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Tyler Juranek & his Service Dog



Tyler Juranek, a Treynor graduate and owner of a massage therapy business called Unleashed Release, talked to us today about his service dog named Bodie.

Tyler's office is at 24065 McPherson Ave, Council Bluffs, where he also lives.

Tyler has had Bodie since May. He stated that getting a service dog is not easy and training to use him is much, much harder! He applied through Guiding Eyes for the

Blind, a New York nonprofit. It costs the non-profit \$50,000 to train one dog. Once approved, the non-profit brought the dog and trained Tyler with the dog for two weeks. Tyler didn't owe a thing. It's made possible through grants, donations and fundraising. Generally there is a long wait for a dog, but the organization had a 4 year old dog who the previous handler decided after a year he didn't want.

Tyler has to know how to navigate areas where he's going so that he can train the dog by giving commands. In practicing with the trainer, there were some very discouraging times. He said it's a lot like a marriage. You and the dog have to be in sync. When the trainer left, Tyler and Bodie were far from being in sync.

Tyler's faith came into play in big ways as he prayed to God for help many times. Tyler helped us feel his emotions of not being able to see and feeling completely lost when trying to go somewhere (once without his cane and cell phone) and feeling like he was also failing in

training Bodie. He knew he had to ask God for His help, answers came, and then Bodie and he bonded and became a team. One touching story was when he asked Bodie if they could be a team and Bodie put his two front paws across Tyler's heart.

Tyler stated that a guide dog is working when he's in a harness and there are dos and don'ts. Bad behavior out of harness can also transfer to in harness behavior, which you don't want in public.

When you see someone with a guide dog, and if you see the dog is on leash or harness, it is important not to pet the dog or talk to the dog even if he looks at you, or come up on the dog's left side. It causes confusion. When the harness is on, the dog is professional. The dog has to stay focused or he can check out which means lay down and is done. Consistency is important.

Bodie eats special food with few calories, one cup of food per meal, no people food. He gets Charlie Bears for treats when he does something good. When he does something really good, they have a party, which basically is giving Bodie a lot of intense attention.

Guiding Eyes provides \$500 per year for vet bills and monthly heart wormer and flea medicine.

At night, Bodie sleeps in a kennel or on a soft bed beside Tyler's bed.

Most guide dogs work 7-10 years. Tyler said he will know because Bodie will no longer be excited to go to church or on a walk to the neighbors.

Next week's speaker will be:

Norm Collins

Collins Tax Consulting

8-9 AM Sat. Treynor Community Building

Famous Quote:
“Love is an exercise in forgiveness.”
Norman Cousins

Meeting Minutes

Jordan Campbell called the meeting to order. Present were 20 members. Tyler Juranek was our guest speaker.

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

Jokes were shared by Keith Denton, Linda Danker and Steve Chambers.

50/50 was won by Kevin Underwood. Kathy Luedke won the **Attendance Award**.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- John Klein praised the Youth Wrestling Tournament last Sunday stating it was a massive event which drew 400 wrestlers from 7-8th grade down to pre-school. He and Carol volunteered. Candace Gregory heads up the planning. (Jim Clausen stated that this tournament was first organized by the Treynor Optimist Club with 125 youth participating.)
- Gary Guttau circulated some large square nails.

Auction Items:

Two Christmas figures were donated by Dee Guttau and sold for \$2 to Kevin Underwood.

Business:

- Can Kennel sorting for the cheerleaders had helpers: Steve Irvin, Steve Chambers, John Klein, Gary Guttau, Chad Guttau, and Gary Funkhouser.
- Steve Chambers stated, if it is possible, it would be helpful to have cans separated from bottles and plastics when dropped off at the can kennel.

- Treasurer Gary Guttau stated there are a number of checks from the can kennel to be picked up. The Cub Scouts plan to carol the Optimists next week and serve hot chocolate.

The meeting was closed with reciting of the Optimist Creed.

HUMOR



Calendar

Events

Birthdays

Dec 23 Chuck Nielsen

Anniversaries

Dec 27 Gary & Dee Guttau

Programs

Dec Mick Guttau (Third Saturday)
No meetings Dec. 24, 31.
Jan Mick and Judy Guttau

Speakers

Dec 17 Norm Collins, Collins Consulting and tax update (please note this is a correction)
Dec 24 No meeting
Dec 31 No meeting
Jan 7 Mike Jerke, CEO Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy (SiRE)
Jan 14 Shelly Bailey, JOI Club
Jan 21 Wendy Andersen, Treynor Days and Splash Pad update
Jan 28 TBA

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