



Oct. 12, 2019

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Ann Vorthmann speaks about China

Ann Vorthmann from Oakland spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on October 12, 2019. She spoke about her March, 2019 trip to China on the Ag Market Study Tour.



Ann is the Human Resource Supervisor at OSI in Oakland and deals with over 700 employees. She learned about the trip through her Farm Bureau membership. There were 26 who qualified to attend, representing many countries. Because of her work, she was especially interested in the manufacturing of ag products in China and how food safety is

handled.

Their first days were in Beijing where they met with organizations including Vermeer Co., went to the US embassy (Terry Bradshaw was in Des Moines) and Altech, visited the China Annual Ag Association meeting, ate at a restaurant and saw the Great Wall as well as take a rickshaw ride.

Communication was confusing. One guide would say one thing and another the opposite. The Chinese only said what they wanted the group to hear. A writer from Successful Farming was told she had freedom to write what she wanted, but then when she sent out info, it had to be retracted or she could be put in jail.

Vorthmann said she was pointing out to a fellow attendee as to where to go to the restroom and the guide called her down for interrupting and said she could be put in jail.

Technology is modern and there is lots of wealth. You can only drive your car one time per week. People are everywhere and there are many traffic jams. In general, the air quality was not good.

They were told to take old shoes and clothes which they left most behind because of the African Swine Fever there. Hogs were confined and not moving.

Dairy production has changed greatly, but they didn't see pastures. Dairy products were on the shelf, not refrigerated. Yogurt is drinkable only.

The Chinese eat what we don't eat – eyeballs, cow ears, cow legs. The consumption of beef in China is 87 lbs/person compared to 13 lbs/person in the US. 700 million hogs are raised annually.

They also traveled 120 miles to Shandu, a rural area, where they felt less tension. They visited with an American who owns ten salmon farms over there. They were also able to visit a wholesale distribution area where ag products are taken as it arrives from airports. Their trip also included observing ag product distribution in Hong Kong.

Ann summarized that she feels because of the trip, she is more educated and able to tie it to her job. There are 348 Asians that work at OSI, which helps her understand them better.

Next week Kara Huisman will speak to the Optimists about the Treynor Softball Season. Join us from 8-9 AM at the Treynor Community Building. The coffee will be on!

Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann, President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Seventeen members were present. Georgia Denton, Ann Vorthmann, and Jordan Lowe were guests.

Jokes/stories were shared by Chad Gutttau, Gary Gutttau, Bill Vorthmann, and Keith Denton. The group said the Pledge of Allegiance. Jordan Campbell gave the opening prayer.

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Jim Clausen and the Attendance Drawing was won by Phil Waggoner, who was not present so the fund continues to grow.

Birthdays/Anniversaries:

The group sang Happy Birthday to Marsha Underwood.

The group also sang for Dale and Diane Willenborg's 40th Anniversary and for Dennis and Kay White's Anniversary. Dennis may have to pay for stating it's been 49 years, but seems like 50! ☺

Bragging Rights contributions to the Youth Fund included: 1) Judy Gutttau for the FB Victory over Mo Valley, 2) Chad Gutttau to announce he has a new kitty, named Dani, 3) Gary Gutttau to state he attended the FB game and got very cold, but sitting in a hot seat enroute home has improved his back! 4) Keith Denton because Kirk Vorthmann helped with cattle that got out, and they weren't even Keith's and also because Craig Sudmann came and checked. 5) Marsha Underwood because St. Albert beat Riverside in football. 6) Gary Gutttau because Jack Tiarks has committed to play football at ISU, 7) Dennis White stated that his daughter-in-law Mallory and her mom and grandma were featured in today's newspaper. 8) Kirk Vorthmann because \$15,000 was raised at the Pink Out Volleyball game against Tri-Center this week for Hope Lodge. There will be a room at Hope Lodge with the Treynor Community name on it. 9) Dale Willenborg stated that he attended the TS Foundation Seminar for Non-Profits and it was really good this week.

Community News:

The Treynor Band will play at Glenwood today at 11:15 AM. (They won 1st place in their class.)

Old Business:

The 35th Anniversary Dinner of our club will be held at Silos October 21 at 6 PM. Spouses and members are invited. A signup sheet was circulated and others can respond by email or call by this Thursday, Oct. 17. Our past and new Lt. Governors will attend. President Bill Vorthmann encouraged charter members to think of memories to share.

New Business:

Flags were discussed. 160 flags are put up. Flags are being installed today after the meeting. The National Honor Society has offered to help if there are flags installed in November, weather permitting. An idea was presented of putting up flags just on Hwy 92 and 300th St, for Veteran's Day, weather permitting, since the Legion no longer puts up flags, but this may not be satisfactory for other home owners who pay for a flag.

John Klein presented an idea for the flag project he read about in the National Optimist Newsletter in Moline, IL.

Can kennel helpers will meet at 2:00 on Wednesday this week.

The Treynor Jr. Women have asked the Optimists to co-host a program on Elder Abuse. The Optimists are very interested, and Bill Vorthmann will inquire more about the details and what is involved.

Bill Vorthmann inquired if anyone was interested in being the State Optimist Foundation Representative. Bill will seek more information on the role.

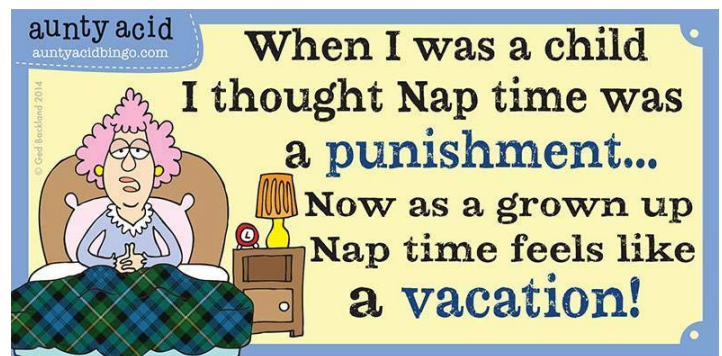


L-R: Bill Vorthmann, Jordan Lowe

Jordan Lowe was present to receive her \$500 Optimist Scholarship. Jordan spoke to the group in February about her youth exchange experience in Paraguay. She is a Freshman at the University of South Dakota, majoring in Sustainability, with a minor in Spanish.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and concluded with the saying of the Optimist pledge.

HUMOR



Calendar

- Oct. 16 Can Kennel Sorting – 2:00 PM
- Oct. 21 35th Anniversary Dinner for Treynor Optimists, 6 PM, Silos
- Oct. 26 Optimist District Meeting – Des Moines
- Nov. 7 Heroes Event – Palace Event Center
- Dec. 1 Deadline for Can Kennel Applications

Birthdays

- Oct. 17 Marsha Underwood
- Oct. 29 Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries

- Oct. 13 Dale and Diane Willenborg
- Oct. 17 Dennis and Kay White

Speakers

Programs

Oct
Nov

Bill and Ann Vorthmann
Josh Guttau (first two)
Last three are open yet

Oct. 19
Oct. 26

Kara Huisman – Softball season
To be announced

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