



March 31, 2018

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Orien Hodges, Santa's Workshop

Orien Hodges, Oakland, spoke to the Treynor Optimists on Saturday, March 31. Two decades ago Hodges was watching "Good Morning America" and heard a man from Ohio talk about making Santa visits to children with needs and Orien's heart was "twisted". He made many calls until he was able to visit with the Ohio man and then his own mission began. Locally "Santa's Visit" is in its 20th year. He makes visits to Children's Hospital, VODAK, Nishna Products in Red Oak, the MDA Christmas Party, Lydia House, plus more. Over 3000 people have received his Santa visits.



Orien Hodges

Santa's Workshop has a great need for space to store the many items donated by businesses which in turn get donated to kids. Nike donated 10,000 articles of sports clothing. Scholastics donated 57,000 books. In addition, there is a large Garden Program with 10,000 lbs of produce donated to kids that come help, to the Omaha Food Bank, and others. Also he runs a 5-acre Camp for kids.

Many volunteers make the work possible and more are always needed. JOII groups, Kids from the Harlan Connection Group, Target store volunteers and an Urban Plunge group from the

Des Moines area are just some who come to help. Hodges stated there are volunteer projects for all age groups.

A new program which hopes to be started this year is a Hospital Outreach program to take in arts/crafts to do with kids. This can also be done in other groups.

Hodges also spoke about Jim O'Keefe, a veteran, who started a New Century Art Guild in the early 2000's to use chalk art to help veterans with PTSD and other disabilities. To date, 10,000 veterans have been helped. Veterans are trained to go into the public to teach kids and adults with disabilities. He stated that there are 58,000 names of Vietnam soldiers on the Wall who died and since then there have been over 59,000 Vietnam veterans who have committed suicide. This art program is having an impact with veterans as well as those they help. Hodges, with the help of a small grant, hopes to start this program in Oakland on a small scale.

The Old Senior Center in Oakland (620 N. Highway St.) houses Santa's Children Christmas Village. Call 402-657-6034 for times to visit, group visits or to volunteer. Thirty percent of sale proceeds are donated to the children's charity or organization chosen by the person purchasing products from the retail shop. Current partners are MDA of NE and SWI, American Cancer Society, Camp Courageous of Iowa, Nishna Productions, Inc., AmeriServe International, Treynor Fire Department, Pony Express Riders of Iowa, New Century Art Guild and Santa's Children. To learn more check: www.SantasCampandWonderland.org.

Meeting Minutes

Keith Denton called the meeting to order with 14 members and 2 guests present, Tracy and Casey Black. Chad Gutttau and Gary Gutttau provided humor. After the pledge of allegiance Dale Willenborg said the prayer.

Bill Vorthmann won the 50/50 drawing. Jeff Jacobsen won the attendance drawing but was not present. There were no birthdays or anniversaries to be observed.

Dollars were contributed to the Youth Fund by Kevin and Marsha Underwood for their niece Bailey being named to the All-City Basketball team. Kirk Vorthmann donated to state that he was moved by watching "The Passion of the Christ". Chad Gutttau donated as he was able to sit in on a hearing in Des Moines in which candidates were picked to be on or off of the ballot. Ron Corbett, Candidate for Governor, was short 8 votes due to duplication. Gary Funkhouser donated because Alex Lowe was selected to be on the State Board for JOII. Gary Gutttau contributed to show a very old beer can of his father's. It was opened on the bottom so it could be displayed as a collector item. He also shared that Lucky Strikes were in green packages and during WW II promoted as "Lucky Strike Green has gone to War". He found one recently. They were in white packages after that.

School/Community Activities reported: All were encouraged to attend the Jazz Band Concert Tuesday night at 7 PM in the Auditorium. This is the first time Treynor has had a local concert prior to the state contest on Thursday. This came highly recommended by Gary Funkhouser.

Sat., April 7, 9 AM, is the District Optimist Oratory Contest at the Riverside School. The State Contest is April 21. Monday, April 9 is the Optimist Zone 1,2,3,4 meeting at Hoy Kilnowski. Bring a covered dish for the supper/meeting which begins at 6 PM. The state Governor and Governor-Elect will attend. Our local Youth Appreciation Event will be on Sun., Apr. 22 at 3 PM at Zion Congregational Church.

Can Kennel Sorting for Silver Keg Feeders is to be Wed., April 4. Bill Vorthmann will check on the time.

A check for \$1247.75 from the Can Kennel was presented by President Keith Denton to Casey Black who represented the Junior Class for the After Prom Party. Tracy Black stated the Treynor Prom is on Saturday, April 14 and "The Enchanted Forest" is the theme. The public is invited to attend the Parade of Stars in the East Gym (new location this year) starting at 3:45 PM.



Casey Black receives large check for Junior Class for After Prom.

Under New Business, Bill Vorthmann, Gary Gutttau, Dale Willenborg, and Keith Denton volunteered to serve on the Scholarship Committee.

A motion was made by Mick Gutttau, seconded by Bill Vorthmann to approve giving the same amount as last year to the YMCA- Strong Kids Campaign. All voted aye.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the recitation of the Optimist Creed.

Optimist Club meetings run from 8-9 AM each Saturday morning at the Treynor Community Building (Legion Room). The coffee is always on and donuts are served (and sometimes breakfast)! Come join us for fun, fellowship, and interesting programs!

The Silver Keg Feeders will provide donuts this coming Saturday.

A THOUGHT

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention.

Calendar

- Apr 3 Treynor Jazz Band Concert – 7 PM
- Apr 3 Treynor Vote regarding PPEL
- Apr 4 Can Kennel Sorting – Silver Keg Feeders
Time TBA
- Apr 7 Optimist District Oratory Contest
- Apr 9 Optimist Zone 1,2,3,4 Covered Dish
Dinner/meeting at Hoy Kilnowski, 6 PM
- Apr 10 Arbor Day mulching at the High School
- Apr 14 3:45 PM Parade of Stars –Prom - East
Gym
- Apr 21 Optimist State Oratory Contest

Apr 22 Optimist Youth Appreciation – 3 PM
Apr 27 Treynor Athletic Booster Bash fundraiser
Treynor Community Building
Gail Hartigan will be honored.

April Gary Funkhouser
May Gary Guttau
June Lou Howell

Birthdays

Apr 20 Steve Chambers
Apr 24 Linda Danker
Apr 25 Irvin Saar
Apr 28 Gene Seran

Speakers

April 7 “Impact Hill”, project given to the former
Oakland high school.
April 14 To Be Announced
April 21 Wendy Anderson – her business
April 28 Curtis Goos – travels to Rwanda

Anniversaries

Apr 7 Jim & Diane Clausen

Programs

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575