



**Treynor Guidance Counselor**



Rita Laughlin was the speaker at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 29. She was introduced by Charles Nielsen. She is the new Guidance Counselor for Treynor Jr. & Sr. High School. Her hometown is Imogene, Iowa. She graduated from Farragut High School,

got her Associate Degree at IWCC, and her Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Her first job was at Boy's Town High School where she taught English for six and a half years. Then she taught at Sidney High School. She taught English and became their Counselor. Now she is at Treynor.

The school counselor job includes four areas: academic, career and college readiness, personal/social and individual and group counseling.

Treynor offers the John Baylor ACT Prep class. The hope is that it will help raise ACT scores by 2 points. There is a charge for this class which students pay. Currently ten female students are taking this class.

Rita helps students find a career or job they love. The country needs skilled workers. She helps students find scholarships and schools that best fit their needs. She would like to encourage parents and students to start saving for college when students are in Kindergarten. She is always interested in helping kids with anxiety, grief, suicidal thoughts or any other concerns.

Treynor is a 1 to 1 school where every Jr. High student has their own I-pad and every High school student has their own laptop. They are cautioned about Social media use and influence in their lives and others around them. AEA has a cost sharing program that helps pay for these devices.

Rita encourages students to take classes while in high school that they get credit for in high school and college through IWCC. These grades count toward the GPA for high school and become your college GPA. This can save money and time.

She talked of need to teach this generation to have "Grit". By "Grit" she means the ability to wait for good things to happen and the ability to stick to until it happens. She thanked the Optimists for sponsoring two HOBY students to camp this year.

**Calendar**

- Dec 17 – Can Kennel sorting for After-Prom
- Jan 7 – Can Kennel sorting for After-Prom
- Jan 28 - Can Kennel sorting for After-Prom

**Birthdays**

**Meeting Minutes**

Dee Guttau called the meeting to order with 14 members and 4 guests present. Scout leaders Dillon Mathew, and Zack Saylor attended, along with scout Cole Weitzel.

Kevin Underwood and Gary Guttau provided humor for the meeting.



Treasurer Gary Guttau Can Kennel presented a check in amount of \$588.05 to the Boy Scouts. They plan to help pay for a trailer and camping with their money.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Kevin Underwood. The attendance award was won by Chad Guttau.

Dee Guttau brought some auction items. A bottle of sweet wine from the Zone Meeting made by Governor Don Pfeiffer was bought by Bill Vorthmann for \$4.00. Two Christmas ornaments were bought by Bill Vorthmann for \$2.00 and Chuck Nielson for \$1.00. A Poinsettia pen was bought by Bob Abbott for \$2.00.

Bragging rights: Richard paid a dollar for winning the football pool. Gary Funkhouser paid a dollar because his boys were all home for Thanksgiving and were building new steps into the garage. Bob Abbott paid a dollar because he saw Tom Osborn at the airport and spoke to him briefly.

Old business: This is the last week to give to the Optimist Foundation. There are forms available for anyone that gave money to the foundation to get a tax deduction for their gift. Fill out form and return it to Dee if want the deduction.

Dee gave everyone a reminder to bring canned goods and nonperishable food or household cleaning or personal items for Treynor Food Pantry.

Can kennel sorting was Wednesday for Cub Scouts. Those that worked at the can kennel were Gary Funkhouser, Bill Vorthmann, Ken Graham, Gary Guttau, Chad Guttau and Dee Guttau. There were also several cub scouts, their leaders, and their families. The next can kennel will be for After-Prom.

The club is planning to have a board meeting after the meeting next week.

- Dec 16 – Kevin Underwood
- Dec 23 – Chuck Nielsen

**Anniversaries**

- Dec 27 – Gary & Dee Guttau