



Oct. 21, 2019

Vol. 35 SPECIAL

### Optimists Celebrate 35 Years

The Optimist Club of Treynor celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 at Silo's Restaurant in Treynor. A two-meat buffet meal was enjoyed. Dee, Gary, and Chad Gutttau provided fall pumpkins and gourds for decorations and candy was sprinkled on each table. 37 attended.

Bill Vorthmann, President, led the group in the Pledge to the Flag and Dale Willenborg, outgoing President, offered the prayer. Jokes were shared!

### JOII Club Officers

The President of JOII Club, Melissa Weitzel, and the Vice President of JOII Club, Elizabeth Nowlin shared comments about activities of their club. Melissa is a senior and Elizabeth is a junior at Treynor. The girls received containers of Danish cookies.



L-R: Elizabeth Nowlin, Melissa Weitzel, Bill Vorthmann

### Optimist of the Year Award

Gary Funkhouser was announced as the Optimist of the Year and received a special award. Gary has been a member of Optimist Club since 1999.



L-R: Gary Funkhouser, Bill Vorthmann

Gary Funkhouser has been the adult sponsor from our club for the Treynor Junior Optimists since its beginning and has annually organized our club's Youth Appreciation event and the Essay and Oratorical contests. Every two weeks, and during the weeks, too, he is busy putting bottles into boxes at the can kennel. He is the member who coined the phrase for our club as the "most informed group in town." An absolutely invaluable member!

### New Officers Inducted



L-R: Judy Gutttau, Ken Graham, Jordan Campbell, Kirk Vorthmann, Gary Gutttau, Dale Willenborg, Bill Vorthmann

Dale and Barb Robertson inducted the new officers: Bill Vorthmann, President; Dale Willenborg, VP; Judy Gutttau, Sec't & Editor; Gary Gutttau, Treasurer; Ken Graham, Sgt of Arms; Board Members, Jordan Campbell and Kirk Vorthmann.

### Our Leaders



L-R: Fred & Sandy Hildebrandt, Dale Willenborg, Bill Vorthmann, Barb & Dale Robertson

Fred Hildebrandt, Griswold, is the outgoing Lt. Governor and shared that in the 35 years of our club there would have been 1820 meetings. The Griswold Club also started in 1984 and both clubs were sponsored by a Council Bluffs Club.

Highlights were visiting the six clubs in the zone. Fred likes our "brag time" which is unique to the clubs.

Dale and Barb Robertson, Underwood, are co-Lt. Governors for both Zone 3 and 4. Dale spoke about "encouragement", a role that Optimists play in the community in doing things for the youth. He said Optimist members are not normal because they give up their time to serve. "It's good to not be normal! We have the right stuff and do the right things!"

### Charter Members Share



**L-R: Jim Clausen, Steve Chambers, Dennis White, Ken Graham, Mick Guttau**

Vice President Dale Willenborg named the large list of Charter Members. We were honored to have five present. Memories were shared by them as well as many of the other members.

One of the earliest projects was filling abandoned wells and storm sewers in the community to keep kids safe. The first official project was a fundraising project for St. Jude's Bike-a-thon on May 12, 1984.

The group met every Saturday morning with starting times varying from 7-8 AM to 7:20 – 8:20 AM to now 8 – 9 AM. Early meetings were in the back room of the Shortline. Wednesday night was tried once but that didn't work.

Names of some past members were thrown out with nostalgic comments: Roger Trede, George Schneider, Richard Vorthmann, Les Harvey, Bob Hibbard, Doc Strohhenn, Mike Abbott, Larry Kramer.

Past Sgt of Arms have charged a quarter if you wore white on your socks or used a styrofoam cup!

Jim Clausen was the first editor of the newsletter when it had to be printed and delivered (before email). The current format was designed by Larry Kramer, and expanded by Dale Willenborg.

Trivia parties in the basement of the Legion were remembered. The Legion and Optimist Club sponsored baseball tournaments. The Optimist Club also helped sponsor a horse show in various locations.

It was noted that one project was painting street addresses on curbs and the group had fun intentionally painting the curb of Chuck Killion's, (mayor) upside down!

The Can Kennel has been the largest fundraiser and was first suggested by John Klein. To date nearly \$175,000 has been raised for youth projects.

Gene Grell was the first President with Les Harvey being Vice President. Gene was lauded for his persuasive, driving force and he played a key role in the organization.

Steve Chambers received a container of Danish Cookies for bringing his framed original membership certificate from 1984! He also brought an Optimist mug.

There were 46 Charter members listed and it was stated that attendance at meetings is similar to now.

The playground project was stated to be the biggest project undertaken over the years and was under the leadership of Larry Kramer.

Early female members were Doreen Mayberry and Millie Harvey. Dee Guttau was the first female President and she shared that she soon learned the special part each member plays and together that forms a working whole.



**Larry and Sharon Kramer** attended from Lincoln, NE. Larry served in many capacities within the club and the Zone and State. Thanks to them and all for attending. A trivia game was played and won by Dee Guttau and Sandy Hildrebrandt. They each won Danish cookies. It was a fun evening!

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

