

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 6:45 AM with 26 club members and guests present. Don Pekar gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: Birthdays this week are Gabriel O'Shea, March 18; Calvin Henry, March 20. The birthday choir rested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Youth registrations for Spring sports are open for many sports: volleyball, baseball, golf, and flag football. Two gyms will be used for volleyball. The Easter egg hunt will be coming soon.

North Topeka News: David Jackson reported that the Topeka Foundry is relocating office staff to the multi-story building to the SW corner of 3rd & Kanas Avenue; up stair floors will likely be loft apartments. A gymnastics business will occupy the building on NW 46th Street.

Optimist International Convention is June 29 to July 3 in St. Louis. We have one contestant for Optimist Essay contest. There's time for an Optimist Oratorical contest participant.

Soldier Township Pancake Feed, Saturday morning, March 29, Optimist Event Center.

Kitchen remodeling for the Event Center will start Tuesday morning, April 1, after the breakfast meeting.

Program: Marcia Pope, President of Topeka Community Foundation

The Foundation began in 1983, manages \$114 million, and is located at SW 29th & McClure on the 3rd floor of the Community Bank Bldg, north of Advisors Excel. There are 5 staff and 17 on the board of directors. In 2024, the Foundation gave out \$7.5 million. Funds from individual donors for specified issues, as well as, unrestricted uses are invested. Individuals donate funds from their estate plans and required minimum distributions (IRAs). Staff provide donor services, grants to non-profits & 90 college scholarships, (\$125,000 total scholarships last year), and community impact investing, e.g. ARTS Connect which started First Fridays in NOTO. Impact investing includes business loans for affordable housing, education & child care; \$600,000 in business loans were awarded in 2024.

Upcoming Events:

March 25th: Evening meeting at the Viking Grille location, Program: Jeff Carson, Board President Jayhawk Theatre

President's Quote: "Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you."

- Walt Whitman

