



April

# Friendly Flyer



2009



## President's Message

Ping! The sound of the ball hitting the aluminum bat is a welcome sound to me. Yes, it is spring! It is great to hear the joy of softball and baseball behind my house at Haley M. Smith Park. Boys and girls cheering each other and exuding happiness make me proud to be a part of the Optimist Club of Herndon. And, to the many coaches, referees, umpires, assistants and volunteers, thanks for making the difference in the quality of life for many boys and girls and their families.

### Sports Appreciation Dinner

See the related article on our Sports Appreciation Dinner wherein we honored many key volunteer leaders with Sportsmanship Awards geared towards our appreciation of men and women who exemplify the kind of leadership qualities we embrace as Optimists. We enjoyed the wonderful and inspiring talk of Mark Wiggins, a certified speaker for *Positive Coaching Alliance*; and of course we were happy to recognize Jerry Carter for his fortitude as Vice President of Sports for a ten-year stint. His "Enduring Leadership" will be appreciated for years to come.

### 2009-2010 Action Plan Underway

Three *Ad Hoc* Committees are underway, led by Terry Petty, Tom Merial, and yours truly. Hopefully the work of these committees will serve as the foundation for a re-engineered Optimist Club. It is my sincere hope that we will deliver our outdoor field needs to Fairfax County Park Authority and the Town in a soon to be completed Field Evaluation Study

by Terry's group. And, I hope we enjoy a consolidated and successful Annual Fund Raising and Sponsorship Campaign once given ideas and a plan from Tom's Group. Finally, I plan to present the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities of our first paid administrator to the Board on April 14. Once the Board agrees, we can commence advertisement and selection of that individual who will be play a pivotal role in providing solid value-added services to our leagues and programs helping us to grow in many ways such as programming and membership.

### The "Right Side" Task Force

During our February Membership Meeting, after my presentation on "branding" Herndon Optimism, Phil Goetkin, among others, formed a "Right Side" Task Force for the purpose of making recommendations for Club programs and activities. Phil will present their findings to the Board on April 14 at the Fortnightly Library. The Board meets at 7:00 PM and members are welcome to attend.

### Your Involvement in the HOC

Friday Night Live!, Scholarship Selection, and Oratorical Contest await volunteers. Get involved! Make some new friends. As always, thanks for your consideration and volunteerism.

*Rick*

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**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

*Friend of Youth*



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**Volunteers  
Needed!!**

## Oratorical Program To Be Held April 24

The Oratorical Contest is scheduled for April 24 at 7 PM in the Herndon Town Council Chambers.

The topic for this year's contest is **"For Me, Optimism Is..."**

For the past many years, only students from St. Joseph's School have participated so Mary Burger, event chair, and Susan Michaely are working to recruit public school teachers who might teach and encourage students to participate, and also to reach out to attract homeschoolers and public school students who may not be aware of the program.

Contact Mary at [mary.b38@verizon.net](mailto:mary.b38@verizon.net) if you can volunteer for this one-night event.



## Sports Appreciation Dinner a Success



An estimated 90 HOC members and invited guests gathered for the Sports Appreciation Dinner held on March 19 at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon. Guest speaker Mark Wiggins of "The Speakerman," a speaking tour organization, and a certified representative for Positive Coaches Alliance, spoke on the benefits of being a positive coach. Mark emphasized that adult coaches have a profound effect on young athletes and the best coaches are dedicated to the health and welfare of their players as opposed to just winning games. Mark used some life lessons and personal experiences to reinforce the notion that our youngsters need positive reinforcement, not only in the game, but in life itself.

Mark's talk was relevant and inspiring – a natural tribute to the many coaches and volunteers who were recognized for their leadership in six of our HOY Sports programs: Football, Cheerleading, Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken, Lacrosse, and Basketball.



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27 volunteers were honored for sportsmanship and leadership for the varying HOY Sports programs conducted over the past year.

Jerry Carter, longtime Vice President of Sports and 7-year member of the Fairfax Athletic Council as well as serving in many leadership roles for the Club, was honored for his "Enduring Leadership" as Vice President of Sports for the past ten years.

Thanks go to Debbie Hill, dinner coordinator; Tom Merial, bartender; John DeYoung for recruiting our speaker; and George and Laura Price for setting up.



*Guest speaker Mark Wiggins and Board members Debbie Hill, Alicia Amico, Rick Thoesen, and Jasmine Faubert are pictured here with honoree Jerry Carter, recipient of the "Enduring Leadership" Award for his many leadership services to the Club and the Fairfax County Athletic Council and, most particularly, for serving ten years as Vice President, Sports.*



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## Friday Night Live! 2009 Season Set to Begin

Friday Night Live! is set to begin its 2009 season on May 1st. Kick-off night features 2U (U2 Tribute Band) + Rise & Fall.

Details about this popular event and the 2009 schedule of bands are available at <http://www.herndonrocks.com/>.

If you are not already a volunteer, now is your chance to become part of a great group of dedicated volunteers who are essential to the success of Friday Night Live!.

You should plan to attend our annual orientation and ABC & Marshal training next Wednesday April 15 if you are interested in volunteering for Friday Night Live! in 2009.

Refreshments from The Tortilla Factory will be provided starting at 5:30; training starts at 6:30. There is no cost to attend.

**Wednesday April 15, 2009**  
**Refreshments: 5:30 to 6:30**  
**Training: 6:30 to 8:30**  
**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
**1090 Sterling Road, Herndon**

Please send an email to Laura Price at [ljgprice@aol.com](mailto:ljgprice@aol.com) to let her know you are coming.



## Calendar at a Glance

**April 14 – Board Meeting**  
**April 15 – ABC/Marshal Training\***  
**April 24 – Oratorical Contest**  
**May 20 – Partners in Education, Scholarship and Oratorical Awards\***  
**June 17 – HHS All Night Graduation Party**

**\*Location:**

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
**1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA**

## HOC Higher Education \$cholar\$hip\$

The deadline for HOC Scholarship applications is April 11. HHS posted our scholarship information and application form on its homepage. Check out the HOC website at [www.herndonoptimist.org](http://www.herndonoptimist.org) too.

The selection committee will determine the winner(s) in late April/early May. Winner(s) will be announced at the 2009 Senior Awards Ceremony at the high school and also at our May 20 Partners in Education celebration.

Thanks to Jeff Delmontagne and Shawn Boynton for volunteering to serve on the selection committee. **More volunteers are needed.**

To volunteer, contact Peggy Walker by email through the HOC webmaster at [webmaster@herndonoptimist.org](mailto:webmaster@herndonoptimist.org) or call 703-437-7243.



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## 2008-09 Committees

*Partners in Education  
& Friday Night Live!*  
George Price

*Oratorical Contest*  
Mary Burger & Susan Michaely

*HHS All Night Graduation*  
Howie Haselbeck

*Club Bartender & Membership*  
Tom Merial

*Friendly Flyer*  
Peggy Walker

*Scholarship*  
Peggy Walker & Jan Umphrey

## 2008-09 Committees

*Administrative Search*  
Rick Thoesen, Debbie Hill,  
Lou Petersen & Bob Walker

*Field Study*  
Terry Petty, Barry Goldin,  
Bob Rhyne & Jerry Carter

*Fund Raising*  
Tom Merial, Roland Taylor,  
Dan Umphrey, Peggy Walker,  
John Benko  
& Don Owens (Business Guest)

*Policy and Procedures*  
**Still Recruiting**

Additional members are needed to help with these committees and other committees that may be formed as Rick moves forward with the year.

If you are willing to help or need additional information about any committee, please contact Laura Price at 703-435-1668 or at [ljpprice@aol.com](mailto:ljpprice@aol.com).