



Club Officers for 2008-2009

President	Dick Baber	322-8074
V. Pres., Pres. Elect	Gary Gutttau	487-3248
Secretary	Dale Willenborg	366-6815
Treasurer	Jeff Jorgensen	487-3355
Past President	Dale Willenborg	366-6815

Board Members

<u>2007-2009</u>	<u>2008-2010</u>
John Klein	Judy Gutttau
Bob Hibbard	John Schmitt
Denny White	

March 14, 2009

Vol. 25 No. 17

Report of Recent Club Meeting

President Richard Baber opened the Optimist Club meeting on March 14 and Gary Funkhouser gave the opening prayer. There were 16 members and two guests present. Bill Vorthmann won the 50/50 drawing and Les Harvey won the attendance drawing, but did not collect.

Dick Baber contributed to the Youth Fund in celebration of his 51st wedding anniversary on Sunday. Mick and Judy Gutttau contributed because their son Josh and his wife are expecting a child. Richard Vorthmann contributed \$5 for the great turnout at their 65th wedding anniversary celebration.

Gary Funkhouser and Jeff Jorgenson assisted with the can kennel sorting on Wednesday. The next can sorting will be Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m.

The Treynor Optimist Club Board met after the club meeting. The Cub Scouts received a check for \$712.25 for the November can kennel receipts. With total can kennel collections through January, the can kennel has collected over \$69,000 since May 1999. The club will begin planning a celebration with the Treynor Schools to celebrate 10 years of the can kennel, probably in May.

The Treynor Optimist Club was organized 25 years ago this Spring. Initial planning for a dinner and celebration are beginning.

The Board had a discussion about holding meetings at the Treynor Recreation Association clubhouse. Breakfast could be available there. Discussions are underway.

County Food Policy Council

Melvin Houser from the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors spoke about a county food policy council. The council consists of eight people to promote community supported agriculture. This initiative is an outgrowth of the Southwest Iowa Farm Food Initiative which started in Cass Country through the Wallace Foundation.

In the Fall of 2007, Houser invited local community members to a meeting to work on a strategic plan for this initiative. About 50 people attended the first meeting. The plan was completed in June 2008. Then the county hired a full time coordinator to connect local farmers with local restaurants and stores to promote local production and sale of food items.

Mr. Houser said that our food travels an average of 1500 miles to get to our tables. Since Iowa has some of the best soil in the country, why do we ship out all our food for processing and consumption elsewhere?

The same amount of labor is used today for food production as in the 1950s. Producing and using food locally contributes to the local economy, cuts down on fuel consumption and pollution, and provides fresher products. Mr. Houser considers the county involvement in promoting local food production and consumption a natural progression from the historical county responsibilities for economic development, which were recording farm deeds and road development.

For other state and county business, Mr. Houser said that the state offices are not staffed yet to give out grants from the Federal stimulus package, so that will be slower in developing than expected. The county does not have enough tax dollars to complete all the needed road repairs and the Governor will not approve a tax increase on gasoline to provide more tax money.

The county has case managers to help people with mental health issues. The program began in 1996. State funding was cut in 2000 and again this year.

CALENDAR

The March Can Kennel contributions will be for the Jr. Optimist Octagon Club. Total collections are \$69,012 through January 2009.

Mar 25, Wed, 5:30 p.m. – Can Kennel sorting

Birthdays

- Mar 2 – Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham
- Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen

Anniversaries

- Mar 4 – Gene Seran
- Mar 8 – Keith Denton (recognized)
- Mar 15 – Dick Baber (recognized)
- Mar 15 – Jeff Nelson

Speakers

- Mar 21 – Denise Lewis, Nebraska Raptor Recovery
- Mar 28 – Bob Vander Plaats, candidate for Governor in 2010

Programs

- March – Chad Gutttau
- April – Dale Willenborg
- May – Richard Vorthmann

PS: If you cannot pay your bills, be thankful that you are not one of your creditors.

Protect the birds. Doves bring peace and storks bring tax exemptions.

A budget helps you pay as you go, if you don't go anyplace.

Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt.

The IRS has a new simplified tax form. How much did you make? Send it in.

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