



**Iowa Senate**



Mike Gronstall spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on March 7. He has been leader of the Democratic caucus since 1996. At that time the Democrats became the minority and voted for a change of leadership. He won the vote 11-10.

Gronstall said his policy is to “focus on good public policy. When you cannot do that, do smart public policy.”

Gronstall said he thinks the best achievement of the legislature this session has been voting for additional resources for roads through the \$0.10 increase in gas tax. Gas taxes can only be used on roads. One-third of gas taxes go to counties. Another 20% goes to cities.

A study several years ago showed that the state had \$20B in needs. That was too high of figure, so they went back and looked at critical needs. That came in at \$4B. \$4B raised over 20 years requires \$200M additional revenue per year. Each penny raises about \$20M in revenue. To raise an additional \$200M per year they needed a \$0.10 gas tax revenue increase.

Iowa has 33M acres of cultivated farmland. The legislature tried to spend \$20M last year on water improvement activities, but the bill didn't pass.

**Calendar**

- Mar 18 – Can kennel sorting
- Mar 29 – Cub Scout Blue and Gold banquet
- Apr 1 – Can kennel sorting

**Birthdays**

- Mar 2 – Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham
- Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen
- Apr 20 – Steve Chambers
- Apr 25 – Irvin Saar
- Apr 28 - Gene Seran

**Anniversaries**

- Mar 4 – Gene & Erika Seran
- Mar 8 – Keith & Georgia Denton
- Apr 7 – Jim & Diane Clausen

**Speakers**

March 21 - Susan Miller - Carson Dreamland Theater. She will outline the history of our closest movie house and the plans for the near future. Also she will outline how the decisions are made on which movies to select. She may bring some free movie passes to give away.

Asked about stoplight cameras in Iowa, Gronstall said that fatalities decreased from 3800 to 700 with installation of cameras the first year. It has increased to 1300 lately. Jaws of Life extractions decreased from 45 to single digits.

Asked about school funding, Gronstall said that the Democrats support more than a 1.25% levee for schools. Republicans don't see any pressure for funding at that level. They need more pressure from the public to support an increase. There are 486,000 youth in schools in Iowa. As a side note, Gronstall said that Iowa has a great reputation for graduating good teachers.

**Meeting Minutes**

Dee Guttau opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer. There were 13 members and 1 guest at the meeting.

Mike Gronstall provided humor. Marsha Underwood won the 50/50 and Linda Danker won the attendance award, but did not collect.

Two shamrock pens sold for \$1.29 and \$1.00 in the auction. Can kennel sorting will be March 18 and April 1 after school. At the district meeting, they mentioned clubs having a Facebook page. The club had little interest in creating one.

John Klein talked about grant applications. He assisted the school in applying for a grant from Trees for Kids for \$1,088 for 15 potted trees and mulch. JOOI also applied for a grant for \$50-1\$00 for trees. Mid-American Energy provides funds for trees through the County Conservation Board. John is investigating that.

Optimist International provides grants for youth. John wrote for a grant to bus Treynor youth to a swimming pool in Council Bluffs this summer. He is also looking at Promise Partners to fund more.

March 28 - Josh Bintz, Doctor of Physical Therapy with Flex Physical Therapy in CB and currently in Treynor at the Fitness Center. However, with Casey's buying that building he will hopefully be moving the Treynor location elsewhere in town. His plans should be definite by March 28.

**Chad Guttau arranging speakers for April**

**Dale Willenborg arranging speakers for May**

**Need someone for June**

**Prayers**

- Mar 21 – Richard Vorthmann
- Mar 28 – Ken Graham
- Apr 4 – Bill Vorthmann
- Apr 11 – Bob Abbott
- Apr 18 – Gary Guttau
- Apr 25 – Dennis White