



THE ORACLE

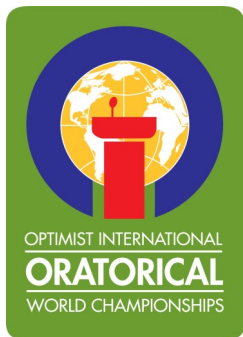
Optimist Club of Plant City
PO Box 1755, Plant City FL 33564-1755
Web: www.plantcityoptimistclub.org
Email: info@plantcityoptimistclub.org



Late February, 2024

NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY FEBRUARY 19!

Sorry, no Steak Night Meeting this month... it's the [Oratorical Contest](#) for our next meeting on **Monday February 19, 6:30 pm, Parks & Rec Admin Office Conference Room, 1904 South Park Road**. We will have a quick meeting following the Oratorical Contest to get a review of the Citizen of the Year event (Feb 14) and last minute updates on Scholarships application distribution (by Mar 1), Easter Egg Hunt (Mar 30), Soccer Dribble-Pass-Shoot (Apr 27), and Respect for Law (early May). Get double the fun for your time this Monday night with both a great Oratorical Contest and a fast meeting—you can't beat it!



LOCAL ORATORICAL CONTEST DETAILS

Our local [Oratorical Contest](#) is set for **Monday, February 19 at 6:30 pm at the Parks & Recreation Administration Office conference room, 1904 South Park Road**. We have four students registered to give their 4-5 minute orations on the topic: **How to Change the World with Optimism!** We will enjoy **Doris' Famous Strawberry Shortcake** and four great speeches! We will also host the Zone 6 Competition at the Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center on Monday March 25 and we will host the SW Regional Competition on Saturday April 13. The North Florida District finals are set for Saturday April 27 in Bushnell.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON

Thank you to those that attended the **Citizen of the Year** awards luncheon on Feb 14. Congratulations to **Courtney Paat** for receiving the 2024 award! More info is available at [this link!](#)



NO FIRST MONDAY MEETING ON MARCH 4

Monday March 4 is the Grand Parade Day for the [Florida Strawberry Festival](#). We will not meet March 4, so we will have a full agenda for the Monday March 18 meeting.

SEE A SPECIAL RECOGNITION ITEM ON PAGE 2 OF THIS ORACLE!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ **Monday February 19:** Oratorical Contest & Meeting, 6:30 pm, Parks & Rec admin conference room
- ✓ **Monday March 4:** Strawberry Festival Parade Day - no meeting.
- ✓ **Monday March 18:** Steak Night meeting, 6:15 grill time, 6:30 meeting, Parks & Rec admin patio.
- ✓ **Monday March 25:** Zone 6 Oratorical Contest, 6:30 pm, Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center.

2023-2024 OFFICERS

Robert Olszewski, President
president@plantcityoptimistclub.org
Deryl Zimmerer, 1st VP | Paul Woods, 2nd VP
Jeff Arnold, 3rd VP | Jack Holland, 4th VP
Jack Holland, Secretary/Treasurer
Walt Arnold, Sergeant at Arms



2023-2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Stottlemeyer, Immediate Past President
2023-2024:
Jeff Arnold - Jeb Hicks - Dave Robbins
2023-2025:
Walt Arnold - Jeb Hicks - Julie Garretson

SPECIAL RECOGNITION—LATE FEBRUARY 2024

Congratulations to our own Justin Hall for his selection to the Florida Strawberry Festival Board of Directors as an Associate Director!

Plant City Focus Magazine, February 2024

FESTIVAL ELECTS TWO NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

The Florida Strawberry Festival board of directors recently voted to elect its newest associate directors, Justin Hall and Judge James Moody III.

The 11-day event's board of directors comprises 16 directors and 14 associate directors. The board elects new associate directors from a group of nominated candidates.

"We are excited to welcome Justin Hall and Judge James Moody, III, to the Festival's associate board of directors. Both individuals will bring valuable perspectives that will help guide the Festival's future," said Florida Strawberry Festival Chairman of the Board, Danny Coton. "We extend our sincere congratulations to both of these strong leaders and look forward to achieving new milestones together."

Hall has worked for several years as a festival ambassador and stadium operations volunteer. He has also served with the Plant City Optimist Club, volunteering at many of their annual functions. He is a member of First Baptist Church Plant City. He and his wife, Christina, have been married for eight years and have two children, Adriana (5) and Gaines (4).

"I am honored to serve as an associate director and to continue giving back to a hometown institution that celebrates what is right with our community while preserving the fabric of Plant City's heritage," said Hall.

Moody has served as a member of the parade luncheon committee for 15 years. He is a Plant City native and a 1996 Plant City High School graduate. He was appointed to the judicial bench in 2019 and requested to be moved to the Plant City Courthouse to continue to serve the community in which he grew up. He and his wife, Courtney, have two boys and live locally.

"Becoming an associate director gives me the opportunity to continue the tradition of service to Plant City that has always been valued in my family," said Moody. "Just as I am currently wearing my grandfather's black robe as judge, I look forward to now wearing the red coat in my service to the Florida Strawberry Festival as he did over 50 years ago."

