

HIGHLIGHTS

Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

Celebrating over 50 years of service to Youth & North Topeka!

Kyle McNorton called the meeting to order at 6:45 AM with 12 club members attending. Lloyd Becker gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: Ernie Douglas, January 20; Robert Uphaus, January 23 & Ben Schreiner, January 24. The choir gave a hearty rendition to Ernie in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Club is looking for volunteer(s) to run the Club's Oratorical and Essay Contests. This year's topic for the Oratorical Contest is: "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times". The topic for the Essay Contest is: "How Does an Optimistic Mindset Change My Tomorrow? Please contact Kyle McNorton for more information.

Winter basketball league began January 15, 2022 with games scheduled Saturdays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Check out the web site for our Event Center at
<https://sunriseoptimisteventcenter.com>

Kansas Optimist District Quarterly Meeting in Topeka, Feb 18-19: Brats and bingo at the club's Event Center on Friday night, Feb 18.

Seaman USD 345 school board at a noon meeting decided to discontinue contact tracing due to staff shortages. The district also has a shortage of COVID test kits.



Program: Bob Ross, Greater Topeka Partnership

Mr. Ross is a life long resident of Topeka and worked at Payless/Volume Shoe for 20 years. Payless Execs lived in Lawrence and had negative opinion about our city. City confidence in 1990-2000 was poor and started to turn around thereafter. In 2010, Topeka/Shawnee County was in the top 10 poised for redevelopment nationally. The diverse economy of Topeka helped it recover better from the 2008 Great Recession than other Kansas cities. Economic Development has provided incentives for distribution & logistics. Now the city is in the middle of the animal health corridor from Columbia, MO to Manhattan, KS. Plug n Play tech accelerator program hopes to attract at least one tech business. Choose Topeka has attracted 61 families who have moved to Topeka over 1 ½ yrs. Demolition of White Lakes mall and other efforts to revitalize South Topeka Blvd prepare that area for growth. The Partnership is working with the new owner of Westridge mall with its 50 tenants.

Upcoming Events:

January 24, 6:30 pm, Viking Grille:
Chelsey Wessel, Brewster Place Retirement Center

February 1: State Rep. Dan Hawkins

President's Quote:

"People are anxious to improve their circumstances but are unwilling to improve themselves."

- unknown