

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 Optimist Event Center. President Tim McCoy called the meeting to order at 6:45 AM with 16 club members and guests present. Tim McCoy gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: David Damme, February 17; Doug George, February 19. Neither one present to give the choir some practice time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Two new members: Matt Billingsley & Rep. Dan Hawkins

Basketball league ends this weekend.
Easter Egg hunt coming up soon.
Volleyball & golf for middle school kids next up followed by baseball. Girl Scouts sold 210 boxes of cookies at basketball games last weekend.

Optimist Board meeting, 5:45 pm,
February 13th

Program: Rep Dan Hawkins, Speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives

For the 2023 Legislative session, a listening tour developed a Better Way plan with eight topics rather than a reactive approach to legislative action.

Overriding the Governor's veto of the flat tax bill will likely not happen. The Governor's 2025 proposed budget spends half the \$3 billion ending balance and

is a 13.8% budget increase. We have \$1.7 billion in the rainy day fund.

Preventing cyberattacks by Russians and Chinese is a priority. All three branches of government are working together. The attacks on the state's court system and K-State are recent examples. The Chief Justice didn't pay the \$1 million ransom. Automated Intelligence (AI) will likely be used to address cyberattacks.

There are four bills addressing cybersecurity, e.g. not investing KPERs in China or other adversaries and checking whether Chinese ownership in companies receiving tax incentives to build in Kansas.

Water conservation will be addressed as lakes are becoming silted in and rivers are drying up in some communities, e.g. Caney in southeast Kansas is building a 12-mile pipeline for water in Coffeyville.

Legislative work will likely end April 30 as all legislative positions are on the November, 2024 ballot. Legislators will want to start campaigning.

Upcoming Events:

February 20: Students of the Month
February 27, evening meeting at the Vikings Grille: Elaine Schwartz, co-founder of Lasting Legacy Online

President's Quote:

"Optimism isn't believing nothing bad will happen. It's about believing in your ability to handle it when it does."

- Mel Robbins

