March 5, 2011   Vol. 27 No. 7

Optimist Newsletter and Website

Dale Willenborg talked to the Optimist Club about the Treynor Optimist Club newsletter and website. The newsletter is published weekly and part of the newsletter is sent to newspapers, while the entire newsletter is sent to members, some electronically and some via paper copy. The website is usually updated every week or two.

Dale takes pictures of the speakers and other meeting events each week. He unloads the pictures, edits them using Picasa, a free photo editing program, and includes one or more pictures to the newspapers along with the article.

Dale uses Google Chrome for most website browsing. It is fast and can be installed for free. He uses Firefox and an add-on called FireFTP to upload files to the website. Firefox has a lot of free add-ons to perform various functions.

Dale uploads the newsletter, website changes, and speaker information. Speaker information is only updated every two or three months, because it is time consuming to create a web page of information about the speaker and keep the alphabetical list of speakers current.

The treynoroptimist.org website contains an alphabetical list of all speakers at the club since 2004. It also has all the club newsletters since then.

Since the Treynor Community Center has wireless internet access, the club also looked at the treynorfan.com website and some of the information available there. The Optimist Club is one of the sponsors of treynorfan.com.

Meeting Minutes

On March 5 there were 19 members and one guest at the Optimist Club meeting. Dennis White opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Chuck Nielsen gave the opening prayer. Gary Funkhouser and Keith Denton provided jokes.

Ken Graham contributed to the Youth Fund for his birthday on March 11. Keith Denton contributed for his 37th anniversary on March 8. Judy Guttau contributed because Mitch was reinstated for his flying license.

Bob Beattie talked briefly about a Junior class project where they write to Iowa National Guard members in Company F, 168th infantry who are stationed in Afghanistan. They are also sending boxes of various items to the soldiers. So far they have 24 boxes to send, but they need money to ship the packages. The Jr. Optimist Club donated $50. The American Legion said they would help, so the Optimist Club voted to split the remaining cost with the Legion. Mr. Beattie estimated the total shipping cost to be $400-$500. Mrs. Schnepel is working with Mr. Beattie on the project.

Gary Funkhouser asked for help with the Quiz Bowl in the afternoon of Wednesday, March 16. Dick Baber won the 50/50 drawing. Steve Irvin won the attendance drawing, but did not collect.

There will be a Board Meeting next Saturday after the club meeting.

CALENDAR
Mar 16 - Can Kennel sorting for the Jr. Optimist Club at 3:30 p.m.
Mar 16 – Quiz bowl helpers needed in the afternoon.
Mar 30 - Can Kennel sorting at 3:30 p.m.

Birthdays
Mar 2 – Ward Chambers
Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham (recognized)
Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen

Anniversaries
Mar 4 – Gene & Erika Seran
Mar 8 – Keith & Georgia Denton (recognized)
Mar 15 – Dick & Betty Baber
Mar 15 – Jeff & Carrie Nelson

Speakers
Mar 12 – Christina Jenkins & Kenzie Lawlor - Missionaries
Mar 19 – Julie Campbell - associate for a visually impaired student
Mar 26 – LeRoy Cobia - Beekeeping

Programs
Mar – Dale Willenborg
Apr – Gary Guttau
May – Keith Denton
June – Dick Baber
July – Judy Guttau
Aug – Treynor Bank Employees
Sep – Jeff Jorgensen
Oct – Gary Funkhouser
Nov – Arlyn Norris
Dec – Chuck Nielsen

At a recent software engineering management course in the US, the participants were given an awkward question to answer. "If you had just boarded an airliner and discovered that your team of programmers had been responsible for the flight control software how many of you would disembark immediately?"

Among the ensuing forest of raised hands, only one man sat motionless. When asked what he would do, he replied that he would be quite content to stay onboard.

With his team's software, he said, the plane was unlikely to even taxi as far as the runway, let alone take off.