

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

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

The Tuesday evening meeting of the Sunrise Optimist Club was at the Viking Grille. President Tim McCoy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with 31 club members and guests present. President Tim gave the invocation then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Optimists celebrating birthdays this week: Larry Vance, February 27; Fred Patton, March 3. Since weather forced cancellation of our February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Douglas George celebrated a birthday 2/19; Cathy McNorton on 2/23, Cathy was present and received a belated chorus of "Happy Birthday!"

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Students of the Month awards will be presented at the Seaman schools:  
**Middle School:** Tinsley Meinholdt-January;  
 Davis Yarnell-February  
**High School:** Emily Patton-January;  
 Beau Artzer-February.

Tournament for youth basketball league is March 1 at 2 gyms. Golf pro will head up golf league once again. Volleyball and baseball registrations open. May thru July, the baseball league will use the USD 345 scheduling app. Flag football for girls, 7 on 7 players, at middle & high school is planned. Coordinator for Baseball Concession Stand is needed.

Four teams competed in a trivia competition during the Bean Feed dinner & social. Saturday Night, February 15<sup>th</sup>, Dead or Alive team won by ONE point.

N. Topeka news: Dave Jackson said building permits for 4 new homes, each valued at \$500,000. John Haas, HME, will finish the paint building in 30 days.



Donations requested for 10 Optimists 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.

July 25, 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Optimist Golf tournament

**Program:** State Rep. Kyle McNorton Legislative leaders changed the length of the session from 90 working days to 90 calendar days or 2 weeks less time. An interim committee developed a FY 2026 budget ahead of the governor's budget. Legislative budget includes pay raises for state employees based on each employee's pay amount in comparison to market rate pay, not across the board percentage pay increase. Mostly federal money has resulted in 40% state budget increase over 10 years. The House approved budget includes only \$200 million of the \$1.1 billion requested by state agencies. Education funding totals \$11.1 billion and \$200 million increase for special ed. He explained costs of Medicaid expansion and potential constitutional amendments.

**Upcoming Events:**

**March 4:** Madison Koenen, Seaman FFA, & 5 student officers

**March 11:** Students of the Month.

**President's Quote:** "We ought to approach this challenge with a sense of profound joy and gratitude: that we are the generation about which, a thousand year from now, philharmonic orchestras, poets & singers will celebrate by saying they were the ones that found it within themselves to solve this crisis and lay the basis for a bright & optimistic future."

- Al Gore

## 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](mailto: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**