



March 6, 2021

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### **Martin Cannon, “Free Speech America”**

Martin Cannon from Council Bluffs is an attorney for the Thomas More Society, a national public interest law firm dedicated to protecting religious freedom, life and traditional family values. His main focus has been pro-life and the right to speak publicly about that. There is a focus on the



First Amendment grown from pro-life work in the past.

He stated free speech itself has now come under attack. It is highly curtailed in today’s environment. Cannon stated you can’t protect babies if you can’t protect the right to speak about it. It overarches all issues regardless of political party.

Cannon cited many freedom of speech cases. Just a few years ago if someone said something objectionable, you might have heard an employer of that person say, “We don’t agree and he’s not speaking for us.” Today the response is “We fired him (her). We took away his license to practice law, etc.”

Debate was the healthy norm and has now been replaced with penalties for speaking. The action is against the speaker rather than action for the speech.

If one goes to the Capitol in Des Moines to discuss an issue, the halls are filled with people to make their voices heard. People show up in numbers to create political pressure. One can’t say any words that directly incite violence. Then speech is not protected under law.

Cannon stated the Constitution only protects you from your government. The government can’t impair free speech. Neighbors and employers can do that unless government is the employer, which includes schools. The cancel culture is mostly going on in the hands of private enterprise. Disney can assault; the

constitution doesn’t prohibit that. For every government act, there are 100 assaults on free speech related to private enterprise.

Assault on free speech from the government is prohibited by the constitution. He stated the most dangerous thing is the pervasiveness of intervention of private enterprise.

Cannon stated: Fear and silence ensues. People that respect the freedoms have to get in the game. If you don’t like the offensive speech, we need more speech. Instead this practice is being stifled. That’s what gets you on the road to something horrible.

Solution: People who respect speech and the right to debate must get in the debate! One side is absent. What are we doing? We are showing cowardice. The process must be respected. People get power from their ability to speak. Get in the debate. Don’t be apologetic. If social media is depriving platforms, it tells you that they can’t be trusted. Where do we go as a society when people who control our public discourse are skewing it?

Consider the executive order. We didn’t hear of it 10 years ago and now government is running the country with it. Why? Refusal of debate creates imperial executives. Why are legislators not debating issues that govern us? We no longer agree on the fundamentals.

Next week’s speaker will be Travis Castle, Vision Treynor Group.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Jordan Campbell, Vice President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Present were 16 members (including 1 virtually). Four guests were present: Martin Cannon, Duane King, Chris Clausen, Michael Holton.

Jordan Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the opening prayer.

Keith Denton, Gary Gutttau and Jim Clausen provided humor. John Klein won the 50/50

drawing and Steve Chambers won the attendance drawing but was not present.

**Birthdays:** Ken Graham's birthday was observed. Jordan Campbell stated that this was also the 48<sup>th</sup> birthday of Shaquille O'Neill. He also stated that Bayer Aspirin was patented in 1899. John Klein shared that one of the ingredients in Bayer aspirin was first discovered by the Indians in the heart of the willow tree and used for pain relief.

**Anniversaries:** Keith and Georgia Denton's anniversary was observed – 47.

**Can Kennel:** A large number of After Prom students and parents assisted Gary Guttau, John Klein, Ken Graham, and Bill Vorthmann with the can kennel sorting. It was reported the cans and bottles were overflowing. Chad Guttau stated he will return to Des Moines Monday and will be addressing the new bottle bill.

Gary Guttau asked for assistance after the meeting to load bottles to take to Atlantic on Monday.

**Community: None**

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

Dee Guttau donated to salute Gary Guttau for the amount of work he puts in accounting for the can kennel. Bill Vorthmann, Phil Waggoner, Kevin Underwood and Marsha Underwood contributed to salute Gary.

Gary Guttau donated to announce the rental house next to them is now ready to be rented.

Jim Clausen donated to salute the Treynor Girls Basketball Team making it to state and playing a good game.

**Old/New Business:** Before the meeting, Gary Funkhouser sent notice that the winners in the Treynor Optimist Club Essay Contest "Reaching Your Dreams by Choosing Optimism" (700-800

words required) were: 1<sup>st</sup>: Natalie Simpson- gold medal and \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bella LaScala – silver medal and \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bethany Boese – bronze medal \$20. The winning essay competes for a \$2500 scholarship from the Iowa Optimist district. That winner competes for a national scholarship. Thanks to Mrs. Schnepel for embracing the contest and to Mr. Hedger for publicity.



L-R: Natalie Simpson, Bella LaScala, Bethany Boese

The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

## HUMOR

Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end, the faster it goes!

## Calendar

Mar. 17 Can Kennel

## Birthdays

## Anniversaries

## Programs

March Chad Guttau  
April Phil Waggoner (first two)  
Open (last two)  
May Steve Irwin (first two)  
Dale Willenborg (last two)

## Speakers

March 13 Travis Castle, Vision Treynor Group

Dale Willenborg and Dee Guttau contributors

Judy Guttau, [judy.guttau@tsbg.com](mailto:judy.guttau@tsbg.com), 402-670-4330

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