



January

# Friendly Flyer



2008

## President's Message

My heartfelt wishes to all the members of the Herndon Optimist Club for a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year.

I for one have never been one to make "New Year's Resolutions", whether personal, business or for an organization I am involved with. However, this year I found myself making one – no matter the direction our club takes, that the friendships that have formed continue to grow and that new ones are made; that the sports leagues prosper and grow stronger; and that the youth of Herndon is afforded opportunities that other communities don't offer.

As we begin the New Year, our club will be busier than ever. Baseball, Lacrosse, and Softball will be gearing up for "Opening Day," while Basketball will still be filling up the various gyms but winding down their season. There will be the annual Bat-A-Thon® fundraiser for baseball, our Partners in Education and Oratorical programs, the presentation of scholarships, the beginning of *Friday Night Live!*, the Herndon Festival, and yes, the club's participation in Herndon High School All Night Graduation Celebration.

Our meetings for January & February will be unlike other meetings in years past. Although there is no official program planned for either, the board is hoping they will be fun and enjoyable.



Laura

## *Howie Haslbeck Awarded 2007 Optimist of the Year*

It is with utmost gratitude and appreciation that we honor Howie Haslbeck as the 2007 Optimist of the Year. Howie volunteered an extensive amount of time in the efficient management of both the 2006-2007 Optimist Basketball Program and 2007 Herndon High School All Night Graduation Party, but that is not all.

In addition, Howie was the man behind the scenes graciously volunteering countless hours of his time to help administer many other Optimist activities such as the Herndon Homecoming Parade (even though it was rained out, Howie showed up), the Respect for Law Banquet, Oratorical Contest, Sports Administrator Task Force, Friday Night Live!, Herndon Festival, etc. The bottom line: Howie was always there! giving to serve the youth of Herndon.

As Past President, I am particularly grateful to Howie, since I had accepted a new job that required me to commute to and from and eventually relocate to Florida. It was Howie who willingly stepped in on my behalf to keep several Optimist functions moving forward. Thank you, Howie, you are more than just a Friend to Youth! Please join me in honoring and congratulating Howie with this award. He is rightfully deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,  
Jim Clark  
Past President



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## Annual Holiday Party

For those members who were unable to attend – we missed you. There was a good group present and Dave Sinclair won the prize for the best costume!! No, he didn't come as Santa, but did wear his Scottish kilt with a Santa Hat!! Some of the ladies present couldn't help lifting it up to see what he was wearing under it!!

Libations flowed, food was consumed, conversations were plentiful and it appeared that everyone had a great time.

The party started to wind down around midnight; however, there was a core group who managed to stay until 3ish!!

Many thanks to everyone who brought a dessert to share – everything was yummy and you could gain weight by just looking at the kitchen table. Special thanks go to: Debbie Hill and Jackie & Jerry Carter for helping set up; Doug Downer for making a special trip to bring the lettuce; and everyone who helped clean up!!

**Until the 2008 Annual Holiday Party!!**

## Adopt A Family

Mary Burger has reported that, due to unforeseen circumstances with our adopted family, nothing could be purchased and given to them at Christmas.

The board is looking into another project that may benefit that family or another one in the near future. Perhaps a Christmas in April project!!

## Upcoming Meetings

Our January meeting will be held January 23 at Holy Cross Church located at 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon.

At this time there is no formal program; however, that might change between now and then. The theme is "*Pizza Party*," the social will begin at 6:30 and the Pizza will be delivered around 7 PM. The cost should be around \$5.00 per person.



The February meeting will be nothing like we have ever done!! We will be playing indoor "*Winter Bocce Ball*."



There are numerous Optimist Members who consider themselves real Bocce Ball pros so let's see what they do on carpet rather than grass!!

Mark your calendars now for February 28. Again we will be meeting at Holy Cross Church at 1090 Sterling Road. The social will start at 6:30 and as of the printing of this newsletter, the menu and cost haven't been determined.

The March 13 meeting will be the club's traditional Sports Banquet to honor and pay tribute to the Optimist Sports programs and all that they do for the youth in the Herndon area.

