



The Optimist Club of Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 3, Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Donald Pfeiffer
International Pres: Ken Garner

NEWSLETTER

www.treynoroptimist.org

Treynor Optimist Club President:
 Dee Guttau



April 18, 2015

Vol. 31 No. 16

Pottawattamie County Recorder



Mark Brandenburg, the Pottawattamie County Recorder, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on April 18. He enjoyed working in the Iowa Legislature in the past, but is really enjoying his new job.

Mark spent time with John Sortino, the retiring county recorder before deciding to run for recorder. That

helped convince him that he could contribute meaningfully. He also realizes now that he would have liked to know some of the things he knows now when he was in the legislature, because he could have helped make some needed changes.

The recorder's office has three main areas: vital records, vehicle registration, and real estate. Last year they issued 7000 certified copies of vital records. They charge \$20 for each one. The county does all the work, but the state gets \$16 of the \$20. Two people work in this area.

Vehicle registration includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, and boats. Registering boats requires answering a series of questions.

The real estate area requires two staff of the total seven staff in the recorder's office. 40% of real estate transactions are done electronically. Others have to be scanned. They do 60-120 transactions per day.

The county recorders in the state meet twice a year. They also have a network where they can post questions and get answers from other county recorders.

The recorder's office generated \$445,000 of income for the county last year. They have some very old microfiche readers which cost \$400/month to maintain. Mark would like to digitize and index all records so they are easily accessible. Records since 2002 have been digitized, but the county has other records since 1856 that are not.

Mark encourages everyone to sign up for Property Fraud Alerts. Protect your most valuable investment! Sign up to be notified if a real estate document with your name on it is recorded in the Pott. County Recorders office. Sign up for free at <http://pfa.fidlar.com/IA/Pottawattamie> or call the Property Fraud Alert Hotline at 1-800-728-3858. This will generate an email when someone makes changes to your property deed.

Calendar

Apr 22 – Arbor Day tree planting, 10:00 a.m.
 Apr 29 – Can kennel sorting

Birthdays

Apr 20 – Steve Chambers
 Apr 25 – Irvin Saar
 Apr 28 - Gene Seran

Anniversaries

The state of Iowa handles records for deaths now. They will be handling births in the near future and marriages after that. The information will still be available at the county level.

Pottco.org is the county website. Some counties in Iowa have their own websites and others use iowalandrecords.org. All information is available through iowalandrecords.org.

Mark is working on a 5 year plan for the recorder's office.

Meeting Minutes

Dee Guttau opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Gary Guttau gave the opening prayer. Six people from the Council Bluffs Optimist Club attended the meeting.

Keith Denton provided humor. Kirk Vorthmann won the 50/50 and Jerry Hempel won the attendance award, but did not collect.

Gary Guttau reported that the can kennel cans and bottles will be picked up by the recycling center in Red Oak. They will keep \$0.01 for each can to pay for picking up the cans.

Kirk Vorthmann contributed to the Youth Fund because Ashland was in the running for teller of the year. Keith Denton contributed in honor of Bob Plummer who died April 14. He was a 1971 graduate of A.L. High School in Council Bluffs. He held many different jobs but was most known as a talented artist his whole life. Kevin Underwood recognized Marsha because she contributed 772 volunteer hours and was recognized in the NonPareil. Keith Denton recognized Paul Mauer who was attending the meeting as part of the visiting Council Bluffs Optimist Club. Paul is a founding member of the Treynor Optimist Club. Paul also contributed as a founding member of the Council Bluffs club.

Gary Funkhouser, Gary Guttau, Dee Guttau, Dee Guttau, and Arlyn Norris helped with Can Kennel sorting this week.

66 youth from 5th grade in Treynor will help with Arbor Day planting on Wednesday. They will be planting 15 trees. Help is needed at the softball field at 10:00 a.m. The club received a grant for \$1089 to pay for trees and mulch.

The JOOI club applied for a grant for Treynor Community Gardens. The grant will be issued the end of April and the gardens will be tilled in May.

68 youth signed up for swim lessons. The cost of lessons through the YMCA will be \$30 per student per week for two weeks. Lessons will be at the Kirn pool, with 5-6 youth per class. John Klein helped apply for a grant for bus expenses. If the grant is not received, the Treynor Optimist Club will pay the \$800 for the bus.

There were 17 members and 6 guests at the meeting.

Apr 7 – Jim & Diane Clausen

Speakers

Apr 25 – Matt Wilbur

Dale Willenborg arranging speakers for May
Need someone to arrange speakers for June

Prayers

Apr 25 – Dennis White