



The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA  
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109  
Iowa District Governor: Marge Hopkins  
Lt Governor: Don Dilts

## NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:  
Dale Willenborg



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### Jenny Berens, Treynor Community School



Jenny Berens is in her 17<sup>th</sup> year at Treynor, changing from Principal to now serving as the Academic Success Advisor and Coach. Berens stated she absolutely loves this position and being back to working with kids.

In her role she is facilitator of the 6-12 Student

Assistance Teams which get together every 4-6 weeks. She supports students in need of assistance by monitoring and responding to student data such as attendance, grades, behaviors, etc. Kids can struggle academically for a variety of reasons. The team develops a plan for each student and tracks data to see if the interventions are working. The team assesses every six weeks and tweak the plans if needed.

She also is the 504 Coordinator for grades 6-12. 504 plans are for kids typically who have medical diagnosis, diabetes, anxiety, etc. and need individualized plans. There are 29 students in grades 6-12 who are being helped in this area. Information is assessed on these students every two weeks. She also reaches out to parents.

The majority of her work is as a Career Coach. Counselors have served in this role for years, but Jenny stated that counselors are overwhelmed and more so since COVID. This is an area that she has taken over.

The program includes self-understanding. Each student in grades 6-10 take assessments to learn more about themselves, careers, and pathways to those careers.

In 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades in a classroom setting, topics such as cumulative grade point average, ACT, high school offering, IWCC college offerings, extra-curricular activities are covered and 8<sup>th</sup> graders create a resume which they update each year. Also in these grades post high school options are discussed: apprenticeship, trade

school, public colleges, private colleges, military, and workforce.

Individual meetings are held with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders regarding post high school options, current career thoughts, updated 4-year plan, and are shown how to research pathways based on assessments. Job shadowing currently happens in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Career Discovery through Iowa Western Community College has 39 students signed up this spring. Over time, Jenny hopes this will grow.

Treynor Career Days is for all students in grades 9-11 (182 students). Berens is looking for businesses to participate. At the April 23 Treynor Career Days, her goal is for kids to pick the four businesses they want to learn about.

In addition, there are large group visits by grade level to area Trade/Career Expos, Forums, and College Fairs. Feedback from the students about who they talked to and what they learned is received.

There are also Small Group Site Visits to companies such as AgriVision, HGM, Lozier, and Trade Expos. Jenny was delighted that the Agri Vision visit resulted in two students getting internships this year.

A goal Berens has is to continue increasing the percentage of 1) Students who earn Industry Recognition Credentials- went from 15 to 21% 2) Students who earn College Credits during high school – went from 90 – 98% earning 1 or more credits 3) Students who participate in Work Based Learning Experiences – went from 30 to 75%.

The latter includes: Career Readiness Class, the Cardinal Café, Avenue Scholars, Job Shadows, Trade Exploration Days, Career Discovery Days and Site Visits.

When asked, Jenny said she didn't have a model for building this program, but it has morphed. Part of her role comes from Aspire – each school district had the money provided for needs. Only Treynor and AvoHa used the funds in this way.

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**Next week:**

**Jeff Koenck, Treynor School,  
TLC 6-12 Instructor Coach**

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**Famous Quote**

**“Optimism isn’t a belief that things will automatically get better. It’s a conviction that we can make things better.**

**Melinda Gates**

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**Meeting Minutes**

Bill Vorthmann, a past President, called the meeting to order. Eighteen members were present. Mike Holton, Steve Fahrenkrug and Jenny Berens were guests. The group recited the pledge and Ken Graham gave the prayer.

Bill shared that on this day in 1807 Congress abolished slave trade. On this day in 1962 Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 pts.

**Jokes:** Dee Gutttau, Jeff Jorgensen, Gary Gutttau, Steve Chambers, Judy Gutttau, Bill Vorthmann. Keith shared stories from the Treynor history book.

**50/50:** Gary Funkhouser

**Attendance:** Dick Fox, who couldn’t claim as he missed last week.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:**

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

- Gary Gutttau shared that in 1954 Iowa State beat the team Wilt Chamberlain was on by 2 pts. The ISU Center fouled out and Gary Thompson at 5’10” became the center and tied him up in knots. Students marched on the President’s house in victory, but still no classes were cancelled the next day!
- Dick Fox stated his granddaughter played basketball on the Gothenburg, NE team and they lost to North Bend by 5 pts to go to state. North Bend made it to finals and lost by 40 points. When North Bend played Gothenburg, there was quite a difference in the number of

free throws made. We all got a good laugh when he stated the refs weren’t fair!

- Dick also stated that ten days ago he put four Christmas trees in their red barn. Now there are six there. If anyone needs a tree, let him know.
- Gary Gutttau brought a can of square nails. Anyone wanting a few or many, contact him.

**Business:**

- Can Kennel sorting is today. Cans in Kirk Vorthmann’s trailer will be delivered on Monday. The cans from today will be delivered to Glenwood on Tuesday by Bill. Tags will need to be put on the bags.
- John Klein reported that Home Depot has donated a total of 200 bags for the Can Kennel.
- John also indicated that more boxes are needed that would hold up to 24 glass bottles.
- Silver Keg Feeders will provide breakfast Sat. March 9.
- An Optimist Youth Appreciation event is tentatively planned for Sunday, April 28 at 3 PM at Zion Congregational Church. More details to come.

**Community:**

- Mike Holton, City Administrator, stated the Winter Market went very well and is a precursor to the Farmers Market which will begin May 14.
- Gary Funkhouser was asked to speak about his wife. They had a very scary weekend last week when she came down with pneumonia. Julie was life flighted to a hospital. She is home and recovering.
- Monday, March 4 – #5 Treynor Boys BB 7:15 PM will play #4 West Burlington at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. Treynor’s pep band will start playing about 6:30 PM. Streaming is available through IHSAA.
- Thurs., March 7 – Reiver Jazz Fest (Jazz Choir), Iowa Western
- March 7-8 – Boys/Girls IATC Indoor Track Championships – Ames
- Sat. March 9 – JTW – Senior Scholarship Fundraiser at Silos
- Mon. March 11 – Legion Fish Fry, Treynor Community Building

- March 21 – Treynor Pops Concert
- Wed., March 27, 11 AM – Treynor Community Building – discussion about future of Treynor Senior Citizen Home.

**AUCTION:** Window glaze was provided, but there were no bids so was given to someone.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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**Humor from a Friend**

**Did you know  
ants never get  
sick? It's because  
they have little  
Anty Bodies...**

**Please don't  
unfriend me.**

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**CALENDAR**

**Events:**

Sat. Mar 9 Silver Keg Feeders provide breakfast to all attendees at Optimist Club

**Birthdays**

Mar 2 Ward Chambers  
March 11 Ken Graham

**Anniversaries**

Mar 4 Gene & Erika Seran  
Mar 8 Keith & Georgia Denton

**Programs:**

Mar Shelly Bailey (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)  
Aaron Schoening (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sat)  
Phil Waggoner (5<sup>th</sup> Sat)  
Apr. Kathy Luedke (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)  
Jeff Jorgensen (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sat)  
May Linda Danker (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)  
Phil Waggoner (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sat)

**Speakers**

Mar 9 Jeff Koenck, Treynor School, TLC 6-12 Instructor Coach  
Mar 16 Gregg Herzberg – Advanced Agrilytics  
Mar 23 Aaron Schoening, AVP at TS Bank. Sharing about his 10 years as Dept. Manager at Menards.  
Mar 30 Cullen Udell, Girls Wrestling Coach  
Cody Kingery, Boys Wrestling Coach  
Apr 6 Doug Gray, Prairie Crossing Winery  
Apr 13 Mark & Joey Sornson, Sornson & Sons LLC

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