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The Annapolis Optimist



President's Message:

March is here, and we spring ahead! Timewise and in optimism. OI has designated March as "Just Ask" month. Are you wearing your button? Put it on your jacket. Invite someone to join us in "Bringing Out The Best In Kids." People make projects happen!!

The Chesapeake Youth Symphony group that played before our February meeting is so talented! Everyone enjoyed listening to their music. They are holding their annual fundraiser on April 12th at Maryland Hall. Tickets can be purchased at www.tickets.marylandhall.org

This month at our dinner meeting we will honor our essay contest winners and hear about the youth programs that the YWCA sponsors. Don't forget to RSVP by March 21st. See you on the 27th.

In Optimism,
 Bonnie

Club Activities:

The Optimist Club of Annapolis is 40!! To celebrate we're taking everyone out to the ball game! Join us at the Bowie BaySox stadium on Saturday, June 14th--the District is having a night at the ballpark, with free parking, all you can eat, fireworks and fun!! The cost is \$29 for everything and checks should be made out to MDSD Optimists and mailed to **Pete Carlson**, 11223 Rawhide Road, Lusby, MD 20657. Deadline is March 31st.

Ft. Smallwood is holding their Bull Roast on April 26th at the Earleigh Heights Firehouse. If you are interested in an evening of fun with great food, call **Dave Bowman** at 410-255-5981 for tickets.

If you would like to attend the 3rd District conference

in Ocean City from May 2-4, you need to make your reservation by April 1 at the Carousel Hotel--(410) 524-1000 or (800) 641-0011. Make sure to mention MDSD Optimists to get the special rate. To register, call **Jack Papaleonti** at (410) 991-4465.

You don't want to miss the CCC Duck Races! OI Foundation is holding a duck race at the International Convention in Grapevine, TX. You can purchase a duck for \$10 and all the money goes to the CCC at Johns Hopkins. The forms will be at the dinner meeting, or call **Dan Hitzelberger** at (410) 268-1783.

Let's all race a duck for a good cause!

Thursday, March 27th Dinner

Come honor our essay contest winners and hear about the programs the YWCA sponsors for kids and teens.

The menu is as follows:

Pepper Crusted London Broil,
 served with
 Sugar Snap Peas,
 Twice Baked Potato
 Garden Salad
 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 February 22nd.**

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.



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

And, finally, we'd like to send "Get Well" wishes out to Mary Ann Publicover. We hope you are feeling better soon.

Volunteers Needed:

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! The Circus is coming May 7th and 8th. Mark your calendars and consider helping to park cars for one or more of the 4 shows. Someone will be calling in April to put you on the schedule.

Officers for 2008-2009

The nominating committee—Wrenn Gooding, Ed Sherlock and Glen Rotner—will be working on the slate of officers for next year. Please step up and help our club! Additionally, Governor-elect Dan is looking for good people to take on District responsibilities for 2008-2009. Please call him if you'd like to volunteer: (410) 268-1783

Cans, Cans and more Cans!

Keep collecting those aluminum cans for Childhood Cancer. Bring them to a meeting or drop them off at Bonnie's house. Many thanks to those who have just left them on the porch.

Other Notes:

The five high school sophomores we are sponsoring to the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Conference (HOBY) on May 24-26 are:

- Charles Melish from Annapolis High School,
- Emily Gray from Broadneck High School,
- Matthew Carter from Key School,
- Alexandra Suberi from South River High School &
- Samantha Richards from Southern High School

Thanks to **Cathleen Morris** for being the HOBY chairperson.

The Optimist basketball season is over, and once again it was a successful year. The players all improved their games and had a lot of fun doing it. Thanks go out to our commissioner, **Ed Turner**, and to all of our coaches.

A big thank you to **Marcia Richard** for chairing the essay contest. The winners will be honored at the March meeting.

Club Anniversaries:

Bill Dempsey	3 years
Jim Galligan	5 years

Happy Birthday To:

Bill Dempsey
Leigh Dempsey



Dates to Remember:

March

21 st	Deadline to RSVP for the Dinner Meeting
27 th	Dinner Meeting

April

7 th	Board Meeting
24 th	Respect for Law Dinner Meeting

May

2nd-4th	3 rd District Meeting in O.C.
7th-8th	Circus

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.

