

HIGHLIGHTS

Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

We are on the worldwide web: www.sunriseoptimist.org

President-elect **Karen Ireland** opened the meeting at 6:45 AM.

Chuck Sodergren gave the invocation. **Karen Ireland** led us in the flag salute.

The weekly drawing was won by **Elvin Reed**. **Ed Albert** won the progressive pot.

We are placing special emphasis this month on **“To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.”**

Ray Droge and **Gary Domer** had birthdays.

Steve Schiffelbein reported that we have 63 teams and 701 players signed up for our summer programs so far. The T-ball is full but some more could be added in the older leagues. We need ten more team sponsors. Play starts on May 24th.

Marvin Smith needs help on concessions.

The Kansas District meeting will be held on April 30 and May 1. **Karen Ireland** has a quilt ready. The District will also meet in Topeka on August 13th. We will host a picnic then.

Rocky Fund remains in St. Francis hospital, room 530. He has had major surgery for pancreatic cancer. They did not get it all out and he will need to start chemo therapy in 4-5 weeks. He is suffering from dehydration and nausea, but hopes to go home soon. **Keep Rocky and Ed Albert in our thoughts and prayers.**

The Seaman High school baseball team will have a major celebration this Friday, April 23rd, to commemorate 25 years of highly successful baseball and State championships. Our own **Dave Jackson** made the motion to start the program when he served on the Seaman BOE.

Program- – **John Hunter** presented information on the proposed North Topeka Arts District. John is head of the Washburn Theater department and has been at Washburn 35 years. He is a volunteer co-chair of the “Quality of Life” committee of the Heartland Visioning project. This is an exciting project and has the potential to have a major impact

on our North Topeka community. Other volunteers behind the project are Dave Jackson, Jim and Charlene Robuck, Barry Feaker, Randy Speaker, Mayor Bill Bunten, the Washburn Vocational Tech school, volunteer lawyers and architects, Westar Energy corporation, Vince Fry, John Alcalá, and the property owners of the 800 and 900 block of North Kansas Ave. In recent years over 65 million dollars has been spent on renovation of the area involving bridges, the Great Overland Station, and street renovation. This project involves further renovation, revitalization, bringing up to code, and redevelopment. We hope to have at least ten artists move their studios into the area. This would be followed by other supporting businesses. The “Historic Charm” of the area will be maintained. The project is moving forward with “lightning speed.” Thirty artists are coming in this Saturday to look the area over. Grant proposals are being written. A “Riverfront park” is being developed near the Overland Station to memorialize the Oregon Trail and Pappans Landing. A walking and running trail is being developed on the Kansas river dike. The building at 901 N. Kansas is being considered as a gallery. The old Twilighter bar is being renovated into a Mexican restaurant. The Mulvane Art gallery is planning an annex in the area. The North Topeka Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, USD 501 Topeka school district, and the Topeka Community Foundation, and the Small Business Center are supporting the proposal.

On May 10th a meeting will be held at the Garfield center to explain the project and get input from the community. We should all attend this meeting to show our support and also get all of our friends and neighbors to attend!

Future Programs:

April 27- Seaman Middle School student, **Joey Sodergren** will present research on Penicillin.

Joey was inspired to do this project by learning of the death of his great-grandfather at age 48, and the thousands of deaths during WWI, which with penicillin could have been prevented.

May 4 – Seaman History Day winners and Seaman teacher, **Susan Sittenauer**.

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