



Club Officers for 2008-2009

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

Board Members

<u>2007-2009</u>	<u>2008-2010</u>
John Klein	Judy Gutttau
Bob Hibbard	John Schmitt
Denny White	

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Report of Recent Club Meeting

President Richard Baber opened the Optimist Club meeting on January 24 and gave the opening prayer. There were 18 members and 6 visitors in attendance. The visitors included the Iowa District Governor Janet Lloyd and her husband Tom, and the Zone 3 Governor Barb Robertson and her husband Dale. Jim Claussen won the 50-50 drawing. Dennis White won the attendance award but did not collect.

Richard Vorthmann, Keith Denton, Gary Gutttau, and Dale Willenborg provided jokes for the meeting. Mick Gutttau and Gary Gutttau contributed to the Youth Fund during bragging rights.

Janet Lloyd, the Iowa District Governor spoke briefly. She grew up in Solon, Iowa. She talked about the district goals for this year. She invited everyone to the Iowa District 2nd Quarter Conference in Ankeny on February 20 and 21. It will be at the Courtyard by Marriott. Also, on April 25 the Optimist International President Donald Sievers will be at a meeting in the Amana Colonies.

Last week the speakers were from Cookie Crumbs. After the meeting the Optimist Club collected \$185 to help send cookie packages to Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Monday, Feb. 2, the high school will be hosting a jazz choir contest. They would like some help in selling tickets of admission from 5:30 to 7:45 that evening in the hallway just outside the auditorium. Two people are needed. They should report around 5:15 to Mr. Jensen, jazz choir director and host.

Surge in Iraq

Pastor Alan Hardy was in Iraq in 2004. He talked about the "surge" in Iraq where 20,000 troops were sent to Baghdad and 4,000 to Anbar province. The surge represented a total top-to bottom change in U.S. military leadership over the war.

Iraq is a diverse country. They speak 5 different languages and consist of three main groups of disparate people, the Shi'ite, Sunni, and the Kurds.

The Sunni is the largest denomination of Islam and the Shi'ite are the second largest. The Shi'ite are mainly in the Southern part of the country and are affiliated with Iran. The Kurds are an ethnic group of people in the North-eastern part of Iraq, in Iran, and in Turkey.

Winston Churchill was instrumental in creating Iraq. It is not a natural country, created along political or ideological lines. Therefore, there will probably always be political problems. However, if the country were divided along natural ideological lines, there could be civil war throughout the region. The Kurds would want their own country, drawing in Iran and Turkey.

Pastor Hardy enlisted in the military on 29 August 1978 as a cannoneer. In 1996 he became a member of the "Religious Intelligence". He retired in 2005 at the rank of Lt. Col after 27 years in the military.

CALENDAR

The December and January Can Kennel contributions will be for the Post Prom Committee. February will be for the Treynor IT Club. Total collections are \$67,140 through October 2008.

- Jan 28, 6:30 p.m. – Can sorting
- Feb 2 – Assist with ticket selling for Jazz contest at the High School
- Feb 7 – Breakfast by the Silver Keg Feeders

Birthdays

- Feb 1 - DICK BABER
- Feb 5 - LARRY KRAMER
- Feb 12 - RICHARD VORTHMANN
- Feb 13 - GARY FUNKHOUSER

Anniversaries

- Feb 6 - JON JACOBSEN
- Feb 23 - RICHARD VORTHMANN

Programs

- February – Gary Gutttau
- March – Chad Gutttau
- April – Dale Willenborg
- May – Richard Vorthmann