



April 10, 2010

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Report of Recent Club Speakers

David A. Vaudt, the Iowa Auditor of State, spoke about "Budgeting – Iowa's Future". David is in his second term as auditor, beginning in 2003.

David showed where the General Fund Budget in Iowa has only balanced in the years since FY2000 by shifting funds from other funds. For example, the Tobacco settlement fund was created with money from the Tobacco companies to cover the costs of smoking related illnesses. This fund should have \$1 billion dollars in it for future use. It has been depleted by the General Fund and now is empty. The Senior Living Trust Fund, established to help Senior citizens stay in their home, should have \$600 million, but is also empty.

David said that state school aid is underfunded by \$170 million, even if you include the Governor's "additional \$100 million" spending for schools from the Cash Reserve Fund. The state Cash Reserve Fund should have \$600 million in it, but will actually be close to \$200 million.

David Vaudt thinks the only way to control Iowa state spending is to start on the expenditure side of the budget. If you raise taxes, the money will quickly be spent. The next Governor will have to make some hard decisions to control spending.

David has given about 500 presentations around the state in recent years, explaining the Iowa budget, from an auditor's viewpoint. Politicians are starting to listen, but many don't want to help make the difficult decision to control the budget.

Meeting Minutes

Gary Gutttau opened the meeting with the pledge and Keith Denton gave the prayer. Gary Funkhouser and Dick Baber provided jokes. There were 18 members and three guests in attendance. Gary Funkhouser contributed to the Youth Fund.

Dale Willenborg won the 50-50 drawing. Chad Gutttau won the attendance drawing for the second

week in a row. Dee Gutttau provided three potted flowers that were auctioned for \$12.

The Optimist Club voted to provide \$20 for each 7th grade student attending the Elementary Leadership Conference. The conference is four days this summer. There are 11 students who have been invited to attend at a cost of \$230/student.

CALENDAR

April proceeds for the Can Kennel will be for Art Students

April 14, can sorting, 5:30 p.m.

April 28, can sorting, 5:30 p.m.

Apr 17 – Zone Oratory Contest

Apr 24 - Optimist International President's visit to Amana Clarion Inn, 5:00 p.m.

Apr 24 – Jr. Treynor Women city wide garage sale

May 2 – Youth Appreciation, 3:00 p.m., Zion church

May 3 – Optimist Zone Meeting, Underwood

July 29 to August 1 - Iowa Optimist District Convention

Birthdays

Apr 20 – Steve Chambers

Apr 25 – Rocky Saar

Apr 28 - Gene Seran

Anniversaries

Apr 7 – Jim & Diane Clausen (recognized)

Speakers

Apr 18 – Courtney Stoffel, YMCA Aquatic Director and Child Care Director

Programs

Apr – Chad Gutttau

May – Dale Willenborg

June – Linnea White

July – Jeff Jorgensen

Aug – Charlie Johnson

Sept – Eric Allen

Oct – Steve Irvin

Nov – Arlyn Norris

Dec – Chuck Nielsen/Keith Denton

Fairy Tales

A little girl asked her father, "Daddy? Do all Fairy Tales begin with Once Upon A Time?" He replied, "No, there is a whole series of Fairy Tales that begin with 'If elected I promise...'"

The tax advisor had just read the story of Cinderella to his four-year-old daughter for the first time. The little girl was fascinated by the story, especially the part where the pumpkin turns into a golden coach.

Suddenly she piped up, "Daddy, when the pumpkin turned into a golden coach, would that be classed as income or a long-term capital gain?"

The Founding Fathers were sitting around a table sometime in 1776, working on the constitution. It had been a long day when Thomas Jefferson said, "Whew! It's getting rather warm in here, isn't it?" Ben Franklin replied, "Shall I open the window?"

"No, that's alright. I'll just take off my jacket, and roll up my sleeves."

"Hey, that's a good idea. Why don't we include that in the constitution?"

"What? That we're allowed to take our jackets off and roll up our sleeves while at work?"

"Yeah, but that doesn't sound very smooth. How about 'Everyone shall have the right to bare arms?'"