



The Van-Guard

Official Publication of Optimist Club 32-185
January 2018



Coming Events! 2018

March 10: Club Oratorical Contest, contact Danni Cara at 360.910.3310

March 13 or 19: Annual Youth Appreciation event, Salmon Creek United Methodist Church, 6:00 p.m., contact Steve Enyeart 360.718.8390

March 24: Pacific Northwest District Second Quarter Meeting, St. Ignatius School, 3330 SE 43rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97206, Registration: \$20
www.pnwdoptimist.org

April 28: Camp clean-up, 10:00 a.m. contact Steve Enyeart 360.718.8350

Christmas Ships, December 14

On a very chilly Thursday evening, Mary White, Donna Rude, Marcella von Tangen, her friend and neighbor Lance Stratton, plus one of his daughter's in-laws, joined Ray Carlyle, his wife Kathleen and members of the *SSS Dragon 630* for a cruise on the Columbia River to view the annual Christmas Ship parade. Because of their hard work during the year, the Sea Scout Ship the *Reliant*, was made available to *The Dragon* at no charge. Members of *The Dragon* and Marcella provided coffee,



hot chocolate and yummy snacks
(Photo from the *SSS Dragon 630* archives)

Walk & Knock December 2, 2017

Each year, Skipper Ray Carlyle, The *SSS Dragon 630*, and Sea Scout crew members participate in the annual Walk & Knock the first Saturday of December. This year, the annual event collected 286,000 pounds of food, an increase of 13% over last year. Walk & Knock also reported \$15,000 in cash donations. *The Columbian Newspaper* posted in an article on December 21, that this year's event broke a six-year streak of declining donations. Walk & Knock President Justin Wood said that additional efforts of bag distribution where bags were dropped off on doorsteps saw up to an 80 percent increase in donations in those neighborhoods. All donations remain in Clark County. What a great event!

Say Goodbye to Fisher's Grange

On December 9, 2017, the Optimist Club of Vancouver held its last ever Christmas potluck dinner at Fisher's Grange. Due to a land-use designation change by the County, **AND** a substantial increase in property taxes, the Grange were forced to sell the property. It will be developed into a 26-lot subdivision.



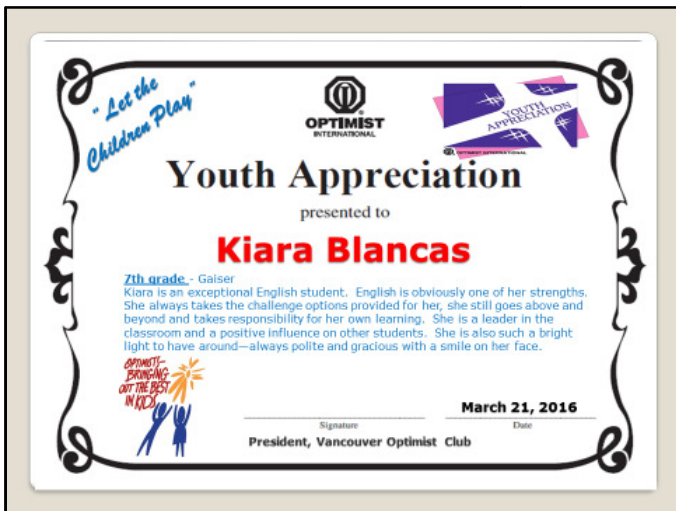
Originally, the building was constructed at Fisher's Landing near the Columbia River. A number of years later, a sheep farmer and the Grange struck a deal, properties were exchanged and the Grange was moved (at the sheep man's expense) to its current site. Bob Richards, our local contact with the Grange, said Fisher's Grange was investing in and merging with the Pioneer Grange in Ridgefield on 199th Street. How sad!

Annual Youth Appreciation

By Steve Enyeart

Youth Appreciation is one of the more popular events Optimist International (OI) clubs hold annually. OI is a service organization focused on the youth in each community. OI's slogan is "Friend of Youth" and the current banner is "Bringing Out the Best in Kids". The Vancouver club has been in this community since 1946. The Optimist Club of Vancouver will hold the annual Youth Appreciation Event in March. In addition to Jason Lee and Gaiser Middle Schools, Alki and MacLoughlin Middle Schools have also been invited. The Vancouver club began the Youth Appreciation event with Jason Lee and Gaiser Middle Schools three years ago. "Citizenship" is the general theme for honoring students. We have defined citizenship as those students that help their fellow students and schools to better achieve. We leave it to the counselors, teachers and staff at each school to select those to be honored. Each school sends us the names of two students from each grade with a short write-up of why they were selected. Below is a sample from last year's honoree's.

Students, parents and school staff are invited to a celebration for the honorees. It will be on a Monday, March 12 or 19 at 6 p.m. at the Salmon Creek United



Methodist Church on Highway 99. We prepare certificates for each child with their teacher's write-up included. These are read aloud at the event and a trophy presented. A snack will be provided.

Oratorical Scholarship Competition, March 10

Topic: "Where Are My Roots of Optimism?"

The Optimist Club of Vancouver's annual Oratorical competition will be held March 10, 2018 at the Vancouver Police East Precinct, 520 SE 155th Avenue (at Mill Plain Boulevard), Vancouver, Washington 98686. The competition will begin at 10:00 a.m. Participants should arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. Doors will open by 9:00 a.m. The first and second place winners will then move to the Zone competition, tentatively scheduled for April 7, 2018. Information for next steps will be provided at that time. The top two winners from the Zone competition will get an all-expense trip to the Pacific Northwest District contest. Contestants under the age of 18 on October 1, 2017 are eligible to participate.

The top three winners of the Pacific Northwest District contest each will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school. In a combined gender contest, the three finalists are awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000 respectively.

The District's first place winner will have an opportunity to compete in the Regional competition for a \$5,000 scholarship. The first-place winner at the Regional competition is eligible to compete in the World Championship Contest with awards of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively. Deadline for submitting materials for the Club Contest is February 28. **Contact: Dannette Cara, Oratorical Chair, Cell: (360) 940-3310, dannettecara@gmail.com**

The Optimist Creed Promise yourself.....

*To be so strong that nothing
can disturb your peace of mind;
To talk health, happiness and prosperity
to every person you meet;
To make all your friends feel there is
something in them;
To look at the sunny side of everything
and make your optimism come true;
To think only of the best, to work only
for the best and expect only the best;
To be just as enthusiastic about the
success of others as you are
about your own;
To forget the mistakes of the past
and press on to the greater
achievements of the future;
To wear a cheerful countenance at all
times and give every living creature
you meet a smile;
To give so much time to the improvement
of yourself that you have no time
to criticize others;
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger,
to strong for fear, and too happy to permit
the presence of trouble.*

Your Optimist Leadership

October 1, 2018

Optimist International

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Pacific Northwest District

Bruce Gilbertson, Governor

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www.pnwdoptimist.org

Lt. Governor, Zone 5

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Newsletter

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