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Cody Forristall – PowerTech Speaker



Cody Forristall spoke today about PowerTech, which he and Josh Kalsen bought in 2015 from Roy Gravett who started the business in the early 2000's. Their motto is "Expert electricians with the power to solve." They provide residential and commercial services. They received the Omaha Magazines Best of Omaha 2022 winner designation as indicated on their website.

Forristall and Kalsen are Riverside grads. Cody graduated in Economics from Iowa State University. Cody's family has ties to Treynor with his grandparents being Gene and Norma Lorenz. His parents are Lowell and Debbie Forristall.

The business had 6 employees in 2016 and now has over 100. Forristall stated they are proud that they are able to employ so many employees from the area. Contacts are made at the high schools, IWCC, and through the union. Seventy of their workers have come through the union right out of high school.

PowerTech wired 500 new homes last year. New growth has taken place in the Power Generation Group with business all over Nebraska and expanding in Iowa. The farthest jobs have been in Kansas and Colorado.

They are currently testing the waters with solar energy. Cody stated that in today's market it's difficult to promote unless someone truly wants to be green as currently the tax credits sunset for businesses in the next couple years and there are none for residences. The standard life of solar panels is 20 years and he stated there have been zero issues with hail damage.

Forristall replied to the question, "What's the most effective energy producing process?" by discussing if you didn't have limited resources limiting energy what possibilities are there? Studies are being done by Bill Gates, the Gates Foundation, on this issue. Could you pull all the carbon out of the air? Could you use uranium waste in a safer way to produce energy? Is there a new way with pellets that limit chance of melt downs with nuclear reactors? Will the development of aluminum batteries be cheaper?

There was discussion about power (charging) stations for electrical vehicles (EV's). He stated Casey stores are rapidly growing around the country

and will change the convenience model. They will lease space to EV charging providers to put in their own equipment. Forristall stated on the average you can get 200 miles out of a charge. The cost of faster chargers at this time is comparable to a tank of gas. Cody's wife loves her electric car which charges 8-10 hrs. on a 220 outlet. Electrical costs are 8-9 cents a kilowatt. One issue would be if everybody got EV's, would homes have the infrastructure wiring to support all cars charging at night? An issue discussed at the National Solar Convention Forristall attended, is what will be the demand on grids?

Cody also discussed their business philosophy of "The Power to Give". They believe strongly in giving back and have a committee to make decisions about giving 5% of their profits each year – through manpower, cash, goods, and time. Their hope is to encourage employees to be involved. The company has keyed in on helping kids with mental health disorders. A sensory room was built for kids at Riverside Schools. They have also focused on Children's Square and CHI and Jennie Edmondson Hospitals.

Next week's speaker will be announced.

All are welcome!

Quote

"The best place to succeed is where you are with what you've got." Charles Schwab

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order. Present were 17 members and guests Aaron Schoening and Cody Forristall plus our new member, Kathy Luedke.

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

Jokes were shared by Bill Vorthmann, Judy Guttau, and Gary Guttau.

50/50 was won by Jordan Campbell. Marsha Underwood won the Attendance Drawing.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Ken Graham observed his birthday and provided coffee and donuts. Thank you, Ken!

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

- Gary Gutttau told about receiving an email from Marack, a Russian who participated in an exchange and lived at their house.
- Chad Gutttau reported he will be back in Des Moines this week.

BUSINESS:

- Can Kennel sorting will be at 2 PM this Wednesday to help the Music Boosters.
- 200 kites were delivered to the school art teacher for decorating with students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. She may need help assembling the kites.
- Next Saturday, March 19, is the Optimist Volunteer Recognition Event which begins at 6, followed by the program. 15 organizations have responded to be recognized and more may still respond. Silos is serving the free taco bar plus cookies by Dee Gutttau and Kevin Underwood will be provided. Optimists have signed up to help. Dale will send out an email this week for members to respond if they plan to attend. The dress is casual.
- The Cub Scouts will put flyers out: "Scouting for Food" in Treynor on April 2. Flyers about the Optimist flag program will be put out at the same time. Willenborg will find out about what help is needed from Optimists.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- The Bloodmobile will be in Treynor March 31. Kirk Vorthmann announced you could give his granddaughter, Ashlyn, a call to sign up. Willenborg also indicated sign up can be done online with the Red Cross.
- March 14 is the first Legion Fish Fry.
- March 14 is also the Pops Concert at the High School. Lasagna will be served starting at 5:30. The program will begin at 6.
- John Klein indicated that 84% in an Iowa survey responded they like the bottle bill.

Aaron Schoening was introduced and expressed interest in joining our club.

Bill Vorthmann received the auction item of 5 passes to the Dreamland Theater, paying \$3 each.

The meeting was closed with reciting the Optimist Creed.

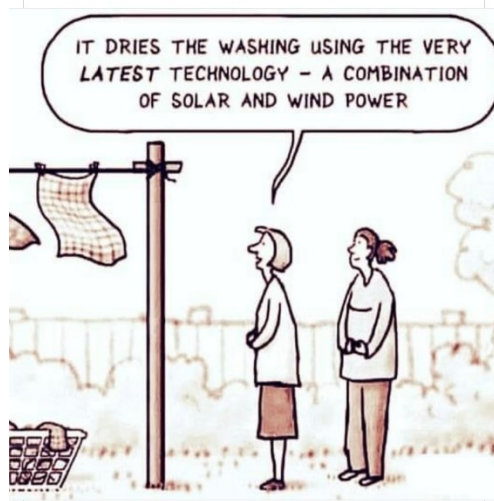
BOARD MEETING

Following the meeting the Board met. Present were Dale Willenborg, Jordan Campbell, Bill Vorthmann, and Judy Gutttau. John Klein attended as a guest.

- Details of the upcoming **Optimist Volunteer Recognition** event were discussed. 6:00 start, 7:00 program.
- 15 organizations have responded. We are anticipating approximately 80-90 people. The group will decide on Saturday when a more exact number is known whether to host this in the Legion Room or in the Community Center. Information about how many the Legion Room can hold is being sought.
- Placemats will be used. Jordan is ordering plaques and John Klein will write the article for the newsletter. Pictures of honorees will be taken and shared with each organization. Jordan is MC and is preparing the brochures.
- The drawing will be prepared by Dale and a \$250 check for the winning organization will be needed from the Treasurer at the end of the evening
- We will plan to set up after the meeting this coming Saturday.
- **April 2 – Cub Scouts Scouting for Food** in conjunction with passing out Optimist flag flyers was discussed. Dale will find out if transportation or helpers are needed.
- **April 23 Flag Flying Day:** We will seek to make plans to fly kites with the school kids at "The T" in Treynor on this day. May 7 will be an alternative rain date. Dale will seek to have one or two members from the Omaha Kite Flying Club come with their large kites.
- **Dreamland Theater:** The group voted to give \$100 to the Dreamland Theater as a screen advertisement. John Klein will arrange.
- **School Board Member:** The group decided rather than purchasing a membership for a school board member to be an Optimist, to invite a school board member once a year to speak and also invite the Superintendent to speak once a year at a different time.

- **School Bus for Swim Lessons.** John Klein and Jordan Campbell presented the idea of the Optimists sponsoring a school bus for swim lessons at Oakland. John will proceed with working out details.

HUMOR



Calendar

Events

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| Mar 19 | Treynor Volunteer Awards Event |
| Apr 2 | Cub Scouts will be going door to door-Scouting for Food and will distribute the Optimist flag flyers. A few Optimists are needed as well. |
| Apr 23 | Student Kite Flying Day in Treynor at "The T" |
| Apr 28 | Mulch Madness |
| May 7 | Alternative day for Student Kite Flying |

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Programs

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| Mar | Gary Funkhouser |
| Apr | Chad Guttau |
| May | Dale Willenborg |

Speakers

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|--------|-----------------|
| Mar 19 | To be announced |
| Mar 26 | To be announced |

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