

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

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

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our club will be held on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>. Get your reservations in. \$38 for two and \$20 for one. A meal will be served and a comprehensive historical document will be distributed to all who attend that evening. Don't miss this!!!!

The meeting was called to order by President Judge Frank Yeoman.

Words of wisdom from our president:

"Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun and one's feet moving forward." Nelson Mandela

The invocation was led by Pastor Sundermeyer. Dave Jackson led the flag salute.

Dale Langley, Darrell Six, Elvin Reed, and Al Ferrell had birthdays this week.

The weekly drawing was won by Dave Jackson. The Progressive drawing was won by Kieth Bodine. The 50/50 was won by Judge Yeoman.

Alex Greig is our newest member. Welcome!

Rolf Chappell thanked those who helped with Hunter Safety concessions.

The District meeting is in Emporia on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Our oratory entrants won the regional.

Substitute Program- Al Ferrell on College Tennis officiating.

Future programs-

April 10<sup>th</sup>- Susan McDonald, Jayhawk Area on Aging and Seaman Student of the month.

April 17<sup>th</sup>- Steve Bushnell, Seaman baseball coach, and Jay Monhollon, Seaman softball coach.

April 24<sup>th</sup>- Dawn McWilliams, CPO Boy's and Girl's clubs of Topeka.

May 1<sup>st</sup>- Cammie Landholm, Sunflower Health Care Hospice.

### North Topeka Sunrise Optimist Club Celebrates Fifty Years of Service to the Community

By Chuck Sodergren

In the year of our Lord nineteen and sixty *one*,  
The Topeka Downtown Optimist Club thought it  
would be *fun*,

To start an Optimist Club north of the Kansas *River*,  
The new club would function not as taker but as *giver*.

The club members thought that it would be *wise*,  
To meet early in the morning- so the name "*Sunrise*."  
They decided to meet the third morning of the *week*,  
The enthusiasm kept growing it finally reached its *peak*

On May 22, 1961 the club had a formal *meeting*,  
Ever since that time new members it has been *greeting*,  
The club was formed at the North Topeka Holiday *Inn*,

And North Topeka has never been the same *again*,

Later the place of meetings had to be *changed*,  
To meet at the Gage bowling alley it was *arranged*.

But soon that space also became too *small*  
A new meeting place had to be set to take care of *all*,  
Some creative and far sighted leaders, who were  
optimistic to the *core*.

Decided that we needed our own location and  
shouldn't be forced to move any *more*.  
These amazing Optimists set the standard very *high*,  
We built our own complex across from Seaman *High!*

This venture required positive vision, creative  
financing, and much hard *work*,

It has been a total community venture, no one person  
all of the credit has *took*,

We continue to work together to serve the *community*  
An no individual from service can claim *immunity*,  
By working for fifty years in a spirit of service and  
*cooperation*.

We can now be proud of a successful and flourishing  
*operation*.

To all of this success it is easy for all past and current  
members to *relate*,

So let us now get together to our success *celebrate*.

The mission of our club is to work with *youth*

We look forward to the next 50 years  
to tell you the *truth*

**Be sure to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!!**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> 6PM in  
our building  
Get your reservations  
in NOW  
The historical document  
alone is worth the  
money!**

**Closed with the creed.**



**Meetings: Every  
Tuesday 6:45 AM  
720 NW 50<sup>th</sup> St, Topeka**