



July 29, 2017

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## Windmills

Tracy Nicholson spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club about generating energy from wind. MidAmerican Energy is a recognized leader in the use and development of renewable energy; no other U.S. rate-regulated utility owns more wind-powered generation capacity. Their vision is to have 100% renewable energy. By the end of the summer they will be at 80%. Excess energy produced by MidAmerican is sold in the Eastern United States.



**Tracy Nicholson and Jerry Hempel**

Wind turbans have a 20 year lifespan. The gear box is the main part that wears out. The inside gears turn 72-86 times for each turn of the fans. The turbans have a 1½% failure rate. The gear box costs \$375,000 to replace.

MidAmerican has a 30-50 year lease on the land for the windmills. They lease 1 acre for the windmill and road. When people sell the farm, some split off the acre and continue to get royalties from it.

There are 256 yards of concrete for each windmill. The blades are made in Newton and Fort Madison.

When the windmill is turned off, one blade is straight down. They perform two maintenances each year. They work in teams when repairing

the tower. The company is looking at adding a power assist for climbing inside the tower.

Tracy said that the power grids in the United States are very aged. MidAmerican is working with other utilities to try to upgrade them.

A windmill farm generates about 200 megawatts, which is enough for about 40,000 houses. The older turbans are GE 1.5 megawatts. The newer ones are Seaman 2.3 megawatts.

MidAmerican built a 115 meter tower from concrete molded on site to determine if that would be cost effective. Most towers are 80-100 meters.

The older MidAmerican towers are 12 years old. The older ones will be refurbished with blades 20' longer blades.

Ice will collect on the blades. MidAmerican employees stay away from the towers after an ice storm. Melting ice can fly quite a distance. All windmills are set back 1250 feet from the road because of possible flying ice.

## Meeting Minutes

John Klein conducted the July 29, 2017 meeting of the Treynor Optimist Club. The meeting began with humor from Keith Denton. Dale Willenborg offered the opening prayer after the pledge of allegiance.

Chad Gutttau won the 50/50 drawing. Dianne Willenborg won the attendance prize, but did not collect. There were 10 members and 3 guests at the meeting.

Jim Clausen bought pizza to celebrate his birthday. John Klein celebrated his wife's birthday today.

Gary Gutttau contributed to the Youth fund for working the gate at Westfair. Dee Gutttau recognized her grandson Chase Wells from Kansas, who turned 16, got a job, and his first car.

Can kennel sorting was Wednesday. Kevin Underwood, Gary and Chad Gutttau, Ken Graham, Gary Funkhouser, and John Klein helped.

Tom Winchell, the bus driver for the swim lessons, bought ice cream for the youth. TS Bank had provided \$40 for them, but the money was redirected to buy refreshments for the Hydrant Swim Party. There were 35 youth on the bus and 42 who took lessons.

The state Optimist Meeting is in Council Bluffs on August 4-6. Kirk Vorthmann made a reservation, but will not be able to attend. Contact him if you would like to use his paid reservation. Reservations are due July 21. Members are encouraged to attend.

Can Kennel sorting will be August 9, 5:00 for Cardinal Core.

The Optimist Club voted to co-sponsor the hydrant sprinkler party, Tuesday, August 1 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The dictionaries for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade have been ordered.

Rachel Mejstrik picked up her scholarship check. She will be an Interior Design major at South Dakota State in Brookings, South Dakota. She

earned 20 credits from IWCC while in High School. She moves in August 16. She is considering participating in Campus Ministry, the Interior Design Club, and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. She has a job in the Residence Halls.



**Rachel Mejstrik and John Klein**

#### **Calendar**

July 27 – Westfair, need help at gates 12:00-6:00

#### **Birthdays**

Aug 11 – Chad Gutttau

Aug 23 – Judy Gutttau

#### **Anniversaries**

Aug 13 – Jerry & Barb Hempel

Aug 25 – Gary & Julia Funkhauser

#### **Speakers**

Aug 19 – Pete Tulipana – Iowa West Foundation

#### **Programs**

August - First two – Heidi Lunn

Last weeks – Bob Mantell

September - Ken Graham

October - Gary Gutttau

November - Mick Gutttau

December –