

January 2008

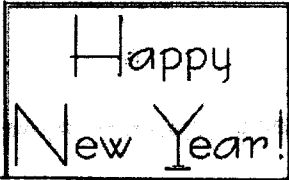
Bringing Out the Best in Kids

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The Annapolis Optimist



President's Message:



Beginning the second quarter of our Optimist year, we are continuing to help bring out the best in kids!

The smiles on the faces of the children as they participated in Shop With A Cop were priceless. Thanks to Harry Chalstrom for organizing our group of 15 children and also to our volunteer elves who helped wrap the presents. Forty-six children shopped at WalMart and went to lunch at Outback Steak House sponsored by Fort Smallwood, Annapolis and Severna Park Optimists.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the children's Christmas at Sarah's House a happy one. A special thank you to the Boy Scouts for their support.

Past International Vice President Dick Price and his wife Mickey, who are the District Optimist International Foundation representatives, attended our December meeting. Included in this newsletter is a flyer about "Dime a Day," which they explained.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our dinner meeting on January 24. Come early to hear a group from the Annapolis Youth Symphony who will play during the social time. Remember to RSVP me by the 18th!

In Optimism,
Bonnie

Help Needed: We are still collecting new and "gently used" t-shirts to donate to our injured military in Iraq. Please bring them to the meeting, or drop them by **Bonnie's house**. Thanks to all who have

contributed.

Remember to keep saving those aluminum cans for the Childhood Cancer Campaign. Each year more than 12,000 children and teens are diagnosed with ~~cancer~~. ~~The CCC tries to build awareness of the~~ disease, provide assistance for the children and their families & support research to find a cure. Bring empty cans to support this cause to the meetings or drop them off at **Bonnie's house**.

Thursday, January 24th Dinner

Please join your fellow Optimists for the first gathering of the New Year. A group from the Annapolis Youth Symphony will be on hand to play from 6:30-7:15.

The menu is as follows:

Grilled Salmon,
Finished with a Tarragon Citrus Sauce
Classic Caesar Salad with Tomato and Croutons
Chef's Specialty Blend Rice
Grilled Vegetable Medley
Rolls & Butter
Chef's Dessert Choice
Coffee, Decaf, Iced Tea & Hot Tea

Annapolis Sheraton Hotel, 187 Jennifer Road.
Social time is 6:30 pm and dinner is 7:00 pm.
The cost of the evening is \$15.00 per person.

**Please RSVP to Bonnie Hitzelberger @
410-268-1783 by January 18th.**

NOTE: The headcount is extremely important as we are billed for the number we commit to. As in the past, we will need a 72-hour notice to cancel or you will be billed.



Ed Turner, our basketball commissioner, says the season is in full swing and invites everyone out to support the teams.

Jennifer Bopp has volunteered to be our Sunshine Chairperson. If you know of a sick member, please email her at jtrott@gmail.com.

Jennifer Navabi is our Oratorical Contest Chairperson. Through this contest over \$150,000 in college scholarships are awarded annually. It's open to students under the age of 16. If you know someone who would like to participate, call Jennifer at 410-268-0472 or go to www.optimist.org for more information. The topic this year is "Why Me? Why Not!"

Dues Due:

If you haven't gotten around to paying your dues yet, please stick a \$50 check in the mail to Annapolis Optimist Club, P.O. Box 6302, Annapolis, MD 21401

Club Anniversaries:

Kathleen Potter 1 year

Happy Birthday To:

Dave Earle
Jack Papaleonti

Dates to Remember:

January

24th Dinner Meeting at 6:30 at the Sheraton
25th-27th 2nd District Meeting in Lancaster, PA.

February

4th Board Meeting
28th Dinner Meeting at 6:30 at the Sheraton

Tidbits:

At the December meeting we collected a truly impressive number of presents for the children at Sarah's House. The tables were absolutely overflowing. Thank you so much for your generosity, and I know it made their Christmases very happy ones.

Upcoming Events:

The Cole Bros. Circus will be back in town this year on Wednesday, May 7th and Thursday, May 8th. More information will follow, but keep in mind we will be needing volunteers to park cars for the 4:30 and 7:00 shows each day—so mark your calendars now.

The MDS District is having a night at the Bowie Baysox on Saturday, June 14th. Mark the date for a fun evening—let's have a great turnout!

For those of you who don't know about it, we have our own website www.annapolisoptimist.org. Please check it out.

And, as usual, if you know some good men and women who are interested in making a positive difference in the lives of children, recommend our organization to them.

