

HIGHLIGHTS

Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

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

The regular Tuesday morning meeting of the Sunrise Optimist Club was at the Sunrise Optimist Event Center. President Kyle McNorton called the meeting to order at 6:45 AM with 18 club members attending. Don Pekrul gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: Kim Patton, 8/12 - Not present to hear the choir!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board meeting rescheduled to August 16 at the Optimist Event Center.

Fall line-up includes golf, volleyball and football for youth leagues. Football teams are practicing now. KC Chiefs provided \$1,000 grant for the flag football league with its NFL structure.

36th Annual Bob Cutter Golf Classic at Lake Perry: this club fundraiser likely will have same total revenue as last year.

Our club was a Hole-in-One sponsor for the Optimist District golf tournament to support childhood cancer.

Optimist Essay & Oratorical competition: club volunteer needed to work with USD 345 staff who will recruit and prepare students.

Pastors from Countryside and Rolling Hills churches requested use of our Event Center on Wednesday nights, August 31 to December 14, for middle and high school students: Refuge student ministry.

Optimist board will discuss.

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

Program: Bill Riphahn, County Commissioner

Mr. Riphahn talked about the creation of a turn of the 20th century town at Ward Mead park. Originally, Mr. Mead owned 200 acres and sold sand from the river for 5 cents a load. Covid-19 ended the annual Apple Festival which was replaced with outdoor lighting at Tulip time and Fall events.

He described moving and renovating a church, built in 1880 at Everest, KS (50 miles north of Topeka). It was moved after midnight on Saturday & Sunday in 2001. The 7 ton roof was removed for the move. The original pews, pulpit, 700 lbs. bell and service furnishings were saved. Carpenters and volunteers from Hallmark Cards completed renovation of stained-glass windows and removal of modern features, e. g. acoustical times on the ceiling. The chapel is used for weddings and funerals at the park.

Upcoming Events:

August 16: Breakfast meeting at Optimist Event Center

President Quote:

“A person really doesn’t become whole until he becomes a part of something that’s bigger than himself.”

- Bill Valvano

