

# OCEAN CITY BERLIN OPTIMIST CLUB NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2022

### OPTIMISTS – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS

Serving the Ocean City, Berlin and Greater Worcester County areas for over 40 years.



- **Officers:**

- President Bill Hickey 410-641-5948
- Vice President George Solyak 717-723-6507
- Vice President Christina Dolomount Brown 561-289-6801
- Past President Charles Smith
- Secretary Roger Pacella 410-641-8283
- Treasurer Joe Hammen 410-208-4304
- Sgt. At Arms Ernie Walton 443-669-4666
- Board; Charlie Dorman, Walt Lischak, Melva Middleton, Sharon Sorrentino

## **President's Message – Bill Hickey**

As I pen my last message for our monthly bulletin, I must acknowledge how proud I am for what the men and women of this club have done for the youth and communities of Worcester County.

The dedicated efforts of all members have proven what it means to be an optimist and to belong to one of the finest organizations in our area. While scholarships to our local high schools are highlighted every spring; we provide SO MUCH MORE. We grant money each year to over twenty-five local youth organizations, we fund in-school and after-school activities at all Worcester County schools and SO MUCH MORE on a requested basis.

All of this cannot be done without you, the Members of Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club.

I personally want to thank you for your membership and friendship. As a new slate of officers and board members are in place to continue the work of our club, I ask you to give them the same support that you have given to me over the past years.

It has been my honor to serve as your president. Thank you.

Bill Hickey  
President

Worcester  
Gazette

September 15, 2022



PHOTO COURTESY ROGER FACELLA

### **OPTIMIST CLUB**

Bill Hickey, outgoing Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club president, hands over the gavel to incoming president Christina Dolomont-Brown during the Sept. 1 meeting.

## **October Dinner Meeting – Charles Smith**

Just another reminder that we will meet at the American Legion on **Wednesday, October 5** [not Thursday]. This change is for October only. We will be back on Thursdays in November. The call committee will call or email you so please respond. Social at 5:15PM and dinner at 6:00PM. See you there!!!!

## **Call Committee**

The call committee will be calling for the October dinner. Be sure to respond to your call person!

## **Crab Feast**

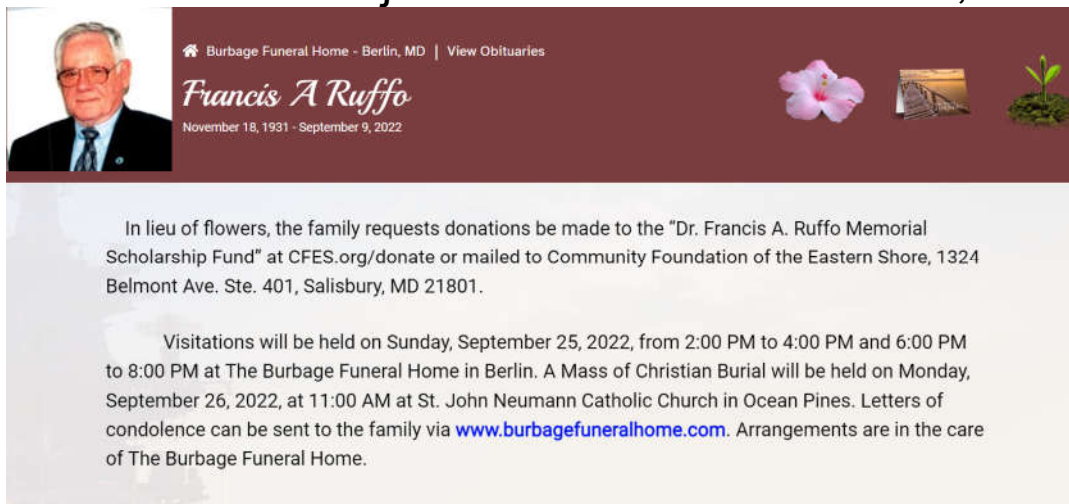
There was a good turn-out for our Annual Crab Feast. Thanks to all that joined in.

## **Membership Dues – Joe Hammen**

Statements have been sent to each member. Please provide your check before the end of this month. Your support is much appreciated.

## **Membership – Roger Pacella**

With the passing of Frank Ruffo we currently have 101 members. Frank joined our Club October 19, 1994.



The image is a screenshot of an obituary for Francis A. Ruffo. It features a portrait of an elderly man with glasses and a suit. To the right of the portrait, the text reads "Burbage Funeral Home - Berlin, MD | View Obituaries" and "Francis A Ruffo" in a large, elegant font, with "November 18, 1931 - September 9, 2022" below it. There are three small decorative images: a pink flower, a landscape with a sunset, and a small green plant. Below the portrait and text, there is a section with a light blue background containing the following text: "In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the 'Dr. Francis A. Ruffo Memorial Scholarship Fund' at CFES.org/donate or mailed to Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave. Ste. 401, Salisbury, MD 21801." Below this, it states: "Visitations will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2022, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 11:00 AM at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Ocean Pines. Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via [www.burbagefuneralhome.com](http://www.burbagefuneralhome.com). Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home."





## Francis A Ruffo

November 18, 1931 - September 9, 2022



### Obituary

Dr. Francis A. (Frank) Ruffo Sr., Age 90 formerly of Ocean Pines, MD passed away on Sept. 9, 2022, in Sarasota, FL.

Frank was born November 18, 1931, in Frostburg, MD to the late Samuel J. and Mary Ruffo. He was the eldest of three children, a brother, Ronald Ruffo of Crownsville, MD, and a sister, Janet Bittner of Meyersdale, PA.

Dr. Ruffo graduated from La Salle High School in Cumberland, MD in 1949 and Frostburg State Teachers College in 1953. He earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Personnel (1958) and a Ph.D. in Administration and Supervision (1974) from the University of Maryland, College Park.

On June 26, 1954, Frank married his college sweetheart, Dotty, daughter of the late Patrick and Ruth Shertzer, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Cumberland, MD. The couple was blessed with three loving children: Francis A., Jr. "Tony" (Christine) of Salisbury, Carrie Ruffo-Miller (Andrew) of Annapolis, and Melissa "Missi" Thompson (Robert) of Ocean Pines. He was dearly loved by his ten awesome Grandchildren: Jake, Joe (Liz), and Jenna Ruffo; Mary Kate, Meghan, Kellie, and Kevin Miller; Rachel Mason (Dan), Bobby, and Nicholas Thompson as well as his two Great-Granddaughters Bridgette and Caroline.

Dr. Ruffo was appointed Superintendent of Schools for Worcester County on July 1, 1978, and held that position until his retirement in 1990. During his tenure as Superintendent, Worcester County Public Schools were recognized statewide for excellence in education. Frank was presented the Outstanding Educator Award by the Maryland Association of Elementary School Administrators in 1989 and the Frostburg State University Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award in 1986. Prior to his appointment as Worcester's School Superintendent Ruffo began a distinguished professional career in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties serving as a Teacher, Counselor, Pupil Personnel Worker, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Secondary Education, and Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Before beginning his career in public education, Frank served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1955 as a Gunnery and Deck Officer aboard the USS Witek, EDD848.

Dr. Ruffo was a member and/or officer of numerous State and local commissions and organizations. He served on the Board of Directors of the Choptank Electric Cooperative, the Ocean Pines Association, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, and Atlantic General Hospital. He also served on several Worcester County commissions including Economic Development, Mental Health and Addictions, and the Commission on Aging. His service at the State level included President of the Public School Superintendents Association, President of Phi Delta Kappa (National Honorary Society for Educators), and life member of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers. He was also a member and past President of the Berlin/Ocean City Optimists, the Knights of Columbus, and the Sinepuxent American Legion Post #166 in Ocean City, MD.

Frank was a true family man and devoted to his wife of 68 years. In retirement, he spent many active and wonderful years with the love of his life in their beloved Venice, Florida home. He enjoyed golfing, reading, spending time with family, and socializing with their tight-knit group of friends in Venice.

## **Incoming Club Officers – Christina Dolomount Brown**

October marks the start of the new year for our Club and the first Board meeting in October will be with our new elected Board members.

### **Elected positions:**

President – Christina Dolomount Brown

Vice President – George Solvak

Vice President – Melva Dorman

Past President – Bill Hickey

Board members – Sharon Sorrentino

Bill Brown

Bill Thomson

### **Positions Appointed by the President:**

Treasurer – Joe Hammen

Secretary – Roger Pacella

Sargent at Arms – Cynthia Malament

Other past Board nominated voting members:

Chairman of a Major Fundraiser – Charlie Dorman

Chairman of Scholarship Fundraiser – Larry Campbell

Board Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Ocean Pines Library, 6pm. All Club members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. If you wish to bring a subject to the attention of the Board please email me prior to the meeting at [dolomount@gmail.com](mailto:dolomount@gmail.com) so that we can add your item to the agenda.

## Ushering – Melva Dorman

There are several events that will require Ushers and Ticket takers at the Convention Center this coming month, and into the Fall.

Remember that the Club receives credits toward the Boat Show for every hour we provide services during events.

Check out the Performing Arts Website to learn more about each event.

<https://ocmdperformingartscenter.com/upcoming-events>

Please call Melva at (260) 224-9066 if you are interested in Volunteering.

### Volunteer information:

- Wear white shirt and dark pants. (No optimist shirts).
- Wear your Optimist Club name tag; if you don't have one please let Melva know.
- We will provide a Vest for you to wear to identify yourself as a Volunteer.
- After half-time you can leave, or join the show.
- Typically, the Volunteers meet about an hour prior to show start time. Melva will confirm for each event.



**Kashmir**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

Buy Tickets | Learn More



**Priscilla Block**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

Buy Tickets | Learn More



**Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra**

OCTOBER 2, 2022

Buy Tickets | Learn More



**Chicago the Musical**

OCTOBER 19, 2022

Buy Tickets | Learn More



**Artrageous**

OCTOBER 23, 2022

Buy Tickets | Learn More



**Fiddler on the Roof**

NOVEMBER 13, 2022

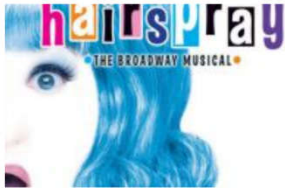
Buy Tickets | Learn More



**Bill Engvall "Here's Your Sign - It's Finally Time" The Farewell Tour**

NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Buy Tickets | Learn More



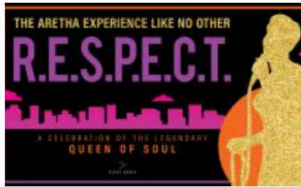
**Hairspray**  
NOVEMBER 30, 2022

 [Buy Tickets](#) |  [Learn More](#)



**Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra**  
DECEMBER 4, 2022

 [Buy Tickets](#) |  [Learn More](#)



**R.E.S.P.E.C.T. - A Celebration of the Music of Aretha Franklin**  
MARCH 21, 2023

 [Buy Tickets](#) |  [Learn More](#)



**Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra**  
APRIL 23, 2023

 [Buy Tickets](#) |  [Learn More](#)

---



## **Essay Contest**

**Topic for the 2022-2023 school year is: "Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?"** **Who:** The contest is open to contestants under the age of nineteen as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada. There is no minimum age. Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record.

### **Students**

All Club-level contests are held by early February. Student submissions will not be accepted after the Club-level contests have closed. Please contact your District Chair for more information.

### **Clubs and Districts**

The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 28, 2023. The deadline for Districts to submit their winner's information to Optimist International is April 15, 2023. Club winners advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. The District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations.

## **Annual Club Christmas Party Bill Hickey**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**December 15 Thursday 2022**

**Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club Annual Dinner Show  
Ocean Pines Yacht Club**

Entertainment and show by Star Mountain Music Co featuring Frank Nanna  
(Frank has performed many times at the Blue Dog Cafe in Snow Hill)

This will be a great evening of Entertainment, Dinner, and Dancing!

Remember to bring your dancing shoes!

Details regarding menu and price to follow.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

September 31<sup>st</sup>. Club Dues!

October Dinner Meeting, American Legion

Wednesday, Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:15pm Social, 6pm Dinner Meeting

October Board Meeting, Ocean Pines Library

Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm

November Dinner Meeting, American Legion

Thursday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:15pm Social, 6pm Dinner Meeting

November Board Meeting, Ocean Pines Library

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm

December Christmas Party

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

## 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.