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18 MEMBERS' PRESENT

Janet Aliano, Scott Bacon, Kevin Barber, Connie Circo, Tom Circo, Gerry Eftink, Frank Jiminez, Janet Jones, Pete Kerckhoff, Renee Kerckhoff, Alan Klein, Jim Kopetsky, Ed Lust, Joe O'Neal, Ed Russell, Mike Sanders, Kris Turnbow, Denise Woolf

January and February Students of the Month

Kyra Littlejohn – Plans to attend UCM seeking a degree in Radiology. She currently takes AP Biology, Art Classes and Wind Symphony. She spends part of her day tutoring 4th Graders at Eagle Glen.

Maleiah Pippens did not make the meeting today.



Zachary Oakes, is excited to start a Forensics Science program at Wichita State this Fall. He currently takes AP Chemistry, Ceramics, Cooking Classes and Food Catering. His English IV project is working for the City of Peculiar as they promote city walking trails and a 3 legged Water Tower ahead of the World Cup coming to KC!

Miguel Alvarez' future plans are to attend University of Kansas and obtain an International Business degree. When asked about his interests in International Business, Miguel mentioned his interest in Entrepreneurism and family roots in Columbia where the jewelry industry imports Gold.



THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself

To be **SO STRONG** that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk **health, happiness and prosperity** to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that **THERE IS SOMETHING IN THEM.**

To look at the **sunny side** of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to **work** only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the **success** of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the **GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS** of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance **at all times** and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have **NO TIME TO CRITICIZE OTHERS.**

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and **too happy** to permit the presence of trouble.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

You will see your Optimist friends at these events!

- February 18th: Heart N Hand Sam Newby; **6:30am**
- February 24th: Oratorical Contest at RPHS 3:30pm!!!**
- February 25th: Peculiar Winery **6-8pm**; 4H and Youth Court
- February 26th: Members are supporting the Lions Club Chilli Cookoff at the High Blue Wellness Center in Belton. Individuals can participate in judging the Chilli entries. Proceeds are going toward RayPec and Belton School Districts Nutritional Programs.
- April 27th: 6pm Excellence in Education Banquet!**



Western Missouri Optimists (WEMO) District Conference

What a treat to meet with other District Clubs and participate in Leadership Development training, Member Retention discussions and promoting our clubs! The World Champion Robotics team from Smith Cotton High School talked about their recent championship and their program strategy and outreach. They have made Missourians proud!

Brian Mills presented a business leadership seminar and put members to work brainstorming in groups generating ideas for making our clubs more impactful. WEMO's Governor Elect may be rehabbing from recent surgery, but it didn't stop him from conducting a fantastic seminar!

Dime-A-Day-

Presentations were made to the various clubs that participate in this very important program. Dime-A-Day is a Ol

Governor-Elect Brian Mills is Zooming in for Training!



Foundation program. Funds generated from Dime-A-Day donations result in scholarships given at District and International level for Oratorical, Essay and Hard of Hearing Contests. Members may recall that two years ago our club winner went all the way to World and took 2nd Place! She won \$17 thousand in scholarships! Our club received 31 pins to give to members who have written a check for \$36.50 toward Dime-A-Day. While other clubs received 2 or 3 pins, the Foundation Chair made the remark, "We need a dolly to cart Ray-Pec's pins!" It isn't too late to

write a check for \$36.50 and send to our club Chair, Janet Jones!

Ray-Pec Sunrise Foundation Donors: Over \$100-Janet Aliano, Gerard Eftink, Carl Kent, Anonymous

WEMO Activities Continued

Substance Abuse Poster Contest

Ray-Pec took two 1st Place club winning Substance Abuse posters to District to allow our Elementary students to compete against other clubs submissions. Our 5th Grader, Vegas Ventos, won 1st Place in the 5th/6th grade category at District level earning a \$50 Walmart gift card. Way to go Vegas!



Ray-Pec 1st Place in Substance Abuse Poster contest!



Vegas Ventos, accepts his winnings with a mile wide smile!
Congratulations, Vegas and Eagle Glen Elementary!

Next Week, Tuesday 2/18:

- Sam Newby with Heart N Hand will share their impact on the community and how we can help!
- Nominations will be taken from the floor to fill a Director position on the Club Foundation Board.