, she returned to Rwanda to work as the Director of Agriculture for the country of Rwanda, going on to become the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture and eventually the secretary of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water, and Mines. She was responsible for significant environmental reform, including implementing a land reform system that allowed women to inherit land for the first time.

DROCELLA continued to impact her community and her country through her service in government. When the Rwandan Genocide began, DROCELLA used her post to focus on restoring peace and transitional justice efforts. Then in 2000 she became a member of Parliament, where she helped draft the new Rwandan constitution, which emphasized human rights principles, environmental protection, and gender equality in politics, requiring that women hold at least 30 percent of authority positions in

local and national government. DROCELLA career took a turn when changes in government eliminated her position, but that didn't stop her from starting her own business and consulting with both non-profits and corporations.

However, in 2008, DROCELLA years of outspoken leadership put her in danger and she was forced to leave Rwanda for her own safety. DROCELLA fled to Uganda, then Kenya, and was ultimately resettled to Knoxville, Tennessee, where she worked in various roles for Cherokee Health Systems before becoming Executive Director of Bridge Refugee Services. She knew she wanted to use her skills to help others like her recover from trauma and build a new life.

DROCELLA is dedicated to educating the community about the social, cultural, and economic values that refugees bring to our community. A graduate of the 2017 class at the Consortium for Social Enterprise Effectiveness, she has been recognized by the Knoxville Mercury as one of Knoxville's Difference Makers and completed a leadership course in 2018. DROCELLA currently serves on the Connect Knox Steering Committee and was recognized as a finalist in the 34th annual YWCA Tribute to Women. DROCELLA is also an active member of the Knoxville Association of Women Executives (KAWE).

Through her positivity, leadership, determination, and service, DROCELLA is a beacon of resiliency and strength in her community, urging us that "this is the time to be mindful of not cutting the branches of the trees we are sitting on. The fear of the

**JUSTIN WEST**  
THRIVE LOTS



## Officers 2019-2020

President ..... Ben Goodson  
President-Elect..... Bradley Pruitt  
Vice President ..... Deno Cole  
Vice President ..... Darrin Rhines  
Secretary ..... Kelly Pratt  
Treasurer ..... David Harter  
Sergeant-At-Arms..... Buzz Buswell, Chris Albrecht  
Past President ..... Chris Cox  
Director ..... Helen Hewitt '20 1 Yr Term  
Director..... Melanie Hogg '20 1 Yr Term  
Director..... Essie Johnson '20 1 yr term  
Director..... Chris Albrecht '21 2 Yr Term  
Director..... Vee Panagakos '21 2 Yr Term  
Director..... Tom Zuraf '21 2 Yr Term

### Henry Naff Trustees

Al Stigall 2020 • John Mays 2020  
Annie LaLonde 2021 • John Temple 2021  
Michael Cermack • 2022

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2019-2020

Adopt-a-Mile..... Bud McKelvey  
American Hero of the Year.....  
Bulletin Editors ..... Buzz & Donna Buswell  
Camp Eagle's Nest..... Allen Collier & Dan Green  
Chaplain.....  
Cheese Sales..... Gwin Harshaw & Glen Weber  
Childhood Cancer ..... Chris Albrecht, Kelly Pratt,  
Zack Kipp  
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 ..... Bradley Pruitt  
Essay Contest (OI)..... Mac Prevost  
Finance Committee ..... Michael Cermack  
FISH ..... Bradley Pruitt  
Football Time in TN ..... Zach Kipp  
Freaky Friday ..... Bud McKelvey  
Induction..... Dan McGehee  
Interclub Visitation..... David Harter  
Johnny Mauer Day.... Bruce Duncan & Britt Bowden  
Lawn Mower Safety Clinic..... Chris Albrecht  
Membership ..... Dan McGehee  
OI Foundation ..... Essie Johnson  
Oratorical Contest (OI) ..... Erin Favier  
Professional Development Program .. Annie LaLonde  
Photographer..... Bob Freeman  
Programs ..... Chris Coz  
Public Relations  
Respect For Law Day ..... Bob Gibson  
Shoney's Kidcare ID ..... Annie LaLonde  
Social ..... John Temple  
Tri-Star Sports(OI) .....  
Website Administrator .....  
Youth Appreciation Week (OI) ..... John Meade



2019-20

### DIME A DAY

CHRIS ALBRECHT  
BUZZ BUSWELL  
DONNA BUSWELL  
BOB FREEMAN  
DENNIS MCBRIDE  
CAROLYN MONDAY  
BETH O'BRIEN  
SHARON POUND  
JACQUELINE ZURAF  
TOM ZURAF

**\$100.00 CLUB**  
BOB FREEMAN

**\$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

## SPONSOR A NEW OPTIMIST 2019-20

AUSTIN BULLOCK sponsored DANIEL MCGEHEE  
RAYMOND DA-BOI sponsored by JIM ADCOCK  
MARY ALBRECHT sponsored by CHRIS ALBRECHT

unknown should not negate our values of welcoming refugees and immigrants." DROCELLA has overcome immense obstacles and is a role model and representation of the incredible contributions that refugees and immigrants bring to our communities.

## THIS WEEK

### FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2020

JUSTIN WEST, founder of Thrive Lots is our guest as we begin programming in March. Thrive Lot supports the spread and maintenance of ecologically designed food production systems such as permaculture gardens and regenerative agriculture. Their mission is to enable an abundant future through the next agricultural revolution.

## NEXT WEEK

### FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2020

Since its start in 1928, the Optimist Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program sponsored by Optimist International. The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship.

Our Annual Optimist International Oratorical Contest will be conducted at the 13 March meeting of the optimist Club of Knoxville. This year's assigned topic: "Just iMagine a World without Boundaries"

Chairman ERIN FAVIER will introduce us to contestants representing Sacred Heart Catholic School and Homeschool Students from First Cumberland Church. Invite a friend to join you for this program.

## PLAN AHEAD

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2020

NO MEETING SPRING BREAK!

## OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Join DENNIS MCBRIDE and the growing list of Dime-A-Day donors. See ESSIE JOHNSON and hand her \$36.50 – just a Dime-A-Day to support the work of the OIF.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

PAT LEONARD 6th  
FRANK LEUTHOLD 6th  
JOHN BAILES 10th  
MARK ENIX 12th  
DARRELL OAKLEY 19th  
HARRY BRYAN 29th

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

BUDDY RIMMER 2nd  
BOB BRIGHT 12th  
CAROLYN MONDAY 28th

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## PICS

President BEN GOODSON presided over our meeting last Friday. He introduced DROCELLA MUGOREWERA, Executive Director, Bridge Refugee Services.

BEN' brought his Mother to our meeting. Several members complimented her on raising such a fine President and all-around good guy.

BUZZ brought a prospective new member to the meeting. He and DONNA and CHRIS ALBRECHT are sponsoring TEJA CAIN at our next meeting.

BRADLEY announced the Inaugural Optimist Club of Knoxville Die-Cast /TOY Collectibles Show on Saturday 25 April 2020 from 9am-2pm at the Golden Gloves Arena, 401 Lakeside Street, Knoxville, TN 37914. We are going to need help setting up Friday before the Show as well as helping take down Saturday following the close. Please volunteer.!

TOM ZURAF says we have nuts without peanuts and nuts with peanuts and raisins coated with chocolate (but no peanuts) and if that's not enough, we have ALMONDS coated with DARK CHOCOLATE. No, we are not "nuts" it is a fund raiser. Get yours at the back of the meeting room Friday.

DARRIN previewed "Stone Skipping".



Beanie Baby on ETSY selling for \$24,000



## 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)