



October 15, 2011

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Western Iowa Development Association (WIDA)

Lori Holste, the Executive Director of WIDA spoke at the Optimist Club on Saturday, October 15. WIDA focuses on Pottawattamie and Shelby County. Their goal is to break down barriers for business development. They emphasize four pillars of a business, Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy, and Youth Involvement. They have a staff of 2 full time and one half time person.

WIDA is funded by \$120,000 from the county, \$30,000 by the REC in Harlan, and by member communities that contribute \$2/person.

Lori told a story about Ord, Nebraska in 2002. Their community was dying, so the community leaders set 20 priorities for economic development in the community. Within five years they had 104 new or expanding businesses and 372 new full time jobs. This was the first growth the community had seen since 1930. It resulted in \$89M invested locally.

To encourage youth to return to their home community, Avoca and Walnut gave each graduating Senior this year a mail box with an invitation for them to come back to their community after college. She said that many youth have never been asked to come back.

Working with schools in grades 7-12, WIDA gave youth a survey on their plans for the future. The students were asked to rate their community and suggest changes that would improve their community. The Heartland Center is helping compile the survey.

WIDA also helped sponsor a Young Professionals Club for ages 21-35. The club plans to meet monthly. The focus is to encourage youth to do what they want to do right in their hometown area, instead of moving far away.

Meeting Minutes

Keith Denton and provided jokes before the Optimist Club meeting on October 15. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting with the pledge and Ken Graham offered the prayer. Phyllis Sponsler, the Zone 3 Governor and her husband were visitors at the meeting.

Dale Willenborg contributed to the Youth Fund for his 32nd wedding anniversary. Dennis White contributed for his 41st anniversary. Phyllis and Joe Sponsler also celebrated their wedding anniversary. Gary Guttau spoke of his visit to Grant, Iowa and the restaurant there. Judy Guttau celebrated the bank hosting a speaker who is speaking at 7 schools in the area.

Can kennel sorting went well for the Optimist Club on October 12. Gary Funkhouser, Judy Guttau and her grandson Brock Fox,, Dennis White, Gary Guttau, and

Dale Willenborg helped. It rained during the entire sorting time and quit soon afterwards.

Bob Hibbard received a card from President and Mrs. Obama recognizing his 87th birthday.

There will be a Treynor home football game Friday night. Help is needed with car parking.

Paige Volkens from the Silver Creek 4-H Club came to collect a can kennel check for \$725.95. The money will be used for scholarships, judges, after-prom, FIA, and other activities. The 4-H club had 30 members last year. Two Seniors graduated, but they think they will gain about 10 members this year.

Paige is president of the Silver Creek Club. She is also treasurer of the JOOI club and Faith in Action (FIA) co-chairman. She participated in a working exhibit at the State 4H last year and received 1st in group.

For the FIA group, for October through December they are collecting Christmas gifts for teenagers and adults at Micah House and Moms Place.

Steve Irvin won the 50/50 drawing. Marsha Underwood won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 17 members and 4 guests at the meeting.

Calendar

Oct 26 – Can Kennel sorting for Treynor Optimist Club, 5:00 p.m.

Birthdays

Sep 30 – Tim Greiner
Oct 17 – Marsha Underwood
Oct 29 – Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries

Sep 26 – Bill & Ann Vorthmann
Oct 6 – Eric & Kelly Allen
Oct 13 – Dale & Dianne Willenborg (celebrated)
Oct 17 – Dennis & Kay White

Speakers

Oct 15 - WIDA Presents "Home Town Competitiveness" Mobilize local Leaders, Energize Entrepreneurs, Retain and Attract Young Families and Capture Wealth Transfer
Oct 22 - Pottawattamie Historical Society- Two members will bring displays and discuss activities
Oct 29 - Jeff Danker - Pott. County Sheriff

Programs

Oct – Gary Funkhouser
Nov – Arlyn Norris
Dec – Chuck Nielsen

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Age

I bought some of that "Gingkori" that's supposed to improve your memory, but I forgot where I put it.

You don't know real embarrassment until your hip sets off a metal detector.

You know you're getting older when you bend over in the morning to tie your shoes and realize you didn't take them off the night before.

The biggest disadvantage of old age is that you can't outgrow it.

The most frustrating thing about getting older is that every time you see an expensive antique, you remember one just like it you once threw away.

Let's face it, traveling just isn't as much fun when all the historical sites are younger than you are.