



July 2, 2016

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Pottawattamie County Auditor

Jeff Jorgensen introduced speaker Marilyn Drake, Pottawattamie County Auditor. Ms. Drake has worked



in the County Auditor's office in different capacities beginning in 1970 when a friend asked a busy mother of four to help with the mandate to register all county residents to vote. Reluctantly she accepted only to stay two more weeks and the rest is history – she has enjoyed every minute.

In 1984, she was elected Pottawattamie County Auditor. As she says, "Winning that first election was

the beginning of a terrific career." Ms. Drake continuously retained the position of County Auditor until her upcoming retirement at the end of the current term. She is running for the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors and the election is in November.

Ms. Drake shared some courthouse stories including this one. Did you know that the laws of the State of Iowa provide that the County Assessor's salary is never to be published? Well, after illegally publishing the Assessor's salary, Ms. Drake learned the law real fast. The Assessor was livid with the publishing but accepted her apology.

The County Auditor's office is responsible for all county budgets, elections, all secretarial work required by the Board of Supervisors, levying taxes, payroll for 450 county employees, apply tax credit to tax statements, and transfer all properties. Pottawattamie County has 64,000 registered voters; the cost of the primary is \$125,000 for a 6% turnout. The cost for the fall General Election is \$200,000. There are 40 precincts for which three to seven people are hired for each at a rate of \$8.50; finding poll workers is difficult. All new voting machines were purchased four years ago.

You may be interested to know if you make an error on your ballot when voting, you are allowed up to three ballots to correct errors. Absentee balloting has expanded and in this fall's General Election is expected to go over 50% of eligible voters. Satellite locations for six hours of absentee balloting can be requested.

The county budget for fiscal year beginning 07/01/16 is 83 million, of which 40% is designated for law enforcement including the sheriff, jail, 911 and county attorney. There are 24 paydays; 1 million dollars, which includes deductions and health insurance, is dispersed to employees each payday. The Affordable Care Act requires certain health programs are provided by employers such as nonsmoking, diabetes and exercise; if not, fines will be assessed the employer. The County strives to meet the requirements.

Ms. Drake commented on the recent water disaster caused by a leaking drinking fountain in the Courthouse. The leak began at 7pm Friday night and was not detected until 7am Sunday morning by a 911 worker who spotted water cascading from the fourth floor. Water on the fourth floor was four inches deep and caused damage on the third and second floors also. The Auditor's office is on the second floor and the leak was just above the copier which was a total loss.

Meeting Minutes

In President Klein's absence, Kevin Underwood called the July 2, 2016 meeting of the Treynor Optimist Club to order at 8:05 am with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the prayer offered by Richard Vorthmann.

Keith Denton provided a joke. The following members contributed \$1 for Bragging Rights: Marsha Underwood for winning the Cow Patty Bingo; Richard Vorthmann for four family birthdays celebrated July 1, 2 and 3; Jeff and Mary Beth Jorgensen for 13 years of marriage; Judy Gutttau for Gary Gutttau's 80th Birthday; and Keith Denton for KMTV Channel 3's filming of the Flag Project which included a brief shot of his tractor and loader. Keith Denton won the 50/50 and Kirk Vorthmann the attendance prize.

Gary Funkhouser provided the Treynor baseball and softball state tournament brackets with schedule.

Gary Gutttau reported 23 bags of cans and 11 bags of plastic at the can kennel sorting for Zion Youth. Threatening weather cut the sorting short; Bill Vorthmann will look into a possible location in the area to take shelter in the event of storm. The Flag Project thanks the community for the purchase of 165 flags for display; and the Club thanks Dale Willenborg for his management of the project and his fine reporting of its history on Channel 3. The Club will pick up flags displayed for July 4 on July 5 at 6pm.

Recent Treynor graduates, Chandler Earls and Shianne Harvey Gutttau were present to receive their \$500 scholarships made possible by the flag project.



Upcoming events are gate duty at Westfair on Thursday, July 28, and calling Bingo at Westfair on July 30 from 3-5. .

Calendar

- July 5 – Take down flags
- July 13 - Can Kennel Sorting, ZION Youth

Birthdays

- Jul 14 – Gary Gutttau
- Jul 23 – Jerry Hempel
- Jul 27 – Jim Clausen

Anniversaries

- Jul 14 – Jeff & Mary Beth Jorgensen
- Jul 25 - Chuck & Kathy Nielsen

Programs

- July – Jeff Jorgensen & Dale Willenborg
- Aug – Mick Gutttau
- Sept – Ken Graham
- Oct – Bill Vorthmann
- Nov – Judy Gutttau
- Dec - Chuck Nielsen

Prayers

- July 2 – Richard Vorthmann
- July 9 – Dennis White