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## **Lou Howell– Interim Superintendent of Treynor Community School**

Lou Howell, also known formerly in Treynor as Mary Lou Howell, is the Interim Superintendent of Treynor Community Schools. On Saturday, October 28 at the Treynor Optimist Club meeting she shared that at a former school where she worked, there were seven “Mary Lou’s”, thus, she declared herself to be “Lou” and it’s stuck!



Lou was a middle school and secondary teacher in Treynor from 1969-1983. Since then, she taught and then became Vice Principal at Fort Dodge, was Associate Principal in Yuma, AZ, and was Director of Curriculum and Academic Programs in the Carroll Community School District. In 1994 she became Associate Superintendent at Urbandale, where she maintains her primary home. In 1999 she became Director of Instructional Services for AEA 5 and 8, Fort Dodge. She retired at age 55 from education and the next day in 2003 became an Independent Consultant, serving a wide variety of organizations and commissions to the present.

Lou has three children, who all started school in Treynor. Tiffany is married, and lives in Glenwood, JB bases out of Illinois but travels a

great deal for business, and Trevor is married and lives in Slater. She has six grandchildren and also is surrogate grandmother for her deceased sister Marsha’s eight grandkids. She is living this year with her daughter and family in Glenwood. Her day at the school often ends at 9 PM and begins daily at 6:30 AM.

She loves the beach and has a home in Florida where she normally spends Nov thru April, but not this year. She loves to read and her goal is one book per week. The Gentleman in Moscow is her favorite this year.

She loves interacting with the students and staff. She tries to visit two classrooms per week, enjoys being in the lunch room and occasionally rides the bus. Recently one young girl on the bus invited her to come to her home to play saying, “I know my Mom wouldn’t care!”

The official count of students is a total of 814.51 students in the Treynor Community Schools, which makes Treynor the largest school in the conference. 275.2 students are open enrolled in, which is one of the highest in the state. 69 are open enrolled out. She would like the reasons explored. She would like to see increased focus on learning. She is encouraging a curriculum review process which could be a seven year cycle.

The state requires that every student has a four year plan. A variety of assessment tests were explained including aptitude tests. She feels there is value in aptitude tests if conversations are focused about planning for the future. She advocates K-14 education. Kids must get out of their mindset that a high school degree is sufficient. She believes in having expectations and supporting the students and teachers to achieve those expectations.

After speaking she shared that she was inducted as a new Optimist member when she attended the

State Meeting of the Optimist Clubs. She compiled a 55-page packet of learnings from the meeting for our club to review. She enjoyed it very much and encouraged all of us to attend at least one time.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Gary Guttau conducted the meeting of the Treynor Optimist Club due to the absence of the President and VP. There were 15 members present. The meeting began with humor by Chuck Nielsen and Gary Guttau, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Gary Guttau offered the prayer.

Dennis White won the 50/50 drawing and the football contest. Heidi Lunn won the attendance prize but was not present.

Bill Vorthmann's birthday was observed with a song.

John Klein and Chuck Nielsen contributed to the Youth Fund because ISU is in the top 25 in football for the first time in a long time. Gary Guttau contributed because the Varsity Volleyball team won in three and proceed to Regionals Tuesday night. Mick Guttau contributed because of media coverage about TS Promise speaker, Jon Pritiken, who spoke at area schools and at a youth rally.

\$53 was collected last week for the Trunk or Treat Event this Sunday. It was suggested that money not needed could be donated for Shop with the Sheriff. Donating for Shop with the Sheriff was delayed until a future meeting.

### **Calendar**

#### **Birthdays**

Nov 8 - Mick Guttau  
Nov 18 - Dianne Willenborg

#### **Anniversaries**

Nov 2 - Kirk & Lynell Vorthmann  
Nov 6 - Kenneth & Linda Graham

#### **Speakers**

Oct. 28 - Lou Howell, Treynor Supt.  
Nov. 4 - Jennifer Clark, Primrose Retirement,  
"Community Living"

Treasurer Gary Guttau indicated there was money in the treasury not spent related to the hydrant party.

There was brief discussion about the local Optimist Club becoming a 501(c) 3 through the TS Community Foundation. Gary Guttau had met with Mary Jewell, Mick Guttau, and Judy Guttau. The advantage would be for certain donations to the Club becoming tax deductible gifts.

Ann Vorthmann announced she will be the Correspondence Secretary and appreciates being contacted when a card is desired. A sympathy card was circulated for Gary and Julie Funkhouser because of the loss of their grandson.

The meeting was closed by Gary Guttau and by stating the Optimist creed.

*Optimist Club meetings run from 8-9 AM each Saturday morning at the Treynor Community Building (Legion Room). The coffee is always on and donuts are served. Come join us for fun, fellowship, and interesting programs!*

### **Halloween Jokes:**

How do you write a book about Halloween? *With a ghostwriter.*

What's a monster's favorite dessert? *I-Scream!*

Two monsters went to a Halloween party. Suddenly one said to the other, *"A lady just rolled her eyes at me. What should I do?"* The other monster replied, *"Be a gentleman and roll them back to her."*

Nov. 11 - Cati Dezmasi, The Center,  
"Mind, Body, Spirit & Health"  
Nov. 18 - Marcia Anderson, Pinecone Partners,  
"Elder Fraud and More"  
Nov. 25 - Teri Wilson, Connections,  
"General Elder Information"

### **Programs**

November - Linda Danker  
December - Mick Guttau