

HIGHLIGHTS

Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

Celebrating over 60 years of service to Youth & North Topeka!

The Tuesday morning meeting of the Sunrise Optimist Club was at the Sunrise Optimist Event Center. President Kyle McNorton called the meeting to order at 6:45 AM with 24 club members and guests attending. Don Pekrul gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: No birthdays this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jerry Glasgow reported that CRWD #4 is putting in a raw water line along the north bank of Soldier Creek from Menoken Road to Button Road. It will connect all three wells: Kiro, Menoken & Button.

New fire station will have 3 full time per shifts. A ladder truck likely will be needed for taller homes and businesses. New location on North Topeka Blvd is 10 acres.

Dave Jackson announced that the Meier's ground north & south between US 24 & Lower Silver Lake Road is planned for 3 warehouses and other purposes. The former Community Bank near Dillon's will be torn down and replaced with the 7 Brew Coffee House.

Youth volleyball in its second year started last weekend with 100 players. Golf completed week 2 of 5. Football Coach clinic will be live rather than on-line. USA Football/KC Chiefs and Mahomes Foundation involved. April Easter Egg hunt will start at 1:17 pm.



Baseball concession stand will need volunteers this summer.

Third quarter Optimist District meeting is April 22 in Emporia. Quarterly District newsletter and reservation form for the meeting is attached. The oratorical contest offers \$5,000 in scholarships.

Club officer election is in April. Positions open are: President, Vice-president & three(3) members of the Board of Directors.

July 28, Optimist Club Golf Tourney

Future of Sports Complex: High dollar baseball and softball improvements factor into decision to sell the entire Complex to the Seaman school district or only a portion. Decision soon as USD 345 is planning improvements on its property with potential of building high school baseball & softball diamonds on its property.

Program: Tim Nussbaum, Seaman High School soccer coach

Varsity team is 4-0. Four players talked about the high expectations for this season.

Upcoming Events:

April 11: Trent Oliva, Seaman baseball coach and team captains
April 18: Students of the Month

President Quote:

“If you’re coasting, you’re either losing momentum or headed downhill.”

- Joan Welsh



Join Us For The Quarterly District Meeting

Kansas District - Optimist International
3rd Qtr. District Conference April 21 -22, 2023
Emporia, Kansas

**It is time to hold the Oratorical contest,
elect new Lt Governors and start our search
for a Governor Elect for (24-25)**

Meeting Place: American Legion Post #5
2921 W 12th Ave Emporia. Kansas 66801

Event Hotel: Best Western 2836 W 18th Ave
Emporia, Kansas 66801 620-342-9700

To receive this Special Optimist Rate mention Kansas District Optimist, Group #1048 reservations must be made by: **4/14/2023**



Register Online
Information will be posted at
<https://www.ksoptimist.org/district-meetings>

Governor

Douglas J Jardine
jardine@ksu.edu

Immediate Past Governor

Jeffrey Bachman
_jeffhammerbachman@gmail.com

Governor-Elect

Judy Morris
judymorris@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Rodney Obermeier, Treasurer
obermeierrd@cox.net

Secretary

Ferrell Miller
fmiller3@cox.net

Lt. Governors:

Deb Newton, Zone 1
dnewton@enterprisebank.com

Randy Bailes, Zone 2

RandyB16@cox.net

Ronn Peters, Zone 3

ironnpeters617@cox.net

Charlie Lord, Zone 4

charlielord1954@gmail.com

District Team

Diana Carlin-Pierron, Oratorical
dianabcarlin@gmail.com

Lisa Brummett, Essay
thebrummett5@gmail.com

Kit Kelley, Jr. Golf
kkelley1099@sbcglobal.net

Ben Cardon, CCDHH
bcardon@ksedb.org

JayLynn Anders, Community Activities
jaylynnanders@hotmail.com

Kris Kirkes, Leadership Development
kris.kirkes@simmonsbank.com

Jim Morris, Foundation Rep.
jimmorris2007@yahoo.com

Marlene Natoli, marntoli@att.net, Health & Wellness + Childhood Cancer

Erica Derrington, Webmaster.
ederringtonwdsc@olatheschools.org

Ruth Nelson, Web Assist.
rnelson1021@sbcglobal.net

Dale Fox, Membership
ddfox1701@yahoo.com

Kjrsten Abel Ruch, Social Media Marketing/Newsletter

kjrstena@hotmail.com

Debbie Doll, Hospitability Chair.
deb.doll19420@gmail.com

Suzi Obermeier, Dist Conf/Conv & Protocol
suziobermeier@gmail.com

Second Quarter Meeting Highlights

A joint district meeting of the West Missouri (WEMO) and Kansas Optimist Districts was held at the Holiday Inn-Overland Park on February 24th and 25th. Over 80 members from the two districts were in attendance. The activities began with a Friday evening VIP dinner featuring special guest Julie Robison, OI Middle America Region Vice-President held at Zarda's Barbecue Restaurant.



Trail Life Troop 1613 presented and posted the Colors at the start of Saturday's activities.



WEMO and KS District Governors, Governor-elects, Secretaries, Treasurers, and spouses joined Middle America Vice President Julie Robison for a fun evening meal at Zarda's Barbecue Restaurant.



Sixteen past governors of the WEMO and Kansas Districts joined Middle America Vice President Julie Robison for breakfast Saturday morning.

On Saturday morning, the meeting began with the posting of colors by Trail Life Troop 1613. The morning proceeded with the districts meeting separately to conduct business. The morning ended with participants choosing between two concurrent workshops, "Catch a Rising Star" or "What Personality Type are You?" WEMO district foundation awards were presented during lunch. The afternoon sessions began with a session on "Membership Retention Strategies," followed by a presentation from VP Julie titled, "Believe, Inspire, and Impact."

WEMO Governor Keith Fattig and Kansas Governor Doug Jardine led an open discussion on fund raising. Participants were encouraged to share some of their club's best fundraising ideas with the group. The Kansas district foundation awards were presented as part of the evening banquet.

The evening concluded with a lively Lip Sync Battle hosted by Garrett Hill and his mother Charlu Hill, the fun and entertainment coordinators for the WEMO district. A fun time was had both by the participants and the audience.



Lip Sync Battle willing contestants. Two featured participants included WEMO Optimist Theresa Evans, aka Joan Jett, and Middle America Vice President Julie Robison, aka Tina Turner.

Supporting Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

At the joint second quarter district meeting held February 24 - 25 in Overland Park, the West Missouri and Kansas Optimist Districts came together to collect food and cash donations for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. Requested items included canned fruits and vegetables, pancake mixes, canned tuna and meat, hot instant oatmeal, and powdered milk. The coordinator of the event was Jacob Swisher, president of the Lenexa club. A total of eight boxes and \$350.00 in cash were collected during the meeting. A thank you goes to both Jacob and all the Optimists in both districts who contributed food items or cash donations.



Middle America Vice President Julie Robison poses with Governor Doug Jardine and Governor-elect Judy Morris following the Kansas District Board of Directors' meeting Saturday morning of the 2nd Quarter Meeting.

KANSAS OPTIMIST MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

As I have traveled throughout the State of Kansas and visited Optimist clubs, several things are very obvious.

1. We have a strong group of individuals that are passionate about providing opportunities for the youth of our communities.
2. Literally hundreds of projects and events are being promoted and carried out to meet the needs of the youth of our communities.
3. The pandemic has brought about many new challenges for everyone, including our youth and our clubs.

Whether your club is in an area with a large population, a small population, or somewhere in the middle, all of us need to seek and find new members. The facts are, we have recruited 35 new members thus far during our 2022/23 year. The facts are, we have lost 66 members during that time. Just a side note, in looking at the reason for a member dropping their membership - some have moved, some have passed away, some haven't paid their dues, but the majority are listed as loss of interest. An interesting category, but difficult to assess.

I was told by one individual that "Our club is just the right size. We like each other, we do the same projects each year, and everyone knows their job and they do it. So why would we want new members?" The reality is that *Things Will Change*. I speak from personal experience when I say that we get older and discover that we can't do now, what we did 10, 15, or 20 years ago. But there are other reasons for getting new members. They bring a freshness, a vitality that all of us once had. They bring new ideas for projects and may have youth that would participate. They may bring other new prospects from their circle of friends.

Yes, friends. Our Kansas District is full of clubs that are successfully serving their communities and youth and in a very significant way. These clubs are all built, and grow through relationships. An individual usually comes to a meeting because they are invited by a member that they know and respect as a friend. Our membership grows because of our relationship with others. It could be your next-door neighbor, a co-worker, a college friend, a person that attends the same church, or a person you play golf, tennis, fish, or some other activity with.



KANSAS OPTIMIST MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

So, I have one request to ask of you, and your Kansas District Optimist Club. That is, **TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE MEMBERSHIP EVENT, DRIVE, OR MONTH BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 15.** You could select one of your projects (pancake feed, a youth day, etc.) a special day such as 4th of July, Memorial Day, etc. to plan a NOW program. Or your club could select a month where you emphasize bringing a guest (potential member) to a meeting (s).

As an example, let's take the month of June. Your club meets every Tuesday morning. We might recognize the member that brings a guest by giving the member a pen, or some other token of appreciation. You could add an additional incentive. If the guest you bring joins the club, the member that invites them gets a reserved parking space (closest to the door of the meeting place) for an upcoming meeting, or event. Let's make this FUN.

I will recognize every club that hosts a membership event or month at our 1st Quarter District meeting of 2023/24. I encourage you to make this fun and interesting for club members. Recognition will be determined by the number of NEW members brought in from April 1, 2023 through September 15, 2023.

Please let me know when you host a membership event or month. It is not necessary to let me know about your new members. I will get that report from Optimist International. My goal is that every club will receive at least 3 new members in this contest. The club that receives the most new members during this time will receive a GRAND PRIZE. I am not sure what that prize will be at this time. However, I will assure it will be fun. Please contact me if you have any questions, and let's start planning to attract new members. After all, the REAL winners of this campaign will be the youth of our communities. My email is: ddfox1701@yahoo.com

Optimistically,
Dale E. Fox
Kansas District Optimist
Membership Chair



Derby Optimist "TOGETHER WE CARE"

The Derby Optimist Club enjoyed a nice visit from Governor Doug Jardine at their January 10th meeting. The members and guests gathered at the Derby Applebee's that night in conjunction with the club's collaboration with Applebee's "Together We Care Tuesdays" fundraising program.



OPTIMIST DISTRICT FOUNDATION NEWS

Through February, overall giving is down significantly across the OI spectrum. However, Kansas is a fine example of the spirit of Optimism! At our recent 2nd quarter Conference, we drew \$106 dollars in cash purchases at the silent auction, about a dozen new dime a days, one Women's philanthropical council members, a benefactor contribution, and two significant "big ticket" auction items.

A book telling the story of the first 100 years of Optimism, written by past Governor and International President David Bruns, brought a \$500 bid by western Missouri Governor elect David Gower. Especially touching was a \$300 bid for the beautiful wooden engraving of the Optimist Creed handcrafted by Topeka Sunrise member Charles Galligher! The Creed had originally been bought at auction by former Governor Charles Mansfield and at his passing, the family returned it to the Kansas District for re-sale to benefit the Foundation.

As of this report, Kansas still leads Optimist International's Dime A Day contributions at 94 (our goal is 171). We stand in 8th place overall in unrestricted donations and also 8th in dollars per member at \$8.32.

Some items I want to emphasize with future mailers are the Veterans Memorial and the Women's Philanthropical Council (which helps support the Oratorical scholarships). Watch for those and please distribute copies to your fellow members.

Thanks everyone for your support!
Jim Morris, DFR

Benefit Dance

Hosted by Olathe Noon Optimist Club and the American Legion

Money raised will help aid and encourage the development of local youth mentorships, sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities and enhance the well-being of our American veterans and their families.



STS is an upbeat, light, and fun band which performs classic R&B, rock, and blues from the 50's, 60's, and 70's. So, if you're ready for a little dancing, or singing along with, or maybe just tapping your toes, you're sure to enjoy STS.

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Doors open at 6 p.m. • Dance from 7-10 p.m.

American Legion • 410 E. Dennis Ave, Olathe, KS 66061

Adult - \$15 • Couple - \$25

Cash, credit card or check accepted at the door.

Purchase tickets online in advance starting March 14:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/benefit-dance-tickets-533920429377>

Proceeds will benefit the Olathe Noon Optimist Club and the American Legion.

Bar snacks and cash bar will be available.

Band Sponsored by...

Thank you!



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Kansas District 37 – Optimist International
3rd Quarter District Conference
 April 21 - 22, 2023



Meeting Place:
 American Legion Post #5
 2921 W. 12th Avenue
 Emporia, KS 66801

CONFERENCE FEES:	Quantity	Cost	Total
Covers the cost of room rental, conference materials and lunch		\$25.00	
TOTAL Conference Fees:			

Member Name: _____ Club Name: _____

Club Number: _____ Club or District Position: _____

Member Name: _____ Club Name: _____

Club Number: _____ Club or District Position: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Any Children Attending? Name(s) & age(s) _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Please note any special dietary or physical needs: _____

Please check if you will be attending your FIRST District Meeting:

Please return Registration Forms to:
Kansas District Optimist
3908 SW 39th Terr
Topeka, KS 66610

Please return this form by: April 13, 2023

Please arrange for overnight accommodations directly with:

Best Western
2836 W 18th Ave
Emporia, KS 66801
620-342-9700
Rate: \$104 + taxes

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE! *** IMPORTANT NOTICE! *****

To receive this Special Optimist Rate mention Kansas District Optimist, Group #1048 reservations must be made by:

April 14, 2023