



April 24, 2010

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### Civil Law

Randal Shanks, from Shanks Law Firm, spoke at the Optimist Club meeting on April 24. He is President of the Iowa Academy of Lawyers.

Mr. Shanks talked about liability and damages in civil law cases. How would you determine an appropriate amount? He talked about a nursing home example. The basic rules guiding a nursing home are: Don't endanger the patient. Provide medication according to the schedule and as needed. Check the patient. Provide prompt medical attention when needed.

It is important for jury members to remember the difference between civil cases and criminal cases. In criminal cases, the jury needs to find the person guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. In a civil case, you only need a preponderance of evidence to find the party liable.

### Meeting Minutes

Gary Guttau opened the meeting with the pledge and Chuck Nielson gave the prayer. There were 16 members and two guests in attendance. Kirk Vorthmann contributed to the Youth fund because his granddaughter is leading the Parade of Stars. Dale Willenborg contributed for a new grandson, and Chad Guttau contributed because of his recognition as Volunteer of the Year at the YMCA. The club voted to use the \$272.94 left from the Playground Fund to buy trees for the new softball and baseball fields.

Youth Appreciation is Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at Zion Congregational Church. Retiring teachers from Treynor will also be recognized this year.

Jim Clausen won the 50-50 drawing and Jeff Nelson won the attendance drawing, but did not collect.

### CALENDAR

May proceeds for the Can Kennel will be for the Saint Paul Youth Red River Reservation trip  
 May 3 – Optimist Zone Meeting, Underwood  
 July 29 to August 1 - Iowa Optimist District Convention

### Birthdays

May 11 – Keith Denton  
 May 20 – Kelly Sutherland  
 May 21 - Steve Irvin  
 May 22 – Linnea White

### Anniversaries

May 27 – Bob & Mary Francis Abbott  
 May 29 – Bill & Rhonda Matthew

### Speakers

May 8 – Todd Edwards, car business

### Programs

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

Three proud mothers were describing the virtues of their children. The first said, "My daughter, the surgeon, has invented a new artificial liver that has saved the lives of countless patients."

The second proudly proclaimed, "My son, the physicist, has developed a new energy source capable of heating thousands of homes with absolutely no pollution."

"That is nothing," replied the third, "my son the lawyer has discovered a new accounting system that allows him to bill clients for the time he spends on the golf course!"

How many lawyers does it take to change a light bulb?

Fifty four. Eight to argue, one to get a continuance, one to object, one to demur, two to research precedents, one to dictate a letter, one to stipulate, five to turn in their time cards, one to depose, one to write interrogatories, two to settle, one to order a secretary to change the bulb, and twenty-eight to bill for professional services.