



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**



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### **Jon Howery, Speaker**

Jon Howery from Thurman, IA spoke to the Treynor Optimists Saturday morning. Howery served as a Navy Mess cook on seven submarines (five diesel, two nuclear) during his nine years in the Navy. With three brothers in the Navy, he joined the Navy the day before he turned 18.



Jon shared many stories and experiences:

The USS Rock was the oldest sub he served on in 1968. Officers slept on bunks, but as a cook there were three people to a bunk. The saying among them was that "If anything happened to the sub, they would already be in their coffin." And then one guy said, "Wrong, there's more room in a coffin."

Other Subs he served on were: Snook, Menhaden, Tiru, Diodon, Adragon, and Barbel.

On Dec. 7, 1978, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, he and another cook stationed in Hawaii were honored to raise the flag on the USS Arizona.

During a military assistance program, he traveled to the Philippines, the first time a sub had been there since 1960. This program took Howery to ports in six different countries.

On one trip to Japan the locals were having an annual picnic. The cooks on the sub provided two cases of steaks, and in exchange the cooks were to be provided leather flight jackets. The steaks were given, but then a military disruption took place and they never got their leather jackets.

Jon was 54 days under water on a sub doing a spy trip to China at the time the US put the first man on the moon. It was 30 days before he saw a picture of the moon landing.

Diesel subs could be under water about three days maximum. If there was a hurricane, the

diesel sub would ride the surface. Nuclear subs could be 52 days under water depending on the amount of food on board. If there was a hurricane, they could ride it out underneath the water. Sea sickness happened.

All subs were known for their meals. His ship was runner up one time in a Fleet Contest for the best Mess! Can you imagine making a menu to feed 125 people for 60 days, then ordering and storing it all? Learning about storage as well as trash disposal was interesting.

After 2015, smoking on a sub was no longer allowed which was also the first year women were allowed to serve on a sub.

A medical hospital corpsman was assigned to each sub to handle medical needs. One person was taken for further care by a helicopter that hovered over the sub that came to the surface. If someone died, they were put in a body bag in the freezer. He got a laugh when he said they had to pull out seven large containers of ice cream to eat to get one body in the freezer.

After leaving the Navy, Howery served in various capacities in civil service. He has taken care of the submarine in Freedom Park for the last 14 years. It was brought to Omaha in 1974. It first was stationed in Key West and was not commissioned for sea, but was used for training.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Dale Willenborg, club president, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Present were thirteen members (including 2 virtually) plus guest, Jon Howery.

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

Gary Guttau provided humor.

Kevin Underwood won the 50/50 drawing and Linda Danker won the attendance drawing but was not present.

**Birthday:** None

**Anniversary:** None

**Can Kennel:**

Bill Vorthmann and Gary Guttau helped the After Prom Committee with can sorting.

There are a couple slots for organizations to apply for can kennel sorting in 2021. See the web site for open dates.

**Other business:**

Reminder: The Jr. Optimists will conduct a Souper Bowl drive again on Feb. 6. The non-perishable food items will be contributed to the Treynor Food Bank.

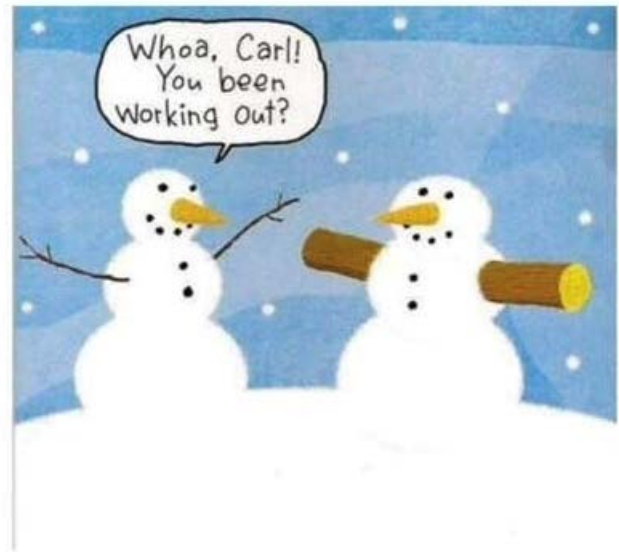
A flag form was received.

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

Gary Guttau paid to brag on both the Treynor boys and girls teams winning last night. He watched on the computer. Also he donated because he got his first vaccine shot at the VA.

The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

**HUMOR**



**Calendar**

Feb. 3 Can Kennel Sorting

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

**Programs**

January Keith Denton  
February Gary Funkhouser  
March Chad Guttau

**Speakers**

Jan. 30 Jeff Jorgensen

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