



The Optimist Club of Treynor, IA

Iowa District, Zone 3, Club Number 40-109

Iowa District Governor: Sharon Nakato

Lt Governor: Don Dilts

**NEWSLETTER**

[www.treynoroptimist.org](http://www.treynoroptimist.org)

Treynor Optimist Club President:

**Dale Willenborg**



January 9, 2021

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### **Doug Applegate, Speaker**

Doug Applegate, Oakland, spoke to the Optimists



today about what is happening at their farm. He started farming at the age of 16 and went to night classes at IWCC. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Brent and Luke, who were very involved in 4-H and FFA with welding and more complex projects.

In 2005, the boys built a seed tender, which hauls seed to the planter and won an award at the State Fair and stimulated interest. Brent built the machine, and Luke built the computer system. It held 4 boxes, 17 bags of seed, and measured it out and tracked it on the tender. This has led to developing Mixmate— an automated chemical mixing system with automated recordkeeping that they are using and selling now.

They started their first patent and took the tender to the CEO of Kinze, who was very interested and had the boys present it to the engineers, but it was determined they weren't the right company to do it. However, Brent switched to ag engineering at ISU and interned for Kinze and worked with the CEO personally in his shop. He went on to work for Klaus and approximately 12 years ago returned home to farm and to work on manufacturing the Mix Mate part time. It took seven years to get the first machine out the door. They built all the electronics and for a while had five hired to do software.

Younger brother Luke also got his ag engineering degree and came back to farm and to help. A hog house was converted for engineering including software and electronics. They make their own circuit boards, and have to outsource the little parts as well as plastic housings. A CNC machine is used for cutting metal.

The Mixmate has developed into an automated blending system, which interfaces with a computer tablet and does all the record keeping.

It can be designed for large and small operations with key flexibility. The main customer has been farmers, but they are now getting interest from turf companies as well as other ag industries. Marketing is now done through dealers. Doug's wife, Kathy, helps with customer service and daily accounting.

4-H, FFA and the farm set all of this family on a path for life and they have come up with a vehicle to help others in this way. They have developed Inventive Farmer-YouTube. (Check it out.) Youth and adults can receive education and inspiration to learn more about engineering invention to help in agriculture and life. They hope to build kits for kids as well.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Dale Willenborg, club president, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Present were fourteen members (including 3 virtually) plus three guests, Doug Applegate, Bob and Rosalie Soloth.

Dale led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the opening prayer.

Keith Denton, Chad Guttau, Bill Vorthmann, and Jim Clausen provided humor.

Bob Soloth won the 50/50 drawing and Shelly Bailey won the attendance drawing but was not present.

**Birthday:** None

**Anniversary:** None

**Can Kennel:** Gary Guttau gave the Can Kennel report. Another trip will be made to Atlantic Monday for recycling. Helpers with the last Can Kennel were John Klein, Bill Vorthmann and Gary Guttau. Dale Willenborg reported some security issues are being researched.

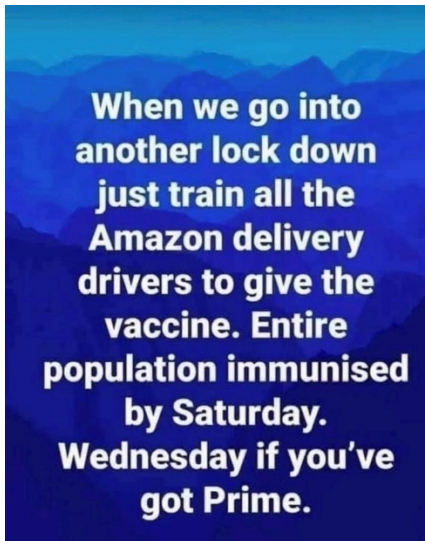
**Other business:**

The board will meet next Saturday.

**Bragging Rights:** (\$ to fund youth activities)

Marsha Underwood donated because Carter White started at a St. Albert game and also made over 30 points. Keith Denton donated because his wife and Rosalie suggested today's speaker. Jim Clausen donated for making it through COVID.

The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

**HUMOR**

Dale Willenborg and Dee Guttau contributors

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

**Calendar**

Jan. 20 Can Kennel Sorting

**Birthdays**

Jan. 19 Dennis White

Jan. 23 Doug Dilivan

**Anniversaries****Programs**

January - Keith Denton

February - Gary Funkhouser

March - Chad Guttau

**Speakers**

Jan. 16 To be Announced

Jan. 23 To be Announced

Jan. 30 To be Announced