



Politics

Eric Koch spoke to the Optimist Club on January 26 about his political experience. He was involved in the Presidential campaign and spent several days at the Republican convention.

Eric is home schooled and works at Fareway. He has been in two musicals at the Chandelier Theater, including the lead in

Music Man.

In August 2011 Eric's father invited him to see Rick Santorum. This started his interest in politics. In November he started going to campaign events. Then he started doing hands-on organizing. He helped organize 200 people at the Mid-Americ Center. They also went door-to-door to put in yard signs.

In April Rick Santorum dropped out of the race. Then Eric went to work for the Romney campaign. Eric went door-to-door to talk to people and put in yard signs every day after school.

Eric went to Tampa for the Republican National Convention as a Page. Each state could send two Pages. As a page he was on the convention floor and

spent a lot of time passing out signs. Eric learned how the game of politics is played.

Eric spent 5 days at the convention. Each day there he got up at 6:30 a.m. and started work at 7:30. The convention would start at 1:00 p.m. He helped pass out signs for each speaker. From the speakers he heard, Eric thinks Rand Paul and Marco Rubio are up-and-coming politicians in the party.

Eric identified the three biggest problems he thinks the country has:

- Lack of respect for religion
- Family values
- Unbalanced federal/state relationship

Meeting Minutes

Ken Graham opened the meeting on January 19. Dale Willenborg and Ken Graham provided jokes before the Pledge of Allegiance. Dee Gutttau offered the opening prayer.

This Sunday there is a spaghetti supper at 5:00 p.m. and the speech contest is at 6:00 p.m.. 14 students will be going to the State contest.

Saturday, Feb 9 is the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. Judges are needed.

Feb 23 is the regional optimist meeting at St. John United Church of Christ. Cost is \$10. Ken Graham says this is one of the best meetings he has attended.

Kevin Underwood won the 50/50. Ricky Saar won the attendance award, but did not collect. There were 14 members and 3 guests at the meeting.

Calendar

- Jan 30 – Can Kennel Sorting, Jr. Sr. Prom, 3:30 p.m.
- Feb 9 – Pinewood Derby

Birthdays

- Jan 19 – Dennis White (recognized)
- Feb 12 – Richard Vorthmann
- Feb 13 – Gary Funkhouser

Anniversaries

- Feb 6 – Jon & Debra Jacobsen

Programs

- Feb - Bob Mantell (1st two weeks)
- Feb - Jon Jacobsen (2nd two weeks)

- Mar - Dale Willenborg
- Apr - Chad Gutttau
- May - Gary Funkhouser
- Jun - Gary Gutttau

Speakers

- Jan 26 - Eric Koch U.S. Constitution and his Campaign experiences.

Prayers

- Feb 2—Mick Gutttau
- Feb 9—Judy Gutttau

Things Found Only in America

1. Only in America.....can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
2. Only in America.....are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.
3. Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
4. Only in America.....do people order double cheese burgers, large fries, and a diet Coke.
5. Only in America.....do banks leave both doors to the vault open and then chain the pens to the counters.
6. Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
7. Only in America.....do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.
8. Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
9. Only in America.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'.
10. Only in America.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.