



Iowa House of Representatives

Mark Brandenburg, a member of the Iowa House of Representatives, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on August 9. He is nearing the end of his second term in the legislature and is currently running for Pottawattamie County Recorder.

Mark has two sons and six grandchildren. He likes to go to the Zoo once a month. He is a member of the Carter Lake Optimist Club and the West End Optimist Club. He believes in living every day to its fullest. His goal is to visit every state capitol in the U.S. He worked in Human Resources OPPD for 34 years. He also taught about human resources at IWCC, including how to find a job.

Mark lives in a house in Des Moines during the session where the people go to Florida for five months. He talked about what it is like to be a State Representative. He said that seating in the house is based on Seniority. They have live streaming of legislative sessions. Each legislator

can hire a clerk and can have a page.

The Legislative Services Agency provides nonpartisan staff services to all members of the General Assembly. They provide information and craft bills. Each year 800-900 bills are submitted and 150-200 pass the legislature.

Mark has had 5-6 bills become law. One of them requires anyone installing wind or solar energy to the power grid to inform the power company. That helps power company workers avoid being electrocuted when repairing equipment.

Another bill allows someone who finds their stolen tools at a pawn shop to get them back free if they can prove they owned them.

In Iowa, the Democrats control the Senate and the Republicans control the House. They manage to work well together.

Mark found that the State troopers do not have tasers. Studies show that tasers reduce trooper injuries by 70% and offender injury by 40%. The legislature approved buying tasers for all state troopers. Also, the trooper level in Iowa went from 450 to 350 in the last few years. The legislature approved hiring 30 new troopers.