

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 Tim McCoy called the meeting to order at 6:50 AM with 17 club members and guests present. Don Pekrul gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: David Damme, February 17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tournament for youth basketball league is March 1. Golf pro will head up golf league. Volleyball and baseball registrations open.

8:00 am, Saturday, February 15: discuss kitchen upgrades for the club's Event Center.

Ham & Bean Feed, February 15
Social hour at 5:00 pm. Bring chili, side dish or desert to share. Beverages are BYOB. Invite a friend. Trivia game is after dinner. RSVP by February 13, Tim McCoy, tim.handles.homes@gmail.com

6:00-7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 4:
Public Information meeting at Mother Teresa Catholic church – NW 46th Street Improvement Project, NW Fielding Road to Rochester Road. Project scope is to widen 46th Street to 3-lane road with a 10' shared use path, 5' sidewalk and bridge modifications.

Start date: March 10, 2025. End date: November 20, 2026.

February 28, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, Community Blood Bank Drive at Westridge Mall.

Donations are requested for 10 Optimists families who lost their homes in the California wild fires. The club's board donated \$500. Donations can be made at <https://www.ksoptimist.org> until Feb 28. Donations are not tax deductible. Checks should be made to Kansas District Optimists with memo – California Wildfire Support. More information attached to this newsletter.

Program: State Senator Chase Blazey, Senate Majority Leader

Mr. Blasi is from Colwich in northwest Sedgwick county. He graduated from Andale high school and attended Newman University in Wichita. He worked in staff positions for the Kansas legislature since 2016. The legislative session will end April 12. There is a \$450 million deficit in 2026 budget. The state surplus is \$4 billion due to COVID federal funds and increased sales tax revenue and state agencies requested an additional \$1.2 billion. The sales tax elimination on food purchases was underestimated. KPERs is 75% funded. The Senate has passed 3 property tax bills and a bill to limit property appraisals to 3% annual increase.

Upcoming Events:

February 18: Students of the Month
Seaman USD 345

President's Quote: "Don't let the fear of losing be greater than the excitement of winning."
- Robert Kijosaki



Here is the email that was sent Sunrise Optimist Club Officers:

Hello, fellow Optimists,

As you know, in January, California experienced devastating wildfires **with a loss of over 7,000 homes and businesses**. Ruth Nelson of the Olathe Noon Club reached out to Optimist leaders in California and learned that ten Optimist club member families lost their homes in the Palisades Park wildfire. Their homes were completely destroyed with nothing left to salvage. Chuck Sawyer, Governor of the Pacific Southwest District, said the district is asking for donations to provide direct help to the affected families.

During this week's meeting of the Kansas District Executive Committee, the group agreed to invite our Kansas Optimists, on a personal or club basis, to help these families. The Optimist International Foundation will undoubtedly provide some aid to California members, but that will be in the form of rebuilding infrastructure. We would like to collect funds to assist the Optimists affected by the fire with personal needs such as meals, clothing, and other critical emergency needs. This is a way Kansas Optimists can send a message of support and care for those who have been affected by the fires as they begin to rebuild their lives.

As indicated, donations can be made either as individuals or as clubs. Donations can be made the following ways:

- 1) Sending a check to Kansas District Treasurer, Joe Shank, 6119 Noland Rd., Shawnee, KS 66216. Forms are attached to this email to complete, print, and send with your check. **All checks should be made payable to Kansas District Optimists, and "California Wildfire Support" put on the memo line.**
- 2) Going to the Optimist website at <https://www.ksoptimist.org>. There you can click the "Donate" button which will take you to a fillable form to complete and make a credit card donation. There are also forms available on our website to fill in, print, and send with your check to Joe Shank as indicated above.
- 3) Making a credit card donation on your phone by using the QR code below which will open a fillable form for you to complete and use to donate.

Once all donations are collected, a check from the Kansas District will be sent to Bill Hadala, Pacific Southwest Treasurer, for distribution directly to the affected families. *Please note that these donations are not tax deductible.* If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, you should do so to organizations such as The American Red Cross or World Central Kitchen.

Donations to our Kansas District California Wildfire Fund will be accepted from Monday, February 10th through Friday, February 28th. If you have questions, you may contact Ruth Nelson at rnelson1021@sbcglobal.net or 816-863-6144.

Please share this information with all your club members. Thank you for caring and supporting your fellow Optimists in need.

Mary Griffin, Communications Chair
Ruth Nelson





Optimist INTERNATIONAL

Kansas District

You are invited to make a donation, as an individual or a club, to show support for the California Optimist families who lost their homes in the Palisades Park wildfire over the past weeks. Chuck Sawyer, Governor of the Pacific Southwest District said their district is asking that donations be sent to their District Treasurer, Bill Hadala, to provide direct help to the ten Palisades Park Club families who lost their homes.

This is an opportunity for Kansas Optimists to send a message of support and care for those who have been affected as they begin to rebuild their lives. Your donations may be sent to Joe Shank, Kansas District Treasurer, 6119 Noland Rd., Shawnee, KS 66216 or you may make a Credit Card Donation online at <https://www.ksoptimist.org>.

Collections will be accepted February 10 - February 28, 2025. Once completed, one check on behalf of the district members will be sent to Bill Hadala, District Treasurer for distribution as needed to the families.

When making your donation by check please make payable to Kansas District Optimists, and in the Memo area indicate: "California Wildfire Support!"

Note donations are not tax deductible. This is more like a District "go-fund-me". For Tax credit a donation should be made to the American Red Cross or World Central Kitchen.

#Kansas Optimists Care – Thank You!

Name: *(Individual or Club)*

Phone:

E-Mail:

Club No.

Individual Donation:

Item:	Selection	Amount	Total
1 Make this selection to Donate \$10.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Make this selection to Donate \$15.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Make this selection to Donate \$20.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Make this selection to Donate \$25.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
You determine the amount of the Donation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Club Donation:

1 Make this selection to Donate \$25.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Make this selection to Donate \$50.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Make this selection to Donate \$75.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Make this selection to Donate \$100.00:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
You determine the amount of the Donation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>







Total

Greetings Optimists,

On Feb 15 at 5pm, the Sunrise Optimist Club of North Topeka will be hosting a Ham & Bean feed at the clubhouse. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Members, please bring a portion of ham & Beans, chili, a side, or dessert of your choice as able. Beverages will be BYOB (water, sodas, beers, etc). And of course, INVITE A FRIEND or acquaintance you feel might be a good addition to our group. This event is open to club members, their spouses, and members' invitees only. There will be trivia to follow dinner, and we will see if I can stump the group. I hope not.

Please RSVP to me by 13 February, so we know if we will have enough food for all those attending. Look forward to seeing you all!

Tim McCoy
President,
Sunrise Optimist Club of North Topeka



Sunrise Optimist

HAM & BEAN FEED W/ TRIVIA

15 FEBRUARY 2025

**5PM SOCIAL
6PM DINNER W/
TRIVIA TO FOLLOW**

720 NW 50th ST. TOPEKA, KS 66617

RSVP BY 13 FEBRUARY TO:
tim.handles.homes@gmail.com