

Optimist Club of Solomons
1974 - 2024



February 3, 2024
Calvert Marine Museum
Solomons, Maryland



Optimist Club of Solomons 50th Anniversary Celebration

Social Hour 5:15 pm

Please enjoy appetizers while you tour the museum.

Welcome & Introductions 5:45 pm

President Candace Milcarzyk

Dave Spigler, 50th Anniversary Committee

Invocation led by Father Bob Kilner

Dinner 6:00 pm

Program 6:45 pm

Guest Speaker Dave Spigler

Optimist of the Year

Charter Members: Arnold Humphreys, Herbert "Ronni" Humphreys, Peter Siegert

Past Members: Brenda and Charles "Buckie" Dowell, James and Jeannie Franklin

Life Members: Allen Fissel, Arnold Humphreys, and Peter Siegert

Awards, Secretary, Tree Sales

Door Prize Drawings - ***Must be Present to Win!!***

Optimist Creed led by Ford Cox

The Optimist Club of Solomons was Chartered on February 28, 1974,
Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Calvert - Prince Frederick



Two members from the Calvert Optimist Club were sent to Solomons to bring the Optimist philosophy and start a club in the southern part of the county. With many local leaders and civic-minded men living in the area, it wasn't long before the club was up and running and meeting in the old Solomons Fire House.

Pictured: Bob Marsh, past Optimist District Governor (l) presents the ceremonial bell to new President Kenneth Hoofnagle during the charter ceremony.

1974 Club Officers

Kenneth Hoofnagle, President
Raymond Lankford Jr., 1st Vice President
Victor Garner Jr., 2nd Vice President
Peter Siegert, Secretary
Edward Waldron, Treasurer

Club Directors

1974-1975

Paul Grant
Wayne Grover
Arnold Humphreys

1974-1976

Donas McCready, Jr.
Harry Zinn
Darwin Swick

President's Slogan: "Do More in '74"

In Appreciation

We the members of the Optimist Club of Solomons, recognize and appreciate the civic and personal responsibilities now before us as Optimists, as members of Our Club, of Optimist International, and of the Maryland District. We are grateful for the guidance and cooperation of the members of the Optimist Club of Calvert – our sponsors in the establishment of our club. We hereby dedicate ourselves to the objectives of Optimism and to the improvement of our community.

The Optimist Club of Solomons
Ken Hoofnagle, President

Memories



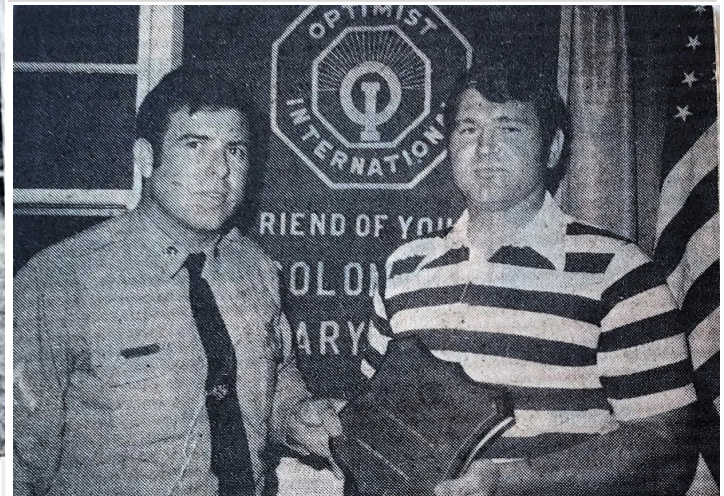
Christmas Tree Lot - 1975
Johnson Foods in the background



The Optimist Club of Solomons supported a Christmas party at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church for youngsters in the community. One of the highlights of the day was the appearance of Santa Clause, who was on hand to hear requests as Christmas drew nearer. The Optimists gave out treats and had games for the children as well.



Trooper First Class Charles Dowell of the Maryland State Police inspects the bike of Howard Miller prior to Sunday's Bike Rodeo. The Rodeo was sponsored by the Calvert County Optimists and concentrated on safe handling of bicycles. (The Prince Frederick Recorder, April 1976)



In recognition of Respect for Law Week (May 3-7, 1977), Solomons Optimist Club member Peter Siegert presented Maryland State Trooper First Class Charles O. Dowell, Jr. with an award for "Policeman of the Year."



Optimist Crab Feast 1976

As diners eat crabs in the background on a Saturday afternoon, club officers Ed Waldron, Raymond Lankford, Kenneth Lankford, Tom Combs and Pete Siegert take a break from their hosting duties to take a picture.



E. Arnold Humphreys and Junior Optimist Member student Suzanne Fraser hold the Junior Optimist Club banner at a club installation in the 1980's.



Promise Yourself



To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.



Say Cheese! Who do you recognize?



Pete Siegert receives Life Membership



President Al Fissel presents the Optimist of the Year Award to John Bateman (1995/96). John's wife Janet was also on hand for the presentation.



Sponsor Al Fissel pins newly installed member James Franklin (February 2000), who became club President in October 2002.

Club Presidents February 1974 - 2023

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|------------------------|
| 1974 | Kenneth L. Hoofnagle | 1999 | John A. Bateman * |
| 1975 | Victor A. Garner | 2000 | Herbert R. Humphreys * |
| 1976 | Peter C. Siegert | 2001 | Melissa Carnes |
| 1977 | Kenneth L. Hoofnagle | 2002 | Jane Beth Humphreys |
| 1978 | Martin L. Wiley | 2003 | James R. Franklin |
| 1979 | E. Arnold Humphreys | 2004 | Herbert R. Humphreys |
| 1980 | John R. O'Meara | 2005 | John A. Bateman |
| 1981 | Victor A. Garner | 2006 | Rebecca S. Stange |
| 1982 | William H. Burns | 2007 | John A. Bateman |
| 1983 | Kenneth L. Gilkerson | 2008 | Herbert R. Humphreys |
| 1984 | James W. Embrey | 2009 | Michael Ovando |
| 1985 | E. Arnold Humphreys | 2010 | Michael Ovando |
| 1986 | Daniel J. Garner | 2011 | Jack Greene |
| 1987 | Brian T. Hessenauer | 2012 | Jack Greene |
| 1988 | Edward J. Waldron | 2013 | V. L. Blaines |
| 1989 | Barry G. Madden | 2014 | Arlaine Freeman |
| 1990 | Ford J. Cox | 2015 | Jack Greene |
| 1991 | Barry G. Madden | 2016 | E. Arnold Humphreys |
| 1992 | John A. Bateman | 2017 | Allen J. Fissel |
| 1993 | Anthony M. Costantino | 2018 | Allen J. Fissel |
| 1994 | Kenneth L. Hoofnagle | 2019 | Jack Greene |
| 1995 | Howard F. Whitney | 2020 | Jack Greene |
| 1996 | Allen J. Fissel | 2021 | Candace Milcarzyk |
| 1997 | Lester R. Bell | 2022 | Candace Milcarzyk |
| 1998 | Walden E. Bosserman * | 2023 | Candace Milcarzyk |

*** Denotes Past Maryland South Delaware District Governor**

2024 Membership Roster

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Jeff Baragus | Christina Leclerc |
| Bobby Bollen | Jean-Luc Leclerc |
| Krista Brezina | Greg McAndrew |
| Kristy Clements | Marissa McAndrew |
| Eve M. Cox | Donald Midkiff |
| Ford J. Cox | Brandon Milcarzyk |
| Joseph D. Cox | Candace Milcarzyk |
| Madison Cox | Elisa Milcarzyk |
| Allen J. Fissel | Zachary Milcarzyk |
| Olivia Flynn | Kenny Miller |
| Candlist Greenwell | Larry Murphy |
| Stuart J. Hanson | Joe Revay |
| Ted Haynie | Kevin Robinson |
| Margaret Hoofnagle | Dave Showalter |
| E. Arnold Humphreys* | Peter C. Siegert* |
| Herbert R. Humphreys* | Richard Spigler |
| Richard E. Humphreys | Del C. Thorne |

*** Charter Members**

Optimist Club of Solomons
Programs and Community Support

Memorial Scholarship Program

Career & Technical Education Awards

Optimist Essay Contest

Optimist Oratorical Contest

Youth Appreciation Week

Junior Optimist Club

Bike Rodeo

Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

Halloween Trunk-or-Treats

Respect for Law Program

Calvert County Fair

Project Graduation

Calvert Shop with a Cop

HOBY Maryland Leadership Seminar

Maryland South Delaware District Childhood Cancer Foundation

*“Promise yourself to think only of the best, to work only for the best
and to expect only the best.”*

- Optimist International Creed

Optimist Club of Solomons

Supporting the Youth of Calvert County Since 1974

2023 Year-in-Review



into the
New Year!



Easter Celebration at St. Paul's Methodist Church



Congratulations to our newly formed Adolescent Clubhouse Junior Optimist Club!



Kenny Hoofnagle Memorial Scholarship

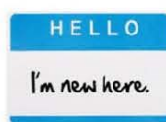
Congratulations to Patuxent High School senior Olivia Pouncey, recipient of the 2023 Kenny Hoofnagle Memorial Scholarship! The Kenny Hoofnagle Scholarship provides financial assistance to a graduating senior at Patuxent High School with a \$2,000 scholarship (\$500 per year of attendance) Olivia is pictured with Club President Candace Milcarzyk and Board Member Ford Cox.



Project Graduation



Membership Drive!



This year we welcomed the following new members during our membership drive: Jeff Bagarus, Bobby Bollen, Kristy Clements, Joseph Cox, Madison Cox, Olivia Flynn, Candlist Greenwell, Ted Haynie, Margaret Hoofnagle, Christina Leclerc, Greg McAndrew, Marissa McAndrew, Donald Midkiff, Brandon Milcarzyk, Elisa Milcarzyk, Zachary Milcarzyk, Kenny Miller, Joe Revay, and Kevin Robinson.

Respect for Law

Seven honorees from various Calvert County law enforcement agencies were honored for their dedication to their professions and the community at the 54th Annual Respect for Law Awards Banquet on July 24, 2023, hosted by the Calvert-Prince Frederick and Solomons Optimist clubs. Pictured below with Treasurer Allen Fissel are honorees Corrections Deputy First Class James Strain, Assistant State's Attorney Allison Walton, Calvert County Sheriff's Master Deputy Robert W. Burggraaf, Maryland State Trooper First Class Kevin Bauer, and Animal Control Officer Kaitlin Sewell. Honorees Public Safety Dispatcher I Theresa Anderson and Maryland Natural Resources Police Officer First Class Allison Higgs were unable to attend the event. Representing the Club at the dinner were Dave and Debra Spigler, Allen Fissel, Arnold Humphreys and Ron Humphreys.



Trunk or Treat at St. Paul's Methodist Church



Youth Appreciation Week

As part of the Optimist International (OI) program for youth appreciation, the Optimist Club of Solomons recognizes select high school seniors as the "outstanding youth" of the county. Patuxent High School honorees (l-r) Elena Saucedo, Katelyn Tinsley, Victoria McCready, Makenza Kenner, Allison Gallaher, Eden Wainwright, Lillian Erickson, and Ivy Blackwell. Not pictured: Honorees Hermes Johns and Dhiraj Patel. Photo credit: Marty Madden/Southern Maryland News.



Christmas Tree Sales



The Optimist Club of Solomons would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations towards our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

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50th Anniversary Planning Committee

Candace Milcarzyk, Committee Chair

Dave and Debbie Spigler, Fundraiser Chairs

Krista Brezina, Program Designer

Rick Humphreys, Music

Arnold and Ruth Humphreys

Dale Hoffert and Colleen Coombs

Ford and Eve Cox

Ronald Humphreys

Margaret Hoofnagle

Kristy Clements

Bobby Bollen

Music Provided by

GrooveSpan Trio

Jennifer Cooper - Vocals

Carl Reichelt - Guitar/Vocals

Rick Humphreys - Saxophone

Catering Provided by

7th District Optimist Club

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www.7thdistrictoptimist.org

Centerpieces Donated by

Jessica Amerson

The Solomons Optimist Club would like to acknowledge the following businesses for donating Door Prizes:



- Southwest Airlines - 2 Free Round Trip Tickets to any of their 121 Airports
- Blue Heron Bed & Breakfast in Solomons - Overnight Stay (\$240 value)
- Boomerangs Ribs & Seafood - (2) \$50 Gift Cards
- Angler's Seafood, Bar and Grill - \$25 Gift Card

The Solomons Optimist Club would like to acknowledge the following Members who financially assisted the Club to make this celebration a success:

Candace Milcarzyk

Arnold Humphreys

Jeff Bagarus

Ron Humphreys

Ted Haynie

Dave Spigler

Al Fissel

Krista Brezina



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 that 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 to **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, too strong
for fear, and **too happy** to permit the presence of trouble.