



Club Officers for 2007-2008

President	Dale Willenborg	366-6815
V. Pres., Pres. Elect	Dick Baber	322-8074
Secretary		
Treasurer	Jeff Jorgensen	487-3355
Past President	Gary Gutttau	487-3248

Board Members	
2006-2008	2007-2009
Steve Irvin	John Klein
Gerald Forristall	Bob Hibbard
Denny White	Larry Kramer

June 1, 2008

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NEXT CLUB MEETING

F The next meeting of the Optimist Club of Treynor is planned June 7, 2008, 7:30 a.m. at the Treynor Community Center. John Schmitt is arranging for a program speaker. Club members are encouraged to bring a guest and the public is invited

REPORT OF RECENT CLUB MEETINGS

R The Treynor Optimist club met May 3. President DALE WILLENBORG opened the meeting by leading the pledge. JOHN SCHMITT offered the devotional prayer.

I The Treynor High School Honor Choir students JT Jensen, Jenna Purdy, Lee Volkens, and Emily Eitmann accepted a check from Treynor Optimist Club in the amount of \$856.40 for their efforts at the Optimist Can Kennel during March. They are eagerly planning for a trip to New York City on June 5-9 to perform with other Iowa Honor Choir members and to see the sites. They will be performing at the Art Center at Iowa Western Community College on June 3 at 7:00 p.m.

E The club received reports on a very successful Pitch-Hit-and-Run on Saturday, April 26 and planning for a farewell dinner for Larry Kramer in the evening. The Youth Appreciation Ceremony will be on Sunday, May 4, at Zion Lutheran Church.

N The Optimist club met May 10. President DALE WILLENBORG opened the meeting by leading the pledge. GARY GUTTAU offered the devotional prayer.

D The 50/50 was awarded to DICK BABER. The attendance pot was not collected.

O KEITH DENTON contributed to the Youth Fund for his 62nd birthday. GARY FUNKHAUSER contributed for the Youth Appreciation program.

F JOHN KLEIN reported that 49 students had attended at least three sessions of the Babysitting Clinic. Forty had attended all four sessions.

Y The Optimist club met on May 17 with 18 members and two visitors present. President DALE WILLENBORG opened the meeting by leading the pledge. President Elect DICK BABER gave the opening prayer.

O The 50/50 was awarded to RICHARD VORTHMAN. The attendance pot was awarded to JIM MURRAY, but was not collected.

U JEFF JORGENSEN contributed to the Youth Fund for getting his technical note-taking book published. LES HARVEY contributed for National School Board week, noting that several Optimist Club members are on the Treynor School Board.

T JOHN SCHMITT reported on Optimist club members who helped with can kennel sorting for the Boy Scouts High Adventure.

H JOHN KLEIN solicited help collecting prizes for Bingo during Treynor Days. He will be coordinating for businesses out of town and

RICHARD VORTHMAN will be checking with businesses in Treynor.

The Optimist club met May 24. President DALE WILLENBORG opened the meeting by leading the pledge and also offered the devotional prayer.

The 50/50 was awarded to JUDY GUTTAU. The attendance pot was awarded to DICK BABER, but was not collected.

KIRK GUTTAU contributed to the Youth Fund for his birthday. Several members contributed for bragging rights.

Faith McAlpine came to thank the Optimist Club for a \$300 college scholarship. She will be attending Iowa Western Community College and hopes to transfer to Oral Roberts in a year or two.

Many Optimist Club members helped put in footings for the flag project in Treynor. After the meeting, they also helped put up 62 flags around Treynor.

CHANGING FACE OF HEALTH CARE

Kristen Ostenso and another nurse from Alegent Health were guest speakers on May 3. Alegent Health includes Bergan Mercy, Mercy, Midlands, Immanuel, and another hospital in the Council Bluffs/Omaha area.

Mercy Hospital is undergoing a renovation. All rooms will be completely updated and private. Arm bracelets are now bar coded for additional safety and tracking medications. A catheterization at Mercy Hospital takes an average of 48 minutes. The national average is 90 minutes.

Mercy Hospital has achieved Nursing Magnet Status. Magnet status is an award given by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center (ANCC), an affiliate of the American Nurses Association, to hospitals that satisfy a set of criteria designed to measure the strength and quality of their nursing. A magnet hospital is stated to be one where nursing delivers excellent patient outcomes, where nurses have a high level of job satisfaction, and where there is a low staff nurse turnover rate and appropriate grievance resolution. Magnet status is also said to indicate nursing involvement in data collection and decision-making in patient care delivery. Only 2% of the nation's hospitals have been awarded this status. The three in Iowa are Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, a hospital in Dubuque, and the University of Iowa.

40% of the nursing staff have reached certification. They must renew certification every four years.

The cost of procedures at Alegent Health is published on the internet at alegent.com. They are the first system in the Nation to do so.

BEEF PRODUCTION IN IOWA

Daryl Busby from Iowa Beef Extension was the guest speaker on May 10. He said that 90% of feedlots in Iowa with over 500 head of cattle are feeding distillers grains from Corn Ethanol plants. They are looking at how to incorporate more distillers' gains into pork and chicken production.

Ethanol production removes starch from corn. The remaining product has three times the oil and three times the protein. Since the oil level can reach 7 1/2 %, distillers' grains are limited to a mixture with it as 40% of the cattle feed. It has too much oil for pig and chicken feed.

Ethanol plans would like to dry 1/3 of the output grain and leave 2/3 wet, due to the cost of drying. In the winter the wet will remain usable more than 10 days, but in the summer the maximum time is 7-10 days. The dry grain is worth about 92% of the original corn price, but the wet grain in summer is only worth 60%. They are investigating taking the summer grain and mixing it with 15% hay and storing as silage to feed in winter. The excess protein in distillers' grains is not a problem for cattle.

From 2002 to 2007 the value of manure in cattle feedlots went up \$40, from \$15 to \$55 per ton. It is now a valuable commodity, so cattle producers are controlling it better.

There has been a fear that high corn prices would make cattle more expensive to raise in Iowa than in Texas and elsewhere. Transportation costs currently give Iowa a \$20 advantage in cost. Most Iowa feedlots are full. In fact, an additional 5% of cattle have moved from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas to Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota in the past few years.

The Iowa Beef Extension is investigating hoop building with deep pits for cattle production. Air flow is a concern in the hot summer.

There are several experiments underway in the United States for alternatives to corn for ethanol production. One promising alternative is using stover (corn cobs) with a plant in Esterville, Iowa as a test site. In Georgia they are testing use of tree products and in Tennessee they are testing use of switch grass.

BRAGGING ABOUT LOESS HILLS

Josh Gutttau introduced Chad Graeve from the Hitchcock Nature Center. There are only two other places in the world similar to the Loess Hills, one in Germany and one in the Black Hills.

Loess is a German word for "loose". The Loess Hills is a landform that extends from South Dakota into two counties in Missouri. It was created about 16,000 years ago from blowing dirt. Since then erosion has sculptured the hills. It was made from a glacial product called Glacial Flour from winds blowing to the East.

The Loess Hills dirt is very stable when dry and very unstable when wet. It is better to leave vertical cuts because the ground does not get saturated easily.

Lewis and Clark found very few trees in the Loess Hills in the late 1700s. 80-85% of Iowa was grass in 1832 to 1859 when the state was settled. Now Iowa is the most altered state in the nation. Only about 0.1% of the native prairie is still remaining in Iowa.

Before settlement, the fire interval in the Loess Hills was every 3-5 years. That kept the trees out. In the last 30 years red cedar trees have become a problem. They burn easily and die, but thrive without fires.

The Hitchcock Nature Center is a county park. It was a YMCA camp in the 1960s-1980. Then it was sold to a private developer as a land fill. Many people objected and the County bought the site with 508 acres in 1991 in a Sheriff's sale.

The mission of the Hitchcock Nature Center is ecological integrity, environmental education, and low impact public recreation. They are ten years into a 50 year restoration. After 150 years of degradation, they try to expand the natural grasses at a rate of 4% per year.

The Hitchcock Nature Center consists of 1000 acres with plans to increase to 2100 acres. It has seven miles of hiking and cross country ski trails and that is being expanded.

Mr. Graeve issued a challenge:

1. Visit Hitchcock Nature Center
2. Support Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
3. Support Sustainable Conservation Funding (www.iowadnr.com)

More information about Pottawattamie County parks is available at www.pottcoconservation.com.

GOOD WORKS IN SOUTHWEST IOWA

Pete Tulipana, President and CEO of Heartland Family Services, spoke on May 24 about Omaha's oldest non-profit agency and about the Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus.

Heartland Family Services served more than 40,000 people in nine counties in the Council Bluffs/Omaha area last year. They have a \$15M budget and provide services in five areas: children's emergency services; professional counseling in substance abuse, compulsive gambling, and mental health; community education; juvenile crime prevention and intervention; and senior services. They have proven substance abuse programs that are having success with meth patients.

Heartland Family Services will help anyone, but those helped must pay what they can toward that help. A key component of their programs is holding people accountable.

Funding for programs is paid for in fee for services and from United Way, the U.S. Government, and the local community. They are the main provider of gambling treatment in the area, which is a fully funded program from Casino revenue.

The fastest growing area of homelessness in the country is women with children. Many of the women already hold a job, but still cannot pay all their expenses. The Homeless Link Program helps these women in coordination with other organizations, providing additional job training and parent education.

The Lakin Campus will allow support organizations to work better together. It includes Heartland Family Services, MICA House, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and Boys & Girls Clubs. Heartland Family Services is providing 16 supportive housing units for women and children. The women must be in school or working and will learn to save some money while living there so they can successfully live on their own after leaving.

CALENDAR

May Can Kennel contributions were for Boy Scouts High Adventure

June Can Kennel contributions are for the Iowa Ambassadors of Music

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| 6/11 | Can kennel sorting at TBD time. |
| 6/14 | Flag installation for Flag Day |
| 6/15 | Flag removal |
| 6/25 | Can kennel sorting at TBD time |
| 6/27 | Flag installation for Treynor Days |
| 6/27-6/29 | Treynor Days activities |
| 6/29 | Flag removal |