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Tom Becka Speaks

Tom Becka, News Commentator for KPTV and



Fox 42 TV, spoke to the Optimists, stating he makes his living sharing his opinion in two minutes! Becka indicated he drove around Treynor before the meeting and saw a beautiful house with a big tractor in the drive way. "This is America. Somebody from Omaha too often wouldn't see and

understand that, and likewise." He said he likes to travel and meet all kinds of people and stated that we all are a lot more alike than what we want to acknowledge. He stated that on the surface we can say "You're a farmer and I'm a city boy....we create artificial ways to separate ourselves." This led to a discussion of how divided our country is because of the thinking that 'if you don't think like I do, you are bad.'

Becka likened politics and society to a football game. In football, you go and win or lose, you play and shake hands at the end and go on. Today he expressed politics is more degrading and should be like football. If we were all the same, dressed the same, liked everything the same, life would be boring.

He expressed the conflicting nature of being a part of media is a focus on the negative and then people get the impression that life is worse than it is, causing people to get involved, but in contrast if the media focuses on everything being wonderful, then there is no response.

Becka likes to think of America being a "Stew", rather than a "Melting Pot". In a Melting Pot, it would all taste the same, like Velveeta. But a Stew has lots of different flavors and textures. He likened that to Americans all being different and it's good to accept others' differences.

Becka believes it's important to believe in America and not any one man. He believes in what he saw here today in Treynor – good hard

working people, who want to raise a family, go to Disneyworld, and live a good life.

He looks at the American Flag and loves it because of different colors, different symbols, different shapes, but all together it is beautiful and represents Democrats and Republicans, all races, religions and we need to believe in that. We (the U.S) are an experiment and we are at risk of losing it – must be vigilant.

He stated some thoughts to think on:

- To be charged with something and be innocent is an awful thing.
- It's much better to live in a country with a ballot box than in a country where you are afraid to say anything.
- Trust but verify! It is not wrong to ask questions.
- Hypocrisy is a tough thing.
- Pay attention to the rule of law and not what you can get by with.
- Today there are not enough veterans in government positions. They understand you have to work as a team to win.

Our next meeting will be Sat., Feb 12. The speaker will be Michelle Ausdemore, President of Jr. Treynor Women. The public is invited to attend all meetings. The coffee is always on. Gary Funkhouser coins our club as "The best informed club in Treynor!"

"Success isn't measured by the position you reach in life; it's measured by the obstacles you overcome."

Booker T. Washington

Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann, substituting for the President, called the meeting to order. Present were 11 members plus Tom Becka, speaker.

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

Vorthmann, Gary Guttai, Gary Funkhouser, and Judy Guttai provided humor.

Bill Vorthmann stated that on this day in 1924 the first Winter Olympics were held. And in 2022 Friday was the opening of this year's Winter Olympics.

Also on this day in 1978 Fred Newman made 88 consecutive basketball free throws, blind folded. In addition in 1996, at the age of 60, he made 209 straight 3's.

50/50 was won by Jim Clausen. Josh Guttai won the Attendance Drawing, but was not present to win.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: We will celebrate Gary Funkhouser's BD next week with breakfast being served.

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

- Gary Guttai stated that Channel 42 news was in town Friday and interviewed realtor Jim Fleissner, who stated windmills would reduce property values.
- Gary Guttai also donated to ask how many people also receive lots of solicitations for donations by mail.
- Gary Funkhouser commended the JOI Club for getting announcements to each house in Treynor about the Souper Bowl collection for the food pantry this coming Saturday, Feb. 12. Set your items outside the door and JOI members will pick up. He praised Rachel Kinsella, President, for her leadership.

COMMUNITY:

- Chad Guttai announced caucuses will be held in Treynor and Hardin Twsp. on Feb. 7.
- State Speech Contest is today in Des Moines. Treynor has 10 different events.
- Today is the District Wrestling tournament. Also Girls and Boys are playing in the MAC Shootout today.
- A petition was circulated to oppose the Windmill Farm. This led to group discussion regarding pros and cons of wind mills.

BUSINESS:

- Arbor Day is April 29, but the Optimists will lead an effort on Thursday, April 28. Mulch Madness will be held with the planting of trees at the school and East Park with 5th graders. Gary Guttai and Keith Denton will pick up loads of mulch to have before the event happens in the afternoon of that day.
- March 19 will be the date for a Volunteer Awards Event in Treynor sponsored by the Treynor Optimists. It will be held at the Treynor Community Building. The Board is meeting at 4:00 at Zion tomorrow on Sunday to plan further.
- John Klein has applied for a grant for Trees Forever so that five trees can be planted.
- Can Kennel workers on Wednesday with Studio Seven (Dance) were John Klein, Chad Guttai, Gary Guttai, Bill Vorthmann, and Steve Chambers. Studio Seven was praised for having such good workers.

HUMOR

- **Sign on a Septic Tank Truck:** "Yesterday's Meals on Wheels"
- **Sign at an Optometrist's Office:** "If you don't see what you're looking for...you've come to the right place."
- **Sign on a Plumber's truck:** "We repair what your husband fixed."
- **Sign on another Plumber's truck:** "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Calendar

Events

Feb 12	Optimist Day. District Conference – Cedar Rapids
Feb 12	Souper Bowl Collection in Treynor
Feb 28	Club Youth essays due
Mar 19	Treynor Volunteer Awards Event
Apr 28	Mulch Madness

Birthdays

Feb 13	Gary Funkhouser
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Anniversaries

None in February

Programs

Feb John Klein
Mar Gary Funkhouser
Apr Chad Guttau

Speakers

Feb 12 Michelle Ausdemore, President of Jr.
Treydor Women
Feb 19 Jeff Danker – on site tour of Treynor Missile
Base – east side, Car pool from Treynor
(weather permitting)
Feb 26 John Dalton – Pott Co. Pheasants Forever
And local area philanthropy

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