

# 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. Lloyd Becker gave the invocation. Then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Charles Nicolay, January 2; Linda Lanning, January 5, Clay Myers, January 6; Jim Andrews, January 7. The choir sang to Charles!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Kyle McNorton provided breakfast burritos as a hot breakfast this morning. Rick Kendall introduced Roger McKinley as a guest.

**Youth activities:** Toys for Tots Christmas gifts distributed to families of preschool children at the USD 345 Mathes Learning Center on Monday, December 21. Club basketball league may re-start pending COVID-19 decisions on January 18.

**Golf Tournament:** July 30th

Dick Barta, age 74, died December 9 at his home. He joined the club April 18, 1981.

**Program:** Marvin Spees, owner of Capital City Oil - The company celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. With a dozen suppliers, it provides fuels to commercial and industrial businesses in eastern Kansas and western Missouri, its 80 employees deliver diesel (70%) and gasoline (30%) but not compressed natural gas or propane.

One customer is Union Pacific railroad whose coal

trains have several engines pushing and pulling 110 cars with cargo total value around \$1 million. Rear engines must start pushing the train before front engines begin pulling. East bound loaded trains use same amount of fuel (6 gallons/mile) as west bound empty trains due to difference of elevation and wind current.

The company's Fueling Hope Foundation, "every gallon counts," has supplied food banks, e.g. Topeka Rescue Mission, & purchased home in Hi-Crest neighborhood to be remodeled by SENT for low income housing.

Mr. Spees grew up in Potwin and attended Roosevelt Jr. high & Topeka High. He met his wife while attending college at John Brown University in Arkansas. Former jobs include truck driver and Campus Life events coordinator for 10 states. In 1984, he purchased the company from his dad & partner. After Charles Nicolay retired as Ex Dir for Petroleum Marketers Association, he served in that position. Kyle McNorton has worked there 27 years, starting in January, 1994.

**Looking Ahead:**

January 12: Optimist Club Board report

**President's Quote:** "Patience &

perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear & obstacles vanish."

- John Quincy Adams

Closed with the  
OPTIMIST CREED.

