



Sept 9, 2023

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Sewing for Babies



Mary Mayfield and Jean Allen spoke to us about a very special non-profit group called Sewing for Babies. The focus of the Omaha group is to provide clean and warm bedding

and clothing for newborns in needy families, premature babies, and long term care infants. Their group serves Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Fremont. The birth 21 years ago of a preemie granddaughter (Jean's) for which there were no clothes stimulated the formation of this 501©3 group in Omaha.

Tote bags filled with a layette (a set of clothing, etc. for a newborn baby) which includes 22 items (displayed to us) such as a quilt, receiving blankets, onesies, socks, and hats are distributed through hospital maternity wards, neonatal intensive care units. In addition, the group also provides local agencies with these items.

Most items are handmade with love by the volunteers and are made for regular sized babies, but preemie clothing is also made. Most babies don't leave the hospital until they are a minimum of 5 lbs. Certain individuals like to do certain things such as making wash cloths out of soft t-shirts and one lady makes all the totes. Sewing for Babies delivers, but the hospital and agencies determine who receives the items.

To date in 2023 the Omaha group has donated 300 layettes which includes 6000 pieces. They deliver an average of 45 layettes a month. The group of about 20 also makes small sheets for the ICUs in hospitals. The hospitals also ask for Heaven Scents. These are flannel circles used when the mom is separated from the baby at the hospital and has some anxiety. It is rubbed on the mother's chest and put in with the baby. If there is a pet in the house, these can be used with the baby's scent as well to help the pet have less anxiety upon the arrival of the new baby.

Mary explained also that little eye covers are made for intensive care babies and must have no

lint or threads as the eye lids most likely haven't developed. One lady in the group specializes in making these.

Supports are also made by the group to go under a baby's arm sometimes or around the neck to be used in car seats to keep the head in position.

The group meets at 9 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday at St. Matthew Evang. Lutheran Church on 60th St. in Omaha. On the first Tuesday items are cut and sewed and some who work at home bring their items and pick up things to sew. On the third Tuesday, items are packed and delivered. Jean stated it is miraculous how smoothly it all works.

The group fundraises by sponsoring a High Tea. Their costs are mostly to cover fabric. This year's event will be on Sept. 30 at the church and reservations must be made. And, oh my! The food sounds wonderful – scones, lemon curd, Devonshire crème, a Swedish sandwich which has a layer of chicken cordon bleu, cucumber and egg salad, finished off with Happy Birthday Cake.

Jean spoke briefly about not forgetting a baby in the car seat in the back. Some cars have alarms. One Optimist suggested putting your cell phone in back so as not to forget. She stated it is everyone's responsibility if you see a baby unattended in a car to call the police. The police will take it from there.

These ladies touched our hearts!

Next week's Speaker:

Dr. Ward Chambers
"Keep Your Heart Working"

Famous Quote

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through trial and suffering is the soul strengthened."

Helen Keller

Meeting Minutes

Jordan Campbell, called the meeting to order. Fifteen members were present. Mary Mayfield, Jean Allen, and Deborah Thompson were guests.

The group recited the pledge and Jordan Campbell offered the prayer.

Jokes: Jordan Campbell, Bill Vorthmann, Keith Denton, and Steve Chambers

50/50: Steve Irwin won.

Attendance: Judy Gutttau, but she was not present last week so couldn't win.

Football Contest: Jim Clausen won.

Birthdays: None

A celebrity birthday was Adam Sandler, 57.

Anniversaries: None

John Klein announced that Tuesday was the 50th anniversary of the day he met his wife at ISU.

Dale Willenborg announced it is his parents' 72nd anniversary. They are 93 and 99!

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Dennis White, Judy Gutttau, Jordan Campbell and Keith Denton paid because of the "most amazing exciting football game/win" at Treynor last night over Clarinda.
- Gary Funkhouser contributed \$5 because he left with 2 mins. to go, but fortunately his wife Julie was watching at home.
- Kirk Vorthmann stated they were at the lake of the Ozarks and heard a great performer sing Patsy Kline songs.
- Dale Willenborg contributed because it was the first time flags were put up this year that he didn't get a call that any were missed. However, a couple of members stated they received calls and took care of the situation!
- Chad Gutttau bragged on the Lincoln Reagan Day event on Friday evening stating that Senator Joni Ernst attended.

Community:

- Treynor Homecoming is Fri., Sept. 15. Jordan announced Zion will have burgers, hot dogs, brats outdoors from 11-1.

- The Pep Rally begins at 1:00 Friday.
- The Homecoming Parade begins at 1:45 PM. The theme is "Classic TV".
- Judy Gutttau announced that TS Bank will have an Open House at the bank after the parade with cookies and drink being served.
- Jordan Campbell stated the Cardinal Combine takes place in the afternoon for youth through 5th grade. Many 6th grade helpers have volunteered to help.
- John Klein shared that a block party in their neighborhood will be Sun., Sept. 17. Water restrictions may impact having a hydrant party as well.
- Steve Chambers shared that the local American Legion Post was called to do a private funeral last Saturday morning for a man being buried at the Lutheran Cemetery. His name was Wagner. It was determined by the group here that he was one of three sons of Rev. Wagner. All three boys served in WWII. Two died in service. He died Easter morning. There were six family members there. Military rites and a 21 gun salute were performed.
- Dee Gutttau introduced Deborah Thomson who she met in the parking lot on Thursday night who stated she was interested in getting to know how things work in Treynor. She has lived here a little over a year.
- Jordan Campbell announced the "Battle of the Bands" won't be happening at area churches this year.

Business:

- Flags will be taken down on Sept. 16.
- Cans were taken to the recycling center in two trailers, driven by Bill Vorthmann and Gary Gutttau. Dale Willenborg accompanied. They were happy with the situation and were paid \$999. This sorting benefited the Optimists. Money will be given to Gary and Bill for their labor, gas, time, and this will be discussed at the Board Meeting today.
- Membership dues will also be discussed at the Board Meeting.
- Kirk Vorthmann discussed the Treynor Optimist float for the parade. One popular suggestion was "I Love Lucy Cans"!

Someone also suggested “The Bionic Can
Call Kirk with any other ideas.

- See Board Minutes below.

AUCTION:

Pumpkins free for the taking – Chad and Dee Gutttau provided.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the saying of the Creed.

HUMOR



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

Board Meeting

Sept. 9, 2023

9:10 a.m.

Present:

Dale Willenborg, Gary Gutttau, Jordan Campbell, John Klein, Bill Vorthmann, Ken Graham, Judy Gutttau

1. Annual Fees by Optimist International are expected to rise. Much discussion took place by all. Affiliation, a tight budget, name recognition, high cost for potential younger members, and liability insurance were all discussed. A motion was made by Dale to keep annual dues at \$75. Judy seconded. All voted aye.
2. We have 36 paid members from this past year, about half of whom are active. Dues are now due through October for the upcoming year.
3. A suggestion of donating \$100 to Sewing for babies was made. It was suggested that we “Pass the Hat” next week instead.
4. Jordan stated we have more potential for people to sponsor flags to grow our scholarship fund if we provide VENMO for payment. He will work on this.
5. New officers will be Dale Willenborg, Pres. Gary Gutttau will be Treasurer. Judy Gutttau will be Secretary. A Vice President is needed.
6. More discussion took place about replacing Ken who is retiring as Sergeant of Arms at the end of Sept., and we know it will take several to do what he has done for many years!!
 - a. Volunteers are needed to open up at 7:45 am and start the coffee and will have a key.

Calendar

Events

Sept 16 Flags will be taken down.
Sept 24 Can Kennel Sorting for Zion Youth

Birthdays

Sept 16 John Klein
Sept 22 Dee Gutttau

Anniversaries

Sept 24 Phil & Jan Waggoner
Sept 26 Bill & Ann Vorthmann

Programs:

Sept Steve Chambers (next 2)
 Judy Gutttau (5th Sat.)
Oct Gary Gutttau
Nov Jordan Campbell (1st/2nd Sat)
 Jerry Hempel (3rd/4th Sat)

Speakers

Sept 16 Dr. Ward Chambers, Heart Health, etc.
Sept. 23 Tom Trede, School Bus Issues
Sept. 30 TBA

- b. Judy and Kathy Luedke will take care of donuts/sweets and the breakfast money till the end of the year (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31). Ken stated the breakfast money fund is running extremely close.
 - c. Banners will not be put up except for special occasions. Creed Sheets need to be set out.
 - d. Sign in and Drawings - ???- Volunteers?? Suggestions?? We agreed we like the fun of the drawings! These are optional to participate in.
7. Bill and Gary stated their costs for delivering cans to Atlantic which came to approx. \$100 each. Members of the board, however, felt that these two should be paid \$150 each for a total of \$300. This would come out of the proceeds of the can kennel. Gary stated it would be nice to have someone ride along each time. It took 2 hours approximately for driving and 1 hour at the Recycling Center this time.
 8. Jordan's Zion youth group has the next can kennel. He stated they will have just one sorting for the month on Sun. Sept. 24 at 4 PM and deliver to Atlantic on Sept. 25. He may also check out LE Smash for glass.

The group was dismissed at 10:15 a.m.