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Steven Winchell speaks about being a deputy

Steven Winchell, spoke on Saturday, December 15 to the Treynor Optimist Club about the Pottawattamie Co. Sheriff's Department. Winchell, one of three Lieutenants, was introduced as having recently being awarded the American Legion "Officer of the Year Award."



Winchell is a Treynor native and lives there with his wife, Kelsey (Plummer) and two children. Upon high school graduation in 2001, he was a history major at UNO, played football, hurt his ankle, and joined the department 16 years ago. He took criminal justice classes, attended the Police Academy for 14 weeks at Camp Dodge and completed 16 weeks of field training.

He explained that in the 80's there was a large expansion in the department and now many of those hires are retiring which opens up opportunities for promotion. The line of hierarchy is corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, chief deputy, sheriff. His duty as lieutenant is overseeing the road parole. He reads many reports and then sends on to the state. Deputies document every minute of the day. One lieutenant oversees the court house and another lieutenant oversees training.

The road patrol includes 73 over-the-road vehicles. He stated they have great equipment and a very supportive Sheriff. Fewer than 30% of their calls are actual law enforcement; the remainder are calls for service – people needing help on what is typically the "worst day of their life" because life happens. Complaints are very minimal. They arrest only 1% of the people they come in contact with.

Winchell stated that body cameras have simply verified that cops are doing the right things. He stated that "Sure, there are some bad cops, but they get rid of them." The department has a 14 man SWAT team. Less than 10% qualify who test to become a deputy. January 1 the department is changing to 12 hour shifts as voted upon by the deputies. They will work six days on and six days off.

The jail is designed for 288 people and there are over 300 inmates there every day now. The biggest problems for deputies for the day shift are accidents and burglary. The afternoon shift will receive 430 calls/month. The midnight shift receives 280 calls/month and deal with drunk and drug drivers.

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Eighteen members were present plus four guests, Luke and Chris Clausen, speaker Steven Winchell, and Paige Livengood. Kirk Vorthmann, Chad Gutttau, and Keith Denton shared jokes followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jordan Campbell gave the opening prayer.

John Klein won the 50/50 award and Joshua Gutttau won the attendance drawing but was not present.

There were no birthdays or anniversaries celebrated.

For bragging rights, Jerry Hempel contributed because two of his children, Katy and Eric, are both getting married. Marsha Underwood contributed because of the excellent basketball games last night and because their road is open. Gary Gutttau donated because Jerry Jorgensen made two 3-pointers at buzzers in the game. Judy Gutttau contributed because she and Mick are attending the Iowa Classic BB games today and because grandson Brock is down to 299 in his pursuit of being able to wrestle at 285 in January. Keith Denton donated because Luke's college football team won. (see later dialogue).

Under old business, Dale Willenborg reported on the Zone meeting he attended Sun. eve. He stated that NOW meetings are being stopped. Involving people in projects is a more effective way of getting new members. Gary Gutttau reported on dues and it was voted to drop Heidi Lunn as a member. Judy Gutttau gave a Programs update.

Under new business, John Klein, Gary Gutttau and Gary Funkhouser assisted 20 Juniors with the Can Kennel on Wednesday. The next sorting with the After Prom group is in two weeks at 3:30.



L-R: Luke Clausen, Dale Willenborg

Luke Clausen thanked the group for his Optimist Scholarship. Luke is attending the University of Nebraska as an Economics major and taking business classes. Extra activities include playing intermural football and soon basketball. His team (7 on 7 flag) won the league and was composed of eight Treynor graduates. He also enjoys a Sports Business Club.



L-R: Paige Livengood and Dale Willenborg

Paige Livengood received her scholarship as well. Paige attends the University of Nebraska – Kearney and is a Psychology major. She hopes to be a

counselor for children. Because of taking college classes in high school, she is a sophomore. She is involved in dorm activities and the Psychology Club.

Auction items were presented by Dee Guttau and were purchased by Kirk Vorthmann.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by stating the Optimists Pledge.

Christmas Quote from Laura Ingalls Wilder:

“We are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime.”

Calendar

- Nov 26-Dec 8 JOII Club Winter Clothing Drive (drop off school and bank)
- Dec 26 Can kennel sorting for After Prom Comm 3:30 PM

Birthdays

- Dec. 23 Chuck Nielsen

Anniversaries

- Dec. 27 Gary and Dee Guttau

Programs

- December Kirk Vorthmann
- January Judy Guttau
- February Keith Denton
- March Gary Funkhouser

Speakers

- Dec. 22 Dr. Blair, Chiropractor
- Dec. 29 TBA
- Jan. 5 Jeff Casey, HS Football Coach
- Jan. 12 Stan Latta, Chaplain
Good News Jail Prison Ministry
- Jan. 19 Kim Barents, HS Volleyball Coach
- Jan. 26 Bill Wypyski, All Care Health Care.

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