

HIGHLIGHTS

Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

The long awaited Christmas Day, December 25th, 2007 has finally arrived. There is snow on the ground, but the sun is shining and the temperature is mild. A few slick spots remain on the side streets but all in all everything is in good shape. However the weather forecast is for more snow in the next few days.

There was no club meeting this morning due to the holiday and the SOC members are celebrating the holiday with family members and friends. I assume that most will be sharing a rather larger meal than normal, and will probably feel a bit stuffed this afternoon. Perhaps a good nap is in the works for some along with a football game or two. Wednesday morning may bring about a shopping trip to town take advantage of the after Christmas sales.

We hope that everyone has had a Merry Christmas and we wish everyone a Happy New Year. There will be no club meeting on Jan 1, 2008 either. The next club meeting will be on Jan 8, 2008 with the doors opening a 6:00 a.m.

With the absence of club meeting news these next 2 weeks, it was suggested that we profile some of our past presidents in these issues. However your editor has not received these as of this writing so I'll have to do something else.

As a new member joins our Optimist club, they should understand that there is more than just being a member. They are expected to participate in club events that include fundraising, youth programs, upkeep on building and grounds, social events, etc. Of course one simply cannot take part in everything, but unfortunately we have some members who seldom help out with anything. This places a burden on others and also places some of our fundraisers in jeopardy of being discontinued. Kieth Bodine and Lloyd Becker spent a great deal of time calling members to work our tree lot this year and this could have been prevented if more members would have given more generously of their time.

Some of our members have been in charge of the same projects for years now and would like more help. If you would like

to help with either basketball, softball, golf tournament, or concession stand, etc. please let President Rocky Fund know.

Past President Keith Sowards and his wife Linda had their business, Sowards Glass, profiled in GO Topeka last week. Sowards Glass, 2011 NW Topeka Blvd., started out of the family garage in 1992 as a part-time business installing glass in windows and doors for residential and commercial customers in the Topeka area. Their business has grown to the point that their company is listed in two business magazines that list the nations and the region's fastest growing private companies, - *Inc. 5000* and the *Ingram's Corporate Report 100*. With a 185.5% three-year sales growth, their *Inc. 5000* ranking is # 1,951, and their *Ingram's 100* ranking is # 40. This growth was measured by growth in sales from 2003 to 2006.

In the past few years, Sowards built a new 7,000 square-foot building and now has a staff of 12, counting him and his wife. The new building is 3 times the size of their previous building that housed them for the past 5 years. Linda Sowards said, "As Keith started getting more commercial contracts, the jobs kept getting bigger." In the past few years, Sowards Glass has been awarded large jobs out of town, too, including a hospital in Hays and jobs in the Kansas City area. They estimates that 35% of their business is outside of Shawnee County. Congratulations Keith & Linda!

Jan 5th Dinner & Party

Late Christmas Party at the Moose Lodge. Social, Dinner, Gift Exchange, & Dancing. Dinner buffet will include Roast Pork or Chicken for \$ 14.00 per person. Please bring a white elephant gift. Men bring a mans gift and women bring a women's gift. We have not had a social for a while and would like to see a good turnout. This is much more fun if there is a crowd. Please RSVP to Linda/ Bruce Lanning at 246-1480 by Jan 3rd.

Don't forget about going to District Meeting in Emporia to honor Frank Henderson as he receives his Distinguished Presidents Award on Feb. 9th.

SUNRISE OPTIMIST

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