



iMagine

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WASHINGTON BI-WEEKLY UPDATE 04/20/2020

JOIN YOUR FELLOW OPTIMISTS VIA ZOOM THIS WEEK.....

Chris sent out information about a Zoom Club Gathering this Wednesday, 4/22 at noon and Thursday, 4/23 at 6:00pm.

Join in and see your fellow Optimists!

AWESOME OPTIMIST NEWS AND NOT SO AWESOME OPTIMIST NEWS.....

Which would you like first...well we will start with the **Awesome...?**

Scholarship Recipients –

We were right in the middle of planning our annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner when COVID-19 ramped up and scholarship applications had just started being read. At this month's board meeting it was agreed that we will still honor these outstanding High School Seniors (since we had it in the budget). The scholarship application readers of **Megan Maurer and Carole Lohmeyer** made some great selections. **Thanks Megan and Carole!** So our 2020.....

WHS recipients are –

Emma Stemmley and Audrey Bush

SFBRHS recipients are –

Daniel Mallinckrodt and Zoe Oetterer

We are still waiting on the applications from the No Excuses Program. Unfortunately, they did not get wrapped up before school was cancelled but never fear Mr. Branson is working on that with the students.

If you know any of these students be sure to congratulate them. As always, they were all very appreciative, excited and surprised when I contacted them but even more so this year.

Once we are back meeting again, we will have a lunch gathering and invite the recipients to join us so that we can celebrate with them...hopefully this summer.

NOW FOR THE NOT SO AWESOME NEWS...

As we had obviously thought would happen but had hoped for an optimist miracle, we will need to cancel our annual Bike Safety Rodeo that was scheduled for May 16th. With the extended Stay at Home order and who knows how long the process will take to open up we just know it is not going to work this year.

We do have the committee pondering if we should try a re-schedule in the fall or just cancel it all together until next spring. The committee will take their recommendation to the board in May.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING.....?

I approached some more club members to see how they are handling the "Days of our Lives of COVID-19". I have to say you are all very busy and creative! Note that I made them in different colors since I had no club photos to share. Thought it could give the Update a little color! Let's hear from:

Rich and Phyllis Steckel

Rich and Phyllis Steckel are keeping busy. Rich is happy that we have a bird-condo full of purple martins already and he awaits our first hummingbird. We're getting good at ordering Walmart groceries online. They get a take-out pizza every week from Moe's and each gets a Southwest Salad from Miller's Grill -- trying to support local businesses that have helped the Optimist Club for so long. Rich has yard work that keeps him busy, and the grass is growing so fast you can almost see it. Phyllis has begun an online "Party Line" newsletter for their church, so folks can keep up with the personal news of the congregations' membership, sending it out every two or three days, as the "church news" comes in. Car shows are pretty much cancelled for most of the year, and they are concerned about their Muny tickets. We will see. Other than some grumbling about forfeiting some favorite summer activities, they are well.

Megan Maurer

I have been at home since March 18. I have been working from home and homeschooling my eight-year-old daughter who normally attends 3rd grade at Beaufort Elementary. My spouse works in the wine industry in Hermann, so he has still been working.

Our kitchen now doubles as the classroom and office. My daughter really likes a schedule, so we have been sticking pretty close to the same routine Monday through Friday. This means that she is ready for lunch at 11 AM! My daughter says her favorite part of homeschooling is Mommy Maurer Story Hour, science, and social studies.

When I am not trying to find a work from home/homeschooling balance, I have been doing a lot of exercising, reading, and cooking (including waffles--my skills need to be sharp for the fair!). I have also been keeping a journal. Prior to being home, I did not regularly journal, but decided I wanted to document what is going on at home, at work, our nation, and the world.

Although no one directly in my life has been struck ill from the virus, I do have a cousin and aunt who are nurses in major cities in Illinois and Indiana, who are seeing patients with the virus. I also have a sister and brother in law who own a restaurant in central Illinois, who are working hard to stay open and adjust their service model. I am relying heavily on my optimism to send them positive thoughts and prayers.

Mark Trebacz

Barb and I are fine.

Spending more time with local family but missing Mom and relatives in Illinois and Arizona.

We are missing our restaurant and vineyard get-togethers with friends, Mondays at Ernesto's, Thursdays at the VFW and weekends at Lake Creek or other vineyards. Barb is making more homemade meals; we are saving a lot of money :)

Business took a dive but we are adapting. Did some painting and upgrades in the shop to improve productivity and moral. Trying to stack up jobs on certain days for a full day of work leaving me working alone on the slow days to pay bills. Seems to have picked up after the stimulus checks hit. Getting to-go meals from local restaurants to help the little guys.

Staying home forces, me to find stuff to do, did a lot of weed spraying, cleaning and organizing. The Yoest's are helping till and plant our community garden in our yard, time to raise some chickens? Will be opening the pool soon for a little back yard fun.

The Purple Martins are back for the summer, 20 at last count. Always fun to watch and listen to, each pair normally has 5 to 6 offspring per season. Getting ready to build some super bird houses of my own design that will use cables and winch to raise and lower.

Not sure if all of our fireworks events will go as planned, that is another whole group of friends that we look forward to seeing.

Missing our Lion's, Optimist's and musician friends, looking forward to seeing all of you soon, we have to beat this!!

Ina Rutz

John and I have been retired for five years so you'd think we were used to staying at home. That, however, has never been the case. Our mornings used to start with workouts at the gym after coffee and a light breakfast. Now our mornings are slower with more coffee and more breakfast. Then the projects begin. We've gotten more done around our house and the farm in the last month than we've accomplished in the last two years. John disc up most of our back yard, we raked it all, picked up all

old sod, seeded and strawed. I needed more oven space so we purchased a double oven. John cut a hole in the wall, built a platform into a closet to rest the ovens on, moved the cold air return, repaired drywall, and repainted the wall. John finished a kitchen remodel at our old farmhouse and I've spent several days cleaning years of dirt and construction mess up. I also stained and finished some new cabinets we had to purchase for the farm. The rest were used and free. I've cleaned closets at home, washed windows, and cleaned the rest of the house more times than I care to think about. John tells people that I often vacuum three times a day. He's joking, of course. It's only once. I've also baked in my new ovens many times and given away as much as I can get out the door before John sees it. I even shipped homemade sourdough bread, banana bread, and cookies to our son in North Carolina as part of his birthday. I've also been involved in a small group bible study through our church and I'm actively working through two online bible studies now. I'm still trying to figure out how on earth we ever found the time to work at real jobs.

OPTIMISTIC THOUGHT FOR THE BI-WEEK
Keep smiling everyone! Be kind to everyone! We are all in this together!

Be Safe, Be Healthy and most importantly Be Optimistic!



I hope you enjoyed round 2 of “What Have You Been Doing during these Days of our Lives of COVID-19”. It is great to know that everyone is doing well and doing what they can to survive this “event” in our lives. Thanks to Rich, Phyllis, Megan, Mark and Ina for sharing!

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