



The Optimist Club of Treynor, IA **NEWSLETTER**
Iowa District, Zone 3, Club Number 40-109

Governor Jim Boyd Cell 515-707-3956
Optimist International President Michel Listenberger, 269-683-2020



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THE HONORARY CAJUN FROM TREYNOR

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Former mayor and retired Union Pacific executive Ken Koehler recently spoke to Club members about his experience with the Red Cross relief effort in Louisiana after hurricane Katrina. Ken said this was his 38th assignment for Red Cross national disaster relief. Disaster relief volunteers have to be ready to go on short notice. Ken got a call to travel to Louisiana the next day. Of course, Red Cross makes the travel arrangements. His first day he reported to Baton Rouge, but was sent to Covington the 2nd day and then told to report to Lacome, Louisiana where he served 22 days. Ken explained Lacome is on the northeast shore of Lake Pontchartrain with a population of about 5,000. The Red Cross had 25 to 45 living in a shelter but was feeding over 1,000 refugees and homeless each day. Ken said his normal day the first week was 4 a.m. to midnight, with no electricity, no running water, no bed, and temperatures over 90 F each day. There was one cell phone owned by a doctor in the whole shelter. After a week they received cots and bedding from Forestry Services. Then the Forestry Services also provided mobile shower and lavatories, and mobile laundry services. Ken noted that four National Guard personnel were on guard duty 24 hours each day to prevent crime and looting. Ken was very thankful for their presence. After twelve days electrical service was restored. Ken said most of the food and supplies came from the Riverton Springs Church in Riverton, KS, over 700 miles away. The church group kept asking about their needs and returned seven times with supplies. Local residents were very appreciative of Red Cross efforts and brought treats for the workers. Ken spent a great deal of time helping to unload supplies from trucks, especially bottled water. Toys and stuffed animals were donated and distributed to children and most families in the shelter had children. Clothing donations were difficult to manage, as the Red Cross does not accept these donations. Ken said that after 22 days he came to know some of the people being helped, especially a little girl for which he helped find medical assistance and an eighty-seven year old gentleman who shared his poetry each day. In appreciation for Ken's service to the people, they presented him a certificate naming him 'Honorary Cajun'

THE NEW AD AT TREYNOR SCHOOLS

Optimist Club member TODD GORDON accepted the position of Athletic Director for Treynor Schools at the beginning of the current school year. TODD explained to Club members the various tasks listed on his two-page job description. A major task is arranging for over 300 athletic events including conference and nonconference events each year. The AD attends monthly conference meetings to determine event schedules years in advance. The AD also arranges contracts for about 350 officials to work at the events during a year. TODD showed the 3-in, 3-ring binder containing a copy of all contracts for a year. TODD noted he asks coaches for suggestions for officials and seeks officials with district and state tournament experience. The AD manages all sports tournaments, which includes personnel, equipment, and budgets. This also applies for all scheduled school athletic events. TODD noted that he and the coaching staff make every effort to develop athletic programs for the education, development, and growth of the players. He has plans for a cross-country meet at Treynor this year on the TRA golf course. Treynor has not hosted a cross-country event for many years. TODD is responsible for the athletic budget for Treynor schools and the expenditures for equipment, maintenance, and officials. Funds are available from gate receipts, the school budget, and contributions from the Athletic Boosters. The coaching staff strives to keep the athletic uniforms up to date and complementary to the players and school. Coaches agree on a replacement rotation schedule. TODD observed that Treynor fans contribute greatly to the athletic program by their dedicated attendance at the events. He expressed appreciation that our Club helps with gate receipts and parking for the home football games. He also has to arrange for gate receipts for other sports events. TODD explained the AD keeps track of equipment inventory and the qualifications and records of all sports participants. He determines the awards earned by athletes and teams and arranges for their presentation. Also, scheduling bus or van transportation for away athletic events is an important duty of the AD. In addition to the AD duties, TODD said he also enjoys coaching the 7th grade boys basketball team.

P.S. How to install a redneck security system:

1. Go to the second hand store and buy a pair of used men's work boots, a really big pair.
2. Put them outside your front door on top of a copy of 'Guns and Ammo' magazine.
3. Put a dog dish beside the boots. Make sure it is a really big dog dish.
4. Leave a note on the front door that says something like—'Bubba, Big Mike and me went to get some more ammo and some Jack Daniels. Be back in 'bout half hour. Don't disturb the pit bulls, they've just been de-wormed.'

Thanks to Les Harvey for news notes.

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