



August 28, 2010

Vol. 26 No. 31

Union Pacific Museum

Beth Lindquist, Executive Director of the Union Pacific Museum was the guest at the August 21 Treynor Optimist Club meeting. She started working there in October 2003, although her background is in Arena Management. She previously managed several arenas, including the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa.

The Union Pacific owns the museum exhibits and has a 20 year lease on the building, which is on the historical register. Union Pacific hired Beth, but the Friends of Union Pacific is responsible for marketing, advertising, and the exhibits. The city of Council Bluffs is responsible for the grounds and building maintenance. Union Pacific pays for the lights and heat.

The Union Pacific Railroad was created by an act of Congress in 1862. It has one of the oldest corporate museum collections in the country. Since the first trans-continental railroad started in Council Bluffs, it is fitting that a museum be located here.

The museum has about 25,000 visitors each year. There is no fee for visiting, but it relies on donations for operations. People have visited from 43 countries.

The museum has 55 volunteers. The outreach director is shared with the General Dodge house.

For more information about the museum, see uprrmuseum.org. For the history of the Union Pacific Railroad and historical pictures, see up.com.

Iowa House of Representatives

Greg Forristall was the speaker at the Optimist Club on August 28. He has been in the House four years and is unopposed this year. He is on the Education, Human Resources, Ways and Means, and Economic Growth committees, and the Economic Development Appropriations sub-committee.

Forristall said that Iowa has not faced the brunt of the economic downturn. Unemployment is around 6%. However, the legislature will have to make some difficult decisions next year to balance the budget, as required by law. Tax revenues have been down the past two years, but this year it is slightly above estimates.

In response to a question about road maintenance, Forristall said that the gasoline tax and the increased car and pickup registration fees are dedicated to road maintenance by state law. However, the cost of materials for road maintenance keeps going up, but people are driving less and cars are getting better mileage, so the revenue keeps going down.

Greg Forristall said that 96% of the children in the state are covered by insurance. Iowa has an ICHIP program to insure the remaining 4%, but it is difficult to get parents to sign up for the program.

Meeting Minutes

Gary Gutttau opened the Optimist Club meeting on August 21. Chad Gutttau and Charles Nelson provided jokes. Chad Gutttau gave the opening prayer after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judy Gutttau celebrated her birthday. Gary and Julie Funkhauser celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on August 25. Gerald Forristall contributed to the Youth Fund for being recognized at the Iowa State Fair.

There were 14 members and 4 guests at the meeting. Bob Hibbard won the 50/50 drawing. Kevin Abbott won the attendance, but did not collect because he was absent.

On August 28 Dennis White opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Judy Gutttau gave the opening prayer. Keith Denton, Gary Funkhouser, and Chuck Nielsen provided jokes.

Gary Funkhouser and Dennis White contributed to the Youth Fund because of the great announcing of the Treynor football game on treynorfan.com.

Kevin Underwood won the 50-50 drawing. Milli Harvey won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 17 members and one guest in attendance.

CALENDAR

Next Can Kennel sorting on Wed, Sept 15 and 29, 6:00 p.m. for SWI Honor Band.

Flags – Put up on Sept 4 after meeting. Take down Sept 11 (Patriot Day) at 6:00 p.m.

Sept 12 – Club celebration, "Celebrity Waiters", Down on the Farm theme. Social 5:00 p.m., dinner 6:00 p.m.

Birthdays

Sep 9 - Arlyn Norris
 Sep 10 - Milli Harvey
 Sep 16 - John Klein
 Sep 19 - Bob Hibbard
 Sep 30 – Tim Greiner

Anniversaries

Sep 26 – Bill & Ann Vorthmann

Speakers

Programs

Sept – Eric Allen
 Oct – Steve Irvin
 Nov – Arlyn Norris
 Dec – Chuck Nielsen/Keith Denton