

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

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

Vice President Dennis Reedy called the meeting to order at 6:45 AM.

Lloy Becker gave the invocation.  
Dan Lill led us in the flag salute.

Birthdays this week – Kim Patton (12<sup>th</sup>), Ed Albert (16<sup>th</sup>), Jeff Hurst (17<sup>th</sup>).

We had a guest – Kirk Johnson (speaker Kyle's father) works at CoreFirst Bank & Trust.

Tonight is board meeting 6pm.

**Today's Program:** Seaman Middle School Teacher Kyle Johnson and Seaman High School Student Dawson Podlena on their trip to Normandy France. They were gone two weeks. 1<sup>st</sup> week they spent in Washington, DC, then flew to France. Dawson's research was dedicated to fallen Army soldier Private Benjamin Franklin McKenney and his family. McKenney grew up in Concordia, KS. While he was in Normandy, his brother Ezra was in the Air Force a prisoner of war from the Philippines at that time. Kyle and Dawson went to two beaches in Normandy, 1<sup>st</sup> the Utah Beach & Sainte-Mere-Eglise. The Patriot troopers landed on this beach. The other beach they went to was the Omaha Beach – that was the bloodiest of them all. Pointe du Hoc the cliffs were huge. They were a lot harder for the military to climb because they were so big. What won the battles on the beaches of Normandy was the number of people the Allied forces had. If one person fell down there was another one coming on the beach to take his place. Dawson gave the Eulogy for Private McKenney there. Dawson wrote in the Eulogy – "These family members and friends put false ideas into their own mind, thinking, "it can't happen to my son" or "he'll be back soon." Even when they got letters saying that their son had died in battle, they still kept hope that one day they would walk through the front door. The ultimate sacrifice of war doesn't just impact the soldier, but the family and friends as well."



**August 18<sup>th</sup>:** Rick Farrant, President of Great Life Golf.

**Election of Officers for Optimist Board:** Will be held NEXT TUESDAY – August 18<sup>th</sup>. Candidates are Michael Smith, Vince Weber, Dan Lill and Steve Schiffelbein. Please contact President Chanc Harris or Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Galligher if anyone else is interested.

**August 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** - North Topeka Saddle Club Rodeo, if you are interested in working security at the beer garden at 7:15 pm contact Gary Domer.

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** – Hunter's Safety at Optimist. If you know someone that would like to participate, go on line and register, it's free.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>** – North Topeka Fall Parade! Contact Gary Slimmer.

**Optimist Shirt's:** If you ordered one please contact Dennis or Karen. Sport-Tek is \$30 (with color on side) Port Authority is \$25, payable to Sunrise Optimist.

We possibly need a place to store the Optimist trailer, Christmas tree stakes, etc. Do you have space? Karen Ireland is moving their stuff out of that storage area.

It would be nice to send Myra Sodergren a thinking of you card! We are hoping she has more good days than bad..

**Drawings:**

Weekly: Alan Rose

Progressive: John Kabus

**President's quote this week:** The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Closed with the OPTIMIST CREED.