

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 21 members attending. Larry Zirkle gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIRTHDAYS: Eric Showalter, September 18.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

David Jackson provided breakfast burritos this morning with proceeds exceeding supply costs donated to club.

Optimist board meeting: 5:45 pm, September 14.

Football league: 2nd weekend for games, four locations with one at Jeff West. In addition to concessions provided by Seaman Athletic Booster club, Kona Ice is there as it did during baseball season.

Dave Stotts Tree Challenge: 4-H club volunteers planting 35 trees on September 18 around the Sports Complex. Planting begins at 7:00 am. Volunteers also needed to mark tree locations at 6:00 pm, September 16.

Holiday Craft Fair, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Saturday, November 6, Sunrise Optimist Event Center

<http://www.sunriseoptimist.org/CraftFair.htm>

September 27 Club

Potluck dinner: mark your calendars!

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

Program: Michael Austin, Republican candidate for Kansas State Treasurer

Formerly, he worked for many years at the Kansas Department of Revenue. He also worked at the Kansas Policy Institute. One of his work tasks was analysis of the 2017 federal tax cuts and returning tax dollars to Kansas tax payers.

He is a graduate of Topeka High School. He participated in debate and speech and returned to Topeka High and teaching debate after graduating from Washburn University with a degree in economics and business. He teaches economics at Washburn University.

His parents held three principles: faith in the Lord, devotion to family and freedom.

His state campaign has three pillars: access to education (529 savings accounts), financial literacy in schools and empower Kansans

Upcoming Events:

September 21: Sunrise Optimist Board Report, September 14 meeting

President's Quote: "The difference

between the possible and the impossible lies in the man's determination."

- Tommy Lasorda



NORTH TOPEKA

Meetings: Every
Tuesday 6:45 AM
720 NW 50th St, Topeka



GREETINGS FROM YOUR GOVERNOR

I would like to say thank you to all the clubs and members, Lt Governors and District Team for all you have done this past year. I know we have had some ups and downs but you are really appreciated. Governor McVey would be proud of the Optimism you have shown.

Membership has dropped but we are starting to add a few new members as we come to the end of the year. Attendance at conferences and the convention has maintained but it is always our mission to get more members involved so we can build our leadership as we move into the future. Please take the time to think about why you are an Optimist. Reconnect with your fellow members, your community, look for new things to do and spread optimism throughout.

Let's rally and finish up this year strong and carry our momentum into Governor Designate Jeff Bachman's year on into Governor Elect Doug Jardine's year.

Have fun, be strong and be happy as you go forward and spread the Optimist vision.

Choose Optimism, be Happy and Rally your members
Rod Obermeier
Governor 2020-2021

I'M AN OPTIMIST.

THERE'S NO REASON TO BE ANYTHING ELSE!

Governor

Rodney Obermeier

obermeierrod@cox.net

Governor-Elect

Jeffrey Bachman

jeffhammerbachman@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Debbie Newton, Treas.

dnewton@enterprisebank.com

Mary Griffin, Secretary

kumoogiie@aol.com

Lt. Governors:

Kris Kirkes, Zone 1

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Frank Yeoman, Zone 2

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Douglas Jardine, Zone 3

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Ryan Moore, Zone 4

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District Team

Diana Carlin-Pierron, Oratorical

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Judy Leary, Essay

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Kit Kelley, Jr. Golf

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Ruth Nelson, Childhood Cancer

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Dale Fox, Membership, OI Foundation

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Ruth Nelson, Web Assist.

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Kjrsten Abel Ruch, Social Media

Marketing/Newsletter

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Debbie Doll, Activities

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Lance Kellenbarger, PGI/PDI Chair

lance@kellenbarger.com

WELCOME OUR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2021-2022

Governor Jeffrey Bachman
Immediate Past Governor Rodney Obermeier
Governor-Elect Douglas J Jardine
Treasurer Rodney Obermeier
Secretary Mary Griffin



Governor~ Jeffrey Bachman

CCDHH Chair Ben Cardon
Community Activities JayLynn Anders
Health and Wellness & Childhood Cancer Marlene Natoli, Phil Griffin, Deb Newton
Dist.Conf./Conv. & Protocol Suzi Obermeier
District Foundation Rep. Dale Fox
Essay Contest Chair Lisa Brummett
Finance Committee: Chair Charles Galligher (3yr)
Chaplain Ferrill Miller
Social Media Marketing/Newsletter Kjrsten Abel Ruch
International Convention Ambassador Rodney Obermeier
Jr. Golf (OIJGC) Kit Kelley
Leadership Development Dale Fox
Membership Kris Kirkes
Oratorical Contest Diana Carlin-Pierron
Hospitality Chair Debbie Doll
PGI/PDI Chair Megan Martin
Webmaster/Maintenance Ruth Nelson
Lt. Governor - Zone 1 Kris Kirkes
Lt. Governor - Zone 2 Ed Zeller
Lt. Governor - Zone 3 Ronn Peters
Lt. Governor - Zone 4 Jim Morris



Past Governors Recognition



At the 2020-2021 Kansas District Convention, past district governors had a chance catch up. Additionally, they talked with Don Sheriff by zoom. Ernie Dyer (pictured right) received the Christian D Larson award. Ruth Nelson (pictured left with Governor Rod Obermier) received the agitator award.



Join Us -First Quarter District Meeting

Kansas District - Optimist International
First Quarter Conference

Oct. 15 & 16, 2021

Mulvane, KS



Meeting Place:

Pix Community Center

101 E Main St

Mulvane KS 67110

Registration is due by Oct 10th

Hotel Registration is due by Oct 1

You can call the hotel

or

use the link posted at ksoptimist.org.



Kansas Star Casino

777 Kansas Star Drive

Mulvane, KS 67110

316-524-3777

Rate: \$129 + taxes

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE! *****

To receive this Special Optimist Rate mention Kansas District Optimist
Reservations must be made by October 1, 2021

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP

I would like to share with you a report on district membership that was presented at our Kansas District Convention in Wichita on August 13, 14, and 15. The report shows that District wide, we have gained **15 new members** during the year, and *lost 63 members*.

Thus, our *net is -48*. However, there are some flickers of hope in the data.

1. Zone 1 has 2 clubs that are currently on the + side for membership – **Gardner (+2)**, and **Kansas City-Maple Hill (+1)**.



2. Zone 2 has **Franklin County** that is +1;



3. Zone 3 has 4 clubs that are in the plus column – **Hays (+1)**, **Junction City (+3)**, **Manhattan (+2)**, and **Salina (+4)**.



4. Zone 4 has **Pratt** that is +1.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE CLUBS, AND WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS!!!!

There is also 13 clubs that are that are currently 0 – no new members, no lost members. Thus, we have **21 clubs in the Kansas District that are 0 or +** in membership for 2020/2021.

Now is a great time for us to begin looking at new members. We have 6 weeks left in our Optimist year. If we begin now, we will get some new members and build a momentum for the upcoming year. This is also a great time as people are looking for something to do, outdoor activities have grown by large numbers, more people have taken up the game of golf, etc. Plan an outdoor activity, invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to attend and talk about your youth projects.

Optimist International has also made it easier for clubs as they have waived the \$15 administrative fee for new members through September 30. Our youth still have needs and they still are full of energy. Look around your community, where do you see things happening that are positively impacting youth? Many times, the parents of a youth involved in one of our activities becomes interested in being a member of your club.

This summer, the *Franklin County Optimist Club* partnered with *Great Life* to sponsor a Jr. Golf program. 44 young golfers signed up – 12 adults volunteered-

75 parents and siblings attended the final tournament and awards luncheon. 3 NEW OPTIMIST MEMBERS were brought into our club. Let's be alert, particularly these last 6 weeks of recruiting new members and building momentum into the beginning of our new Optimist year. FELLOW OPTIMISTS, WE CAN DO THIS-“RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!!”

(Please share this with your club.)

Thank you. Dale E. Fox- Kansas District Membership Chair



KANSAS OPTIMIST FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

I would like to share some GREAT news from our Kansas District Optimist Convention that was held in Wichita on August 13, 14, and 15. Our guest for the weekend was Jan Ord Graves (pictured right), the president of our Optimist International Foundation. The Foundation Report: (as of 7/31/2021) shows we have 166 Dime-A-Day members – this **ranks us 2nd of all of the Districts in Optimist International**. Colorado/Wyoming is 1st at 173.



You can assist our district team to achieve some goals for our GREAT DISTRICT. As you can see that we are *close* to having the *most Dime-A-Day members in all of O.I.* My guess is that we would need **another 35 to 40 members over the next 6 weeks to achieve #1 for the year.**

Please encourage your members to consider this for our district.

It is \$50.00

make the check out to Optimist International Foundation
and
write Dime-A-Day in the memo section.

You can copy the form from the O.I. Website, and send it in,
or

you can mail it to me at:

Dale E. Fox
1734 S. Maple St.
Ottawa, Ks. 66067,

and I will fill out the form and send it in.

SAVE THE DATE
2022 OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
June 30 - July 3rd 2022
Reno, Nevada



THREE KANSAS CLUBS RECOGNIZED AS CLUBS OF DISTINCTION

Three of our Kansas District clubs have achieved the marker of 50% membership being Dime-A-Day members of our Foundation.

They are:

DERBY OPTIMIST – Lance Kellenbarger (CFR)
OLATHE NOON – Kris Kirkes (CFR)
WICHITA NORTH – Chuck Mansfield (CFR)



We have several clubs that are *really close to the 50% mark*. **Junction City** and **Shawnee Mission-Valley View** need 1 more member to become Clubs of Distinction. Other clubs needing *less than 10* are: **Franklin County** (6), and **Merriam** (3). I would be excited to recognize 3 or 4 more clubs at our fall conference in Mulvane.

Another goal for our Dime-A-Day program is to have at *least 50% of our clubs have a Dime-A-Day member*. Currently, 15 of our 39 clubs, (38%), have had at least 1 member of the club contribute to the Dime-A-Day program. To reach our goal, we will need **5 more clubs to have at least 1 member join**.

While the Dime-A-Day program is for members, we also have a club level of giving to The Foundation. There is a \$365 *patch for your banner* if you would like to contribute a dollar a day. We only have **3 clubs** that have given any *non-restricted funds to The Foundation*. Those clubs are **Lawrence Breakfast, Topeka, and Shawnee Mission – Valley View**. I ask you to please take this matter up with your club. Certainly, if the \$365 fits for your club, that would be great. However, **ANY amount that you contribute would be GREAT - \$10, \$50, or \$75**. At the convention we picked up checks from **Derby Optimist, Olathe Noon Optimist, and Merriam Optimist**. Thus, we now have *6 clubs out of 39 that have made a contribution*.



Please consider this option – I have no specific request for your contribution – make it as large or as small as you would like. I do believe that we should have **50% of our clubs also supporting The Foundation**.

WE CAN DO THIS!!!! WE HAVE 6 WEEKS AND WE HAVE OUTSTANDING MEMBERS AND CLUBS ALL OVER OUR GREAT STATE.

LET'S FINISH THIS OPTIMIST YEAR STRONG, AND DEMONSTRATE TO ALL OPTIMISTS WHAT KANSAS OPTIMISTS CAN ACCOMPLISH

SGT. Jerry Mills Jr. Fishing Derby

Sat, Sep 11, Arkansas City

Pre-registration ends Sept. 3 for the 15th annual Sgt. Jerry Mills Jr. Fishing Derby, held from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 11 at Veterans Memorial Lake.

Those pre-register by Sept. 3 at the Ark City Rec Center office, located at 225 E. Fifth Ave., are guaranteed a T-shirt.

The \$5 fee also includes lunch, fishing gear and drawings for prizes.

The event is for kids aged 5 to 15 years old. (Ages 5 to 8 must be accompanied by a parent.) **The first 30 kids who pre-register will receive a free fishing pole and reel, courtesy of the Optimists of Arkansas City.**

Free face coverings will be available and social distancing will be practiced at the event.

The Optimists ask that if you have received a free pole in a previous year, please bring it with you so those most in need may benefit from this offer. Extra poles will be available for use as needed.

Tackle and live bait will be provided by Mike's Bait & Tackle. This year, fishing teams are being sponsored by Cowley College, the Early Bird Lions Club, the Gift for Gunner Foundation, the Optimist Club, SCK Health - Medical Center and Zeller Ford.

Individual trophy will be awarded for the biggest fish caught. Team prizes for most fish caught. Drawing for various door prizes donated by local companies. Lunch will include hot dogs donated by Bob Mathews and cooked by the Optimists, as well as chips, condiments, cookies, drinks and ice cream treats.

For more information about this event, please call the Rec Center office at (620) 441-4300. Registration, prize awards and lunch all will be northwest of the Veterans Lake picnic shelter, located at 803 W. Taylor Ave. (just west of South Sixth Street). Parking also will be northwest of the pavilion. Please do not park in the Lake View Estates parking lots to the south!



CHILDHOOD HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The Childhood Health & Wellness Committee would like to thank clubs and individuals for the generous donations to Childhood Cancer Campaign Fund throughout the year. As of June 30, 2021, the Childhood Cancer Campaign Fund had a balance of \$9,771.77. The committee knows that the district will finish the Optimist year strong with a number of donations that will be made prior to the end of the Optimist year on September 30th.

At the recent Annual Optimist Convention held in Wichita, the District held the Annual Ruth Nelson Childhood Cancer Walk and the total of the funds raised at the Friday night event was \$920. Additional donations were accepted at the Convention from clubs that will be reflected on the next Quarterly Financial Statement ending on September 30, 2021.



The signs along the route inform the walkers about Childhood Cancer.

On August 9th, the Kansas District Optimist held its 13th Annual Childhood Cancer Golf Tournament at Prairie Highlands Golf Course in Olathe. This year there was a full field of golfers, who enjoy supporting this fundraising event. The tournament this year was one of the most successful and raised \$18,333.66 for Childhood Cancer. Thank you to all the clubs and individuals, who donated items for the silent auction or participated in the event.

Any contributions from clubs and individuals can be directed to the District Treasurer, Debbie Newton at www.dnewton@enterprisebank.com or to your club's OI Foundation Representative by later than September 30th for this Optimist year.

