



Apr 16, 2022

Vol. 38, No. 14

Matt Wilbur, County Attorney, Speaks



Matt Wilbur, Pott County Attorney, spoke Saturday to the Optimists. Matt is in his 20th year as County Attorney and is up for reelection in 2022 and is unopposed. There are 14 assistant county attorneys – two work with juveniles,

two with civil cases, and the rest with adult crimes prosecution. Prior to this role, he worked six years as a defense attorney. Matt is also currently serving as VP of the National District Attorneys Association.

Matt shared the two year effects of COVID on his office and the judicial system. He stated the courts shut down in person for a year. When you can't have trials, there was a process of figuring out who could be detained and who they could reach plea agreements with and still keep people in jail for safety concerns. He ended up only have 4-5 cases that were backed up due to COVID.

It was over a year before the first trial opened up and there was a full mask mandate and everyone was socially distanced. The jury sat in the back of the courtroom; therefore, the judge was behind the attorneys when they spoke to the jury. Body language is such an important part of the process for attorneys which made it extremely difficult.

Wilbur stated that selecting a jury with 110 potential jurors sitting in a large type of arena facility 6 feet apart was a challenge. When masks became optional, the jurors asked the judge if they could sit in the jury box to which he agreed. Then one juror tested positive for COVID. The jury requested continuing and the trial finished. Two more got COVID after the trial and the mask mandate was reinstated for a time. Now all is back to normal.

Questions answered were:

1) 99% of sex offenders are male.

2) Most offenses of crime are driving offenses such as driving while under suspension, under influence, etc.

3) During COVID there was a big decrease in child abuse cases because teachers weren't able to be mandatory spotters.

4) There was a spike in domestic abuse, but misdemeanor assaults went down because bars were mostly shut down during COVID.

5) There is a current uptick in fentanyl drug cases. Fentanyl is a synthetic drug which is 100 times more powerful than meth. It comes in liquid form from China and gets dried. It is a pain reliever. Dealers punch it out combining with other opioids, not trying to overdose people, but faking their way through by making money. It is not uniformly mixed. The powder if touched gets absorbed into the skin and is a huge risk to first responders. Narcan can be squirted up the nose and counteracts immediately.

6) The biggest problem is seeing mental health issues in people and not being able to get anything done for that. He stated that the #1 mental health institution in the county is the Pott Co. Jail. Hospitals are limited in what they can do. Treating people humanely and protecting society is very complex, he stated. He feels there are more mental health problems now than in the past.



**Next week's speaker will be Jon Jacobsen,
State Legislator**

All are welcome!

**Meetings are from 8-9 AM
Treynor Community Building**

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order. Present were 16 members plus guest Matt Wilber.

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

Jokes were shared by Gary Gutttau and Dale Willenborg.

50/50 was won by Jim Clausen. Jon Jacobsen won the Attendance Drawing but was not present to win.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

Bragging Rights: (\$ are used for youth activities)

- Gary Gutttau donated to show a sample of the West Gym flooring. He also shared some history of the termite problem in the old school.
- Dale Willenborg paid to share that a contractor has been working on his barn and it's now fixed.
- Gary Gutttau also shared about a mail fraud letter he received and the amount has grown (maybe due to inflation) and it came from the US, not Africa.

BUSINESS:

- Can Kennel helpers were Gary Funkhouser, Gary Gutttau, Aaron Schoening, Steve Chambers, and John Klein.
- The next Can Kennel will be to support Silver Keg Feeders.
- The group was reminded that Mulch Madness will occur on Thursday, April 28. Plan to meet at the north parking lot of the football field at 12:15 if you plan to help with mulching or at 12:15 at the east park to help plant 5 trees and mulch. . Community volunteers are needed and welcome. Adults are quality

control, not labor. The State Forrester will be present at the park.

- Gary Gutttau, Keith Denton, and John Klein will obtain mulch for Mulch Madness.
- John Klein stated help is needed in the morning of April 28 to dig 5 tree holes.
- A \$1000 grant was received from Trees Forever to pay for the materials for Mulch Madness! Thanks, John, for applying.
- John Klein reported a decision is still pending regarding the plan for swim lessons with the buses being paid for by the Optimists.
- May 1 will be the Optimist Youth Appreciation at Zion Congregational Church. A cookie signup sheet was circulated.
- Scholarship winners have been determined.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- A report was given about the Senior Citizen Home. There are just two years left to pay on that. A new board will be needed and the thought is to have members from some of the civic organizations and try to get more local people to move in there. There is a vacancy currently.

Auction Items: A joke book was sold for \$3 to Dale Willenborg.

The meeting was closed with reciting the Optimist Creed.

BOARD MEETING

A meeting was held after the regular meeting. Dale Willenborg, Gary Gutttau, and Judy Gutttau from the board attended. John Klein also was present.

John presented several mock ups for screen ads for our club for 50 weeks of movies for all three weekend performances at the Dreamland Theater for a cost of \$125 which we approved to donate. Susan Miller had spoken to our club earlier this year from the Theater. The Theater is a benefit to the Treynor area as well as other communities.

Dale will see if Jordan Campbell can attend the 3rd Q Optimist Conference in Council Bluffs April 22-23. Those present at the board meeting all have conflicts.

A motion was made and approved for sponsoring two students to attend HOBY for a total cost of \$645.

Potential changes for the recycling center in Glenwood in '24 were discussed.

Dale will check with some members about being MC and someone to interview the youth at the Youth Appreciation Event. (Update after the meeting: Jordan has agreed to be the MC)

New officer ideas were suggested. (Update after the meeting: Jordan Campbell will serve as President. A VP will be needed. Gary Gutttau will continue as Treasurer and Judy Gutttau as Secretary.

Some questions were asked about Optimist insurance coverage which Dale said he would research.

HUMOR



"We finished dying all the eggs,
so now we're decoratin'
Daddy's golf balls."

Hope you all had a blessed Easter!

Editor: Judy Gutttau, judy.gutttau@tsbg.com, 402-670-4330, Contributor: Dee Gutttau
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575

Calendar

Events

- Apr 22-23 Iowa District 3rd Q Conference at Holiday Inn & Suites – Ameristar, Council Bluffs.
- Apr 27 Can Kennel Sorting for Silver Keg Feeders
- Apr 28 Mulch Madness
- May 1 Optimist Youth Appreciation Event
- May 7 Student Kite Flying Day in Treynor at "The T"
- May 14 Alternative day for Student Kite Flying
- June 4 10:30 AM: AEA sponsoring public tour of AEA buildings and Missile Base.

Birthdays

- Apr 20 Steve Chambers
- Apr 24 Linda Danker
- Apr 25 Irvin Saar
- Apr 28 Gene Seran

Anniversaries

Programs

- Apr Chad Gutttau
- May Dale Willenborg
- June Steve Irwin (first 2)
- Steve Chambers (3rd Sat)
- Jeff Jorgensen (4th Sat)

Speakers

- Apr 23 Jon Jacobsen, Legislator
- Apr 30 Senator Jon Carlon