



Connections Area Agency on Aging



Terri Martin from Connections Area Agency on Aging spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 14. She has worked there for about a year. It was formerly called Southwest Iowa Aid. They cover 20 counties and have three

offices.

The mission of Connections is "To enhance the quality of life for elders in our service area through education, planning, and coordination of services. They have three separate programs. Foster Grandparents is a program where volunteers, age 55 and over, work one-on-one with children in schools, head starts, and day care centers. Senior Companions are volunteers, age 55 and over, provide companionship and respite to homebound seniors and adults. Terri manages the Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP), a program that invites adults 55 and over, to use their experiences and skills as a mentor in the 'reading Buddy' program, as an Ombudsman in a local long-term care facility, or for driving a "Meals-On-Wheels route. The Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions require a minimum of 15 hours per week and provide a stipend of \$2.75 per hour.

On July 1 Connections took over the Meals-On-Wheels program from the Red Cross, who wanted to focus more on their mission. They currently have 130 clients receiving meals each day, Monday through Friday. They have eight routes and deliver a hot bag and a cold bag of food. The Ombudsman acts as the eyes and ears for quality care in Nursing homes. They visit with

residents and assess if their needs are being met. Three hours per month is required.

The Reading Buddy program has four people at Longfellow, Carter Lake, and Bloomer schools. Fifteen hours of reading with a needy child can increase their reading level two grades. They mainly work with First through Fourth grades. Connections is funded through a three year grant from the State. They are in their second year. They can be reached at 712-328-2540 or 800-432-9209. Lifelong Links (www.lifelonglinks.org) is a state website that refers aging lowans, disabled lowans, veterans, and their caregivers to local agencies like Connections.

Meeting Minutes

John Klein opened the meeting on November 14 and led the pledge of allegiance. Richard Vorthmann gave the opening prayer. Ken Graham provided humor.

Ken and Linda Graham celebrated their anniversary with a gift to the Youth Fund.

The JOOI club made 750 cookies for overseas troops. They are also sponsoring a winter clothing drive, collecting coats, hats, gloves, and other winter items.

Club dues are \$75 again this year and are now due.

John Klein won the football pool for the second week in a row.

A guns book auctioned for \$5. A squash and some sweet potatoes from Dee Gutttau were also auctioned.

The Nonpareil had a reporter at the can kennel sorting this week. They published an article in the Sunday paper. There were 1387 bottles this week. John Klein, Ken Graham, Gary Gutttau, and Gary Funkhouser helped the Boy Scouts with sorting.

Bill Vorthmann won the 50/50 and Jeff Jorgensen won the attendance award, but did not collect. There were 15 members and one guest at the meeting.

Nov. 28: Discussion on instigating a younger member satellite club of Optimists.

Prayers

Programs

- Jan – Kirk Vorthmann
- Feb – Gary Funkhouser
- Mar – John Klein
- April – Chad Gutttau
- May – Gary Gutttau
- June – Dale Willenborg
- July –
- Aug – Mick Gutttau
- Sept – Ken Graham
- Oct – Bill Vorthmann
- Nov – Judy Gutttau
- Dec -

Calendar

- Dec 2 - Can Kennel Sorting for Cub scouts-time TBD
- Dec 16 - Can Kennel Sorting for Jr/Sr. Prom-time TBD
- Jan 6 – Can Kennel Sorting for Jr/Sr. Prom-time TBD
- Jan 16 – Zone meeting in Carsen – 9:00-noon
- Jan 27 Can Kennel Sorting for Jr/Sr. Prom-time TBD

Birthdays

- Nov 8 - Mick Gutttau (recognized)
- Nov 18 – Dianne Willenborg

Anniversaries

- Nov 2 - Kirk & Lynell Vorthmann (recognized)
- Nov - Ken & Linda Graham (recognized)
- Nov 25 – Ward & Suzanne Chambers

Speakers

- Nov. 21: Bill McCarthy of Hansen House. Mr. McCarthy and the Hansen House work with Alzheimer patients and their specialized care.