



Feb. 2, 2019

Vol. 35 No. 5

Jordan Lowe speaks about Paraguay

Jordan Lowe, Treynor High School Senior, spoke to the Treynor Optimists at their meeting on Sat., Feb 2 about her recent experience as a foreign exchange student to Paraguay. Jordan was in Paraguay for 5 ½ months, just returning in January, 2019.



Jordan is a triplet and in America has no younger siblings. She very much enjoyed her little sister, 7, and baby brother in Paraguay. The grandmother lived with the family of four and Jordan shared a room with her. In America her grandmother lives far away so she truly appreciated this relationship. It is typical in Paraguay if a

person does something wrong, they only talk about it with other people. But Grandma was different in that she guided Jordan with various things she considered inappropriate such as not wearing shorts or having her arms exposed even when it was 95 degrees, and Jordan respected her grandmother.

Jordan lived in a rural area of a community which was about 20 miles from the capital. One event she enjoyed was the “town of strawberries”, when her community of 70,000 set up street vendor markets of strawberries and handmade pottery and colorful doilies.

Her family in Paraguay was very poor and so travel was limited with the family. She washed her clothes by hand. Jordan stated it was a life changing experience for her to differentiate between necessities and luxuries. The culture is very laid back and she enjoyed spending time with her family and new Paraguay friends plus other exchange students located in the area. Family is everything.

Everyone in Paraguay had really dark hair and dark eyes. Jordan was called a blonde even though her hair is dark. She learned to drink a type of tea, “yerba”. She carried a thermos with a handle and cup to fit in. While there, they ate many corn based foods. There was a McDonalds and Burger King in the community, but they were considered a status thing.

Jordan had studied Spanish in high school three years, but at first she couldn’t communicate at all, but gradually she did; there were two dialects of Spanish there. She attended a private school and really didn’t like the uniforms that had to be worn. Expectations of students and teachers were different in this laid-back culture. If either didn’t feel like doing their homework or preparation, that was no problem. Plus no one there is punctual.

Jordan is experiencing normal re-entry culture shock. She plans to attend the University of South Dakota in the fall, major in Sustainability and minor in Spanish. She would like to go back to Central America, study one year in Spain, and work in the Peace Corps.

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Thirteen members were present plus three guests: Lynelle Vorthmann, speaker Jordan Lowe, and Kaylee Finnegan.

Chad Guttau shared jokes followed by the group saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Dee Guttau gave the opening prayer.

Dale Willenborg won the 50/50 award and Lou Howell won the attendance drawing but was not present at the previous meeting so didn’t collect. There were no birthdays or anniversaries observed.

Bragging Rights contributions to the Youth Fund were made by Chad Guttau because he had traded cars for a 2018 white Lincoln. Dale Willenborg donated because of the 65 plus

degree variance in warmer temperatures this week. Gary Guttau donated because of the varsity basketball teams winning against Mo Valley. Judy Guttau donated to state that they had eaten a nice meal at the St Marten's House in Atlantic (419 Poplar St.) with a gift certificate received for a Memorial Day speaking event (Mick).

John Klein reported that the JOI Club had 6-7 kids help pick up food last Sunday for the food pantry. 15 boxes of groceries were collected.



Gary Funkhouser provided the above picture of four JOI Club members who helped with the Souper Bowl Food Drive: L-R: Tyler Pollock, Allison Green, Clarissa Weitzel, Brendan Mass.

Can Kennel collection will be this Wednesday at 5 PM to benefit the Silver Keg Feeders.

Chad Guttau announced that Dan Harbeke from Google will speak March 2.

Kaylee Finnegan was present to receive her \$500 Optimist Club scholarship. She is



attending the University of Iowa studying Human Physiology with Pre-Med as her goal. She has made friends volunteering at the Univ. Hospital Clinic's Emergency Department. She

has a mentor who helps her with her career path. This summer she hopes to shadow Univ. Hospital physicians for two weeks volunteering in

Costa Rica. She is enjoying school very much and has applied to be a Residence Assistant next year.

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



Calendar

- Feb. 6 Can Kennel Sorting – Silver Keg Feeders
- Feb. 9 Regional Optimist Meeting- Holiday Inn Council Bluffs. Registration: 9 AM
- Feb. 11 Safety Capstone Public meeting (Treyner Visioning Group)
- Feb. 22 Grade 3,4,5 After School Dance Elem Gym. 3:30-5 PM
- Mar. 15 Grade K,1,2 After School Dance Elem Gym. 3:30 – 5 PM
- Mar. 23 CB Optimist Club 60th Anniv plus Opt. Intn Pres. Visit plus Awards. Exec. Mtg at 3 PM Dinner at 6:45 PM
- Mar. 30 Safety Capstone Public Meeting (Treyner Visioning Group)
- Apr. 6 Safety Capstone Public Meeting (Treyner Visioning Group)

Birthdays

- Feb. 13 Gary Funkhouser
- Feb. 23 Bob Mantell
- Feb. 25 Lou Howell

Anniversaries

Programs

- February Keith Denton
- March Chad Guttau
- April John Klein

Speakers

- Feb. 9 Hadley from Sheriff's Office, Crime Scene Investigation
- Feb. 16 Speaker on Nuclear Medicine
- Feb. 23 Speaker from Midland Humane Society
- March 2 Dan Harbeke, Google, Head Public Policy & External Affairs
- March 9 Kim Barents, Treyner Varsity Volleyball Coach

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