



May 21, 2016

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Treynor Vocal Music

Roger Jensen was the speaker at the Treynor Optimist Club on May 21. He is retiring after 33 years of teaching vocal music at Treynor. He said that during that time he had two opportunities to move to larger schools to teach, but turned them down.



Roger said he teaches that "Perseverance can be a great asset throughout life." His philosophy has been to "work hard, be enthusiastic, and keep it fun."

Roger was recruited to Treynor by Randy Donahue in 1983. He was working in Rockport, Missouri at the time. He also sang in a quartet for ten years.

When Roger started they were building the main part of the elementary building. He drove between the elementary and High School for 23 years. They first musical they produced was the Pajama Game, in the old gym.

All three of his children were born around music contests. Jennifer was born the Monday after Easter. He had just finished contests and spent a long day at church. For Amanda, Roger's wife started contractions a month early when he was heading for the Christmas Concert on Dec 15. He called home when he got there and she said that the contractions had stopped. She was born a month later, on the Monday after the state contest for the Show Choir. Roger Jr. (RJ) was born the

Saturday of a Large Group contest. The judges moved his group's last performance to the beginning of their lunch break so he could get to Mercy Hospital for the birth.

Roger told some personal stories. He said he was really thankful for the moral support from the Treynor community during Jennifer's two year battle with cancer. She had to get monthly treatments for two years.

When RJ was four years old he went with Roger to choir rehearsals and learned to sing the songs. By the time he was in 1st and 2nd grade he was suggesting ways for Roger to be more effective at directing. When RJ was 7 he went to the Wizard of Oz play and wouldn't go near the person who played the wicked witch for the next year.

The music students took a lot of trips to Chicago to see music in action. The first trip they took was to Denver for three days. On one trip they went to Nashville, in the early 1990s. They purchased tickets far ahead of time, but didn't know who would be performing when they arrived. On the bus ride there they found out that they would see two newer country artists, Vince Gill and Garth Brooks.

In 1995 Roger switched from Show Choirs to Jazz Choirs. They qualified for state the first 9 years. They placed second in state in 2008 and won the championship in 2010.

In 1991 Roger assembled a group of 2nd through 5th graders for Elementary Singers. In 2006 when he moved into the High School and started the Elementary and Jr. High Festival with the director from Oakland. The first year they had 4-5 schools participate and about 75 youth. Now the festival averages 320 students and 800-1000 people attending.

Roger said that to be a great person you need to meet great people and read great books. He said having faith is the key. "There is something greater in ourselves' than what we think there is.

Meeting Minutes

John Klein opened the May 21 meeting of the Treynor Optimist Club by leading with the Pledge

of Allegiance. The prayer was offered by Dale Willenborg. Ken Graham, Mick Guttau. Richard Vorthmann, John Klein, and Roger Jensen each contributed \$1 for Bragging Rights. Ken's grandson made the dean's list his first full year of college. TS Bank purchased a bank in Corning, Iowa. Richard recognized the Guttau's for being on KMA. John Klein recognized Roger Jensen's 33 years at Treynor. Roger recognized the youth in the music programs at Treynor, especially Col and Zachary who were at the Optimist meeting.

Kevin Underwood won the 50/50 and Dale Willenborg won the attendance drawing.

The Optimist club gave 11 \$500 scholarships at the awards banquet.



Cole Wetzel

The Cardinal Core Group will have their kickoff on June 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Silos. They received a grant from Noble Cause which will pay for pizza and pop. They will also sponsor a food fight on Saturday, June 25, 10:00 outside the Community Center. Bring \$1 or a can of food.

\$2 or two cans of food will allow you to fight a celebrity. They are also promoting Watch DOGS

Calendar

- June 1 – Can Kennel Sorting, Baseball Team
- June 13 – Cardinal Core Group kickoff, 5:30-7:00, Silos
- June 20-24 - Swim lessons
- June 25 – Food Fight, 10:00 at Community Center

Birthdays

- May 11 – Keith Denton

(Dads of Great Students) to volunteer at school next year.

Cole Wetzel picked up a check from the Can Kennel for the Boy Scouts. The troop has six new scouts and will use the money for new tests, advancements, and summer camp. Cole has his Eagle Scout award and has earned 43-44 merit badges.



Zachary Mass picked up a check for the JOOI club. They club had 50 members this year, with 20 very active. They had a lot of activities, including baking cookies for troops, making shoes from Jeans for children in Africa, collecting winter clothing, Souper Bowl, and planting and pruning trees. They will also be helping Orien Hodges plant items for his pantry truck garden.

- May 21 - Steve Irvin
- May 22 - Kirk Vorthmann

Anniversaries

- May 27 – Bob & Mary Francis Abbott
- May 29 – Bill & Rhonda Matthew