



May 18, 2019

Vol. 35 No. 19

### **Brendan Mass Speaks to Optimists**

Brendan Mass spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on May 18, 2019 at the Treynor Community Building about his experiences in 4-H and at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC. The conference attendees met at the Campus Center in Chevy Chase, MD. It was a beautiful, busy time to be in DC during the Cherry Blossom Festival.



Brendan, a Treynor Senior, has been in 4-H since 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Mills County where he lives. He open enrolled at Treynor for school. 4-H has provided him lots of opportunities to develop leadership and citizenship skills which have given him opportunities in state and national 4-H events.

In March of 2018 the selection process started for nominees to the National 4-H Conference and he was then selected as one of five to attend from Iowa April 5-11, 2019. 4-Hers from 48 states, all US territories and all but two Canadian provinces were in attendance which allowed him to learn how 4-H differs in different environments and to learn more about different perspectives.

One group activity was particularly meaningful to Brendan. 4-Hers were divided into focus groups to discuss a topic and make a presentation of recommendations to a government commission. His 12-member group studied cyberbullying for 48 hours to make a 30 minute presentation to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) about what could be effective to handle that issue. He was excited that the FTC spent 30 minutes asking their group questions.

The trip also allowed him to meet with Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst as well as some U.S. Representatives. The 4-Hers were also able to tour DC.

Brendan shared this his 4-H projects have included cattle, foods and nutrition, science and engineering, aerospace, communications and more. One favorite

project has been developing model rockets using a 3-D method. One has launched to 1000 ft. With a parachute, it was retrieved within a half mile.

Mass is currently one of 40 teens around the state to make up the State 4-H Council.

*Correction to last week's news: Lou Howell has served as Interim Superintendent of Treynor Community School, not Treynor High School.*

### **Meeting Minutes**

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Fifteen members were present plus three guests, Alora Nowlin, her grandfather Dave Keys, and Brendan Mass, speaker. Jokes were shared by Dale Willenborg and Chad Gutttau followed by the group saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Dee Gutttau gave the opening prayer.

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Bill Vorthmann and the Attendance Drawing was won by Josh Gutttau, who was not present. No birthdays or anniversaries were observed.

**Bragging Rights** contributions to the Youth Fund: 1) Kevin and Marsha Understand each donated on behalf of Bailey White's high school graduation. 2) Judy and Mick Gutttau each donated because their grandson, Brock Fox, won 9<sup>th</sup> place at state in the shot put and to congratulate the great effort of the Treynor track teams.

### **Community News:**

#### **Old Business:**

Gary Gutttau announced that flag money has been received from citizens for a total of 90 flags. Flags will be put up after the meeting next week.

#### **New Business:**

The Can Kennel sorting took place Wednesday. Gary Funkhouser, John Klein and Jordan Campbell helped. John stated that Jordan arranged for the can kennel to be sorted over several nights as it was a busy week.

John Klein asked the Treynor Optimist Club to sanction the swim lessons bus and the Hydrant Party (if it is approved by the Treynor Days planning committee) to allow the Club's liability insurance to be effective. John will seek permission from Optimist Intl.

A donation was requested to help fund sponsorship of the Omaha Street Percussion performing for the elementary school in Treynor and also hopefully on a float for the Homecoming parade. The Optimists voted to give \$100. Two-thirds of the total cost has been committed and John Klein will be working with the school to finalize a plan.



Alora Nowlin was the recipient of a Treynor Optimist Club \$500 scholarship and JOII Club \$500 scholarship. She was present to accept her scholarship money.

**L-R: Alora Nowlin, Dale Willenborg**

Alora has been President of the JOII Club and performed an unusual act. She presented a check from the JOII Club to the Optimist Club as an apology for not many JOII Club members helping with the can kennel and to recognize our club's hard work. Thank you, Alora and JOII Club.

Alora stated she has been in JOII Club four years and feels she has grown as a leader and is really grateful for that.

Alora shared that she will attend Central College in Pella. She received 8 scholarships totally \$4500 at Awards Night. In addition, she has received several from the college and from Girls State last year.



Brennan Mass was present to receive his Treynor Optimist Club \$500 scholarship. Brennan served as Vice President of the JOII Club and was in JOII Club four years.

Brennan will attend Iowa State University majoring in aerospace engineering.

**L-R: Brennan Mass, Dale Willenborg**

Brennan and Alora are two of nine Valedictorians at Treynor High School this year. Only three will give speeches, which Brennan chose to do.

Dale Willenborg attended the Awards Night and stated that out of the 61 graduates, 18 received the

Presidential Excellence Award, 40 received Academic Letters, 26 were in National Honor Society, three had ACT scores of 30+, and 56 have National Career Readiness status. Over \$1 million in scholarships was given to this year's class. Gary Funkhouser confirmed this was a very outstanding senior class.

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

**BOARD MEETING**

Present at the Board Meeting were Bill Vorthmann, Gary Gutttau, Judy Gutttau, Dale Willenborg, and Ken Graham. Dale Willenborg, President, led the meeting.

The following actions were approved:

- Dale Willenborg will serve as VP next year.
- John Klein, Jordan Campbell, Gary Funkhouser will be asked to be Board Members.
- Applications for Can Kennel were accepted:
  - Girl Scouts – July 11-Aug. 7
  - Music Boosters for January
  - Optimist Club – Aug. 8-Sept. 14
- 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our club is this year.
  - We will plan to celebrate near the end of Sept or in Oct.
- Flags – we will put flags up in all holders next week and put flyers in the door for those who have not paid.
- Facebook – This will be reinstated later this summer when Judy has a chance to work with Holly Fenn again to redo the set-up.

**Graduation One-Liner**

**“The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate!”**

**Best Wishes, Graduates and Families!**

**Calendar**

May 29 Can Kennel – St. Paul Youth  
 June 29 Treynor Days, Dedication of Helicopter

**Birthdays**

May 21 Steve Irwin  
 May 22 Kirk Vorthmann

**Anniversaries**

**Programs**

May Gary Funkhouser  
 June Mick Gutttau (first 3 weeks)  
 Open (June 22)  
 July Dale Willenborg

**Speakers**

May 25: Erica Carley, WIDA Director

Judy Guttau, Editor, 31107 Dogwood Rd, Treynor, IA 51575  
402-670-4330

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