

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 21 club members attending. Don Pekrul gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: Kit Kelly, May 10. No singing this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Optimist board meeting, 5:45 pm, Tuesday, May 9.

Club officer election is May 16. Tim McCoy agreed to be president and Corey McPherson has volunteered to be secretary/ treasurer. Mike Bates is candidate for one of the three board positions and two others agreed to another term. Three “Mikes” on the board soon!

Sports complex committee will have options ready for the June Optimist board meeting. They have confirmed that no alcohol can be served if the Event Center is school property.

Baseball league: There are 38 teams and all have coaches except two t-ball teams. There are sponsors for every team. Due to prevalence of head lice in schools, Dennis meets individually with players wanting an Optimist helmet. Last year, only 7 Optimist helmets distributed. Shirts are ordered and fund raiser information will be distributed: pizza and cookie dough along with many other food items.

Youth Football Camp offered by Jake Sharp (former KU player), May 31, Hummer Sports Park: elementary students eligible.

July 28, 37th Optimist Club Golf Tourney. Volunteers needed to recruit hole sponsors. If someone chooses to donate a gift basket, notify Alan Rose.

Program: Rick Brading & Scott Peterson, track coaches

Rick retired from teaching metals & welding after 42 years but continues coaching girls track. When students perform well, coaches get awards & recognition, e. g. KSHAA girls coach of the year, league cross country coach of the year. This year, around 50 students are on the track team which won the city meet and beat Washburn Rural by 523 points. Coaching track and teaching at the same time is very difficult. There is strategy for each meet.

Scott teaches physical sciences and has 73 boys on the team. 2020 season created the need for recruiting students. As a result, this year’s team is young. Success breeds success even when the new league has many state ranked performers.

Looking Ahead: May 16th – Joel Wells, Principal, Elmont Elementary and Election of Officers for 2023-2024

President Quote:

“There is no challenge more challenging than the challenge to improve yourself.”

- Michael F. Staley

