



Iowa Republican Caucuses

Jeff Jorgensen, chairman of the Pottawattamie County Republican Central Committee, was the speaker at the Treynor Optimist Club on March 26. He said that the caucuses in Iowa have four purposes. The caucus is a county business meeting to:

1. Select a presidential preference
2. Select delegates to the county convention
3. Select planks for the county convention
4. Include signing of nomination papers

Most people leave after the presidential preferences. The other activities are important, but take place later in the meeting. Iowa has had caucuses since 1846.

This year the Republican Party was not prepared for the large attendance. Four years ago they had 1700 people participate and this year they

had 2900. There are 40 precincts in Pottawattamie County.

Microsoft provided software this year to report ballot counts. It could be downloaded to a smart phone for easy input and sending.

Recently the Republican Party revamped the party platform from 13 pages to 5 pages. Now they need to look at better ways to sign in people for the caucus to prevent long lines of people waiting to sign in and get a ballot.

The Iowa caucus is the first in the nation and brings a lot of money into the state. It is important to state revenues to preserve this status.