

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Newsletter of the Sunrise Optimist Club

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

Perhaps it was due to the day after Christmas, maybe it was the temperature in the single digits or with the snow blowing around but there were only a few brave Optimists in attendance when acting President Gary Scarlett rang the bell and called the meeting to order at 6:48 AM. Gary gave the invocation. Then we all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BIRTHDAYS:** None this week.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Christmas tree sales are done. It looks like we had receipts in excess of disbursements of around \$10,000.

Gary Slimmer announced that Oratorical contests are scheduled for March 6 (girls) and March 13 (boys). Students under age 18 are eligible to participate.

**Program: December 26, 2017**

Chad Parks, Shawnee Heights Middle School PE teacher, Shawnee Heights High School wrestling coach and author of "Game Changing Moves - Life Lessons from the Locker Room and Beyond" provided some inspiration and related some valuable principals for success. His theme for this morning's message was a chapter from the book, "Love in Action". Chad grew up in Pawhuska, Oklahoma and began his college experience in Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri then transferred to Labette Community College in Parsons, Kansas. Labette is know for grooming wrestlers for Division I

programs. It was the experience he gained here from the love of people he hardly knew that provided some the basis for his principals of success. From Labette Community College he followed some team mates to Ft. Hays State Univesity in Hays, Kansas. At that time Ft. Hays State University was the only 4-year university in Kansas with a wrestling program. It is here that he met is wife, Laurie who after graduation moved to Topeka. Chad and Laurie have been back in the Topeka area for 16 years and have four(4) children. Laurie's father is retired North Topeka dentist and former Sunrise club member, Robert Meisner. Chad first taught at Jadine Middle School and coached wrestling at Topeka High School for 3 years before coaching at Shawnee Heights upon the retirement of Bob "Gonzo" Gonazales.

**Free iPhone and Android app** allows you to shop at Target, Starbucks, Amazon, and Walmart with a % of purchase to SOC. Download the app and select the Sunrise Optimist Club as your beneficiary. [www.benefit-mobile.com](http://www.benefit-mobile.com).

**Looking Ahead:**

**January 2:** Martin Hawver, Kansas political reporter

**No Drawings this week:**

**President's Quote:** "To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real sprit of Christmas."  
Calvin Coolidge

Closed with the  
OPTIMIST CREED



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