

Club members, Jr. Optimist leaders and District Officers are bcc'd this note. Editor, Tom Neal

# Farmington/Farmington Hills Sunnyside Newsletter

## Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

"We provide hope and a positive vision, as we bring out the best in our youth, our communities, and ourselves."

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### "WE ARE SUCCEEDING WITH HEART OF OPTIMISM"

#### **Join Us for our Meeting this Week**

Come early to the meeting and socialize before we get started. Our speaker this week is **Marsha Koet** with the Commission on Aging. She will talk about *Scams and Financial Exploitation of Elders*. Hear what she has to say and learn what to do about it.

#### **District 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conference this Past Saturday**

It started with coffee, chat and connect time. Then next was session with Focus Groups on Learning and Growing Together: 1) Partnering with our community 2) Just Invite! 3) The More You Know. Finally, they wrapped up with Fun Game Together in Optimism. Your editor made a presentation of our orientation slides in the Just Invite! focus group.

#### **Optimist International Webinar Last Monday:**

The topic of this training was "**Keep Them Coming Back!**" Attached are notes from discussion on how to keep members engaged.

### **ST. PATRICKS DAY CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS FUNDRAISER**

Join in the fun at the Pines Restaurant on **Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 pm** fundraising Irish dinner of Corned Beef and Cabbage, Shepherd's pie and other special foods. Irish entertainment and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$50 with proceeds

going to fund grants for District Optimist club CHW projects. Let Roxanne Fitzpatrick know if you are attending.

### **40th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE:**

Event scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023 at The Pines Restaurant at Farmington Hills Golf Club, 6:30-9:00P. Committee is working on final details of dinner and will be presenting budget at next Board meeting.

### **Consider Optimist Foundation: Make Dime-A-Day Donation**

We need to continue to support the O.I. Foundation by giving a \$36.50 donation to support the National program for Oratorical, Essay and other programs that only get their funding from the foundation. Go to **optimist.org: select Foundations: select Optimist International Foundation (Not Canadian): Scroll down and click on red rectangle saying "Make a Difference, Donate now": select US and then proceed with payment information.** Thanks for your participation in this program.

**Website:** [f2hoptimists.org](http://f2hoptimists.org)

**Facebook:** Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

### **Calendar**

*Meetings at Farmington Presbyterian Church, unless otherwise noted.*

|         |                                                                            |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb. 22 | Marsha Koet, FH Commission on Aging                                        |
| Mar. 1  | Board of Directors Meeting by Zoom                                         |
| Mar. 8  | <del>Club Business Meeting</del> Cancelled                                 |
| Mar. 8  | State of the Cities Breakfast                                              |
| Mar. 15 | Respect for Fire                                                           |
| Mar. 18 | Oratorical Contest at CARES, 10:00am                                       |
| Mar. 21 | National Rosie the Riveter Day                                             |
| Mar. 22 | Vickie Sullen-Winn, FH Director of Communications                          |
| Mar. 22 | CHW St. Patrick's Day Dinner at The Pines                                  |
| Apr. 23 | Miss Farmington Cities Scholarship Program<br>Chili Cookoff, Cowleys 1-4pm |
| May 11  | 40 <sup>th</sup> Club Anniversary Celebration at The Pines                 |

**Inclement Weather Policy:** If schools closing, then no in-person meeting but will switch to a zoom link instead.

## Birthdays

### March

- 05 – Diane Eklov
- 11 – Anna Durham
- 19 – Gary Mekjian
- 21 – Jim Walker
- 23 – Steve Vercellino
- 29 – Doug Edwards

### Attachments:

- Newsletter PDF
- Keep Them Coming Back PDF
- CHW St Patrick's Day Dinner PDF

## Longacre Jr. Optimist Meeting, Feb. 2023



We had 15 participants + Viktoria and Alex (helpers from middle school). They made egg-shaped felt decorations to give to a senior facility (Angel hadn't determined which one).

The top left photo shows a few of the decorations they made. In the second photo they were playing a game where they toss a ball to someone and compliment them led by Parent Leader Angel. Bottom photo is Viktoria and Alex (helpers from Power Middle School) showing kids what they made.

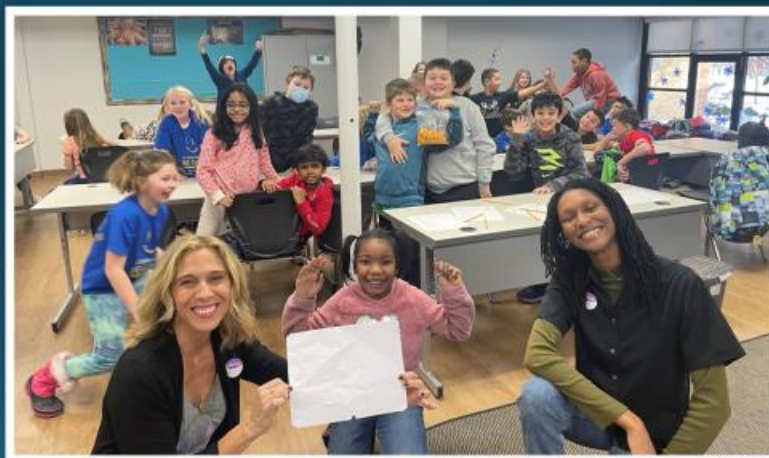


## Presenters at Gill Elementary Jr. Optimists

Oh my goodness, we had a BLAST speaking to the Jr. Optimist. I will tell you, the kids were AMAZING!!! They probably asked 150 questions and they were all very thoughtful and honestly blew us away!

Thank you for the opportunity to share Camp Casey with the community! We can't wait for these sweet peas to grow a little then come volunteer with us once they're 15 :)

In health and horses,  
Molly Reeser, Exec. Director  
Camp Casey for Kids



## East Middle School Jr. Optimists Making Cookies for Christmas





# Keep Them Coming Back!



Presented by Deanna Morrow & Kevin Hammell, 2022-2023 Leadership Development Committee

A strong, vibrant Club has lots of people having a good time, laughing and enjoying each other's company, in a friendly, supportive environment . . .

About a **quarter** of those who volunteered for an organization before the pandemic stopped volunteering during the pandemic.

Of those that continued to volunteer for an organization, their frequency declined during the pandemic compared to before.

A larger share of individuals stopped their formal volunteer behavior during the pandemic than those that started.

People ages 50-64 were the least likely to stop their formal volunteering during the pandemic.

More women than men stopped their formal volunteering during the pandemic.

Those that stopped their formal volunteer behavior during the pandemic attributed it to the impact of the pandemic.

The most frequently cited reasons for never volunteering are the lack of resources, *never being asked*, not wanting to volunteer, facing restricting family obligations, and health reasons.

Most areas of volunteering saw a decrease in volunteer behavior, except religious organizations, environmental and animal care organizations, health and disaster relief organizations, and refugee organizations.

During the pandemic, *virtual volunteering* increased and in-person volunteering decreased.

Instances of *informal volunteering* increased, as volunteers sought unique ways to help.



## *Thoughts about Member Engagement*

- Generation X best for volunteers
- Find out member interest: Meetings vs. projects
- Needs of members (What is their favorite project?)
- Stop, Start, Continue - activity re: projects
- Virtual volunteering via computer or small tasks
- Micro volunteering quickly and conveniently (Short term)
- Outcome-focused projects/assignments
- Use skills for a greater good
- Communication: Do members know we miss them?
- Gen X like online meetings, text messages and social media
- Youngest(20's) spend 5 hours on phone a day
- Best practice – 1/6<sup>th</sup> of time social: fun and fellowship
- Gen Z most philanthropic generation and work around schedule – appeals via social media. Use Venmo.

# Best Practices for Member Engagement

**1**

- Embrace flexibility

**2**

- Micro-volunteerism

**3**

- Utilize technology effectively

**4**

- Use multiple ways to communicate

**5**

- Prioritize fun!

Listen to members!

- Stay relevant
- Flexibility is important
- Use Optimist Trivia sheet
- Go online to learn of fun activities

A wise Optimist once said, "If your members are not having fun, they won't come back!"

**3 ways to communicate**

1. Social media
2. Email
3. Text





**ST PATRICKS DAY  
CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND  
WELLNESS FUNDRAISER**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023  
7:00-9:30 PM**

**JOIN US AT THE PINES RESTAURANT  
37777 11 MILE CRT., FARMINGTON HILLS (FH GOLF COURSE)**

**SERVING CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE, SHEPHERDS PIE  
AND A SPECIALTY SALAD FOR OUR NON-MEAT EATERS,  
DESSERT**

**COFFEE, TEA OR SOFT DRINK INCLUDED. CASH BAR**

**COST IS: \$50 PER PERSON  
PROCEEDS GOING TO FUND GRANTS FOR THE OPTIMIST  
CLUBS UNDER CHW.**

**SECURE YOUR TABLE BY MARCH 15, 2023**

**PLEASE INCLUDE THE FORM WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

**MICHIGAN DISTRICT OPTIMIST**

**MAIL TO: ROXANNE FITZPATRICK**

**30255 FIDDLERS GREEN, F.H., MI 40334**

**QUESTIONS CALL: 248-470-3584**

**OR SEND THE FORM TO [RFITZ@KW.COM](mailto:RFITZ@KW.COM) &**

**VENMO \$\$ TO**

**ROXANNE FITZPATRICK @ROXANNE-  
FITZPATRICK**

**ASKING CLUBS TO PUT TOGETHER A RAFFLE BASKET- TO BE  
RAFFLED OFF THAT NIGHT**

**IRISH ENTERTAINMENT, 50/50 RAFFLE ALSO. INVITE FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS!!!**



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

**March 22, 2023 | The Pines Restaurant - 37777 11 Mile Ct.,  
Farmington Hills | \$50 per person**

| Name(s) | Email | Dietary Restrictions | Phone # |
|---------|-------|----------------------|---------|
|         |       |                      |         |
|         |       |                      |         |
|         |       |                      |         |
|         |       |                      |         |
|         |       |                      |         |
|         |       |                      |         |
|         |       |                      |         |

# of people together: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:**

Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Venmo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for reserving tables: March 15, 2023**