



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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Aaron Schoening, Menards for 10 years



Aaron Schoening, AVP of Ag Business at TS Bank, shared about his prior experience of working at Menards Distribution Center in Shelby for ten years starting in 2013. Aaron was raised on a farm near Tabor and graduated from Fremont-Mills where he

was active in 4-H and sports. Aaron is married to Tracy, who is a nurse practitioner at CHI in Oakland, and they have two young girls and live in Glenwood.

Aaron graduated from ISU in 2013 and immediately started working at Menards in the Manager Training Program starting at 4:30 am. The 13-week program put him in every department and then put him in a supervisor role, then as an assistant manager in six months.

Aaron stated that being newly married the hours were tough. After 3-4 years he became a department manager, managing 60 people in the Sortation Department where freight was sorted for each store coming down a giant conveyor. After two years, he moved to managing the non-conveyor shipping (fencing, grills, big and awkward items) and managed 110 individuals.

His role included hiring, firing, conducting unemployment hearings and HR productivity. Menards isn't fond of paying unemployment and he couldn't fire on productivity so it had to be on attendance primarily. COVID and peoples' work ethics caused him to move on.

Work ethic is a big issue with hiring good employees. Cell phones change productivity. Employees getting government assistance caused work issues. 40% of the workers are Hispanic with 20-30% speaking no English. Supervisors who were bi-lingual were sought, but the company didn't want to pay them more.

Aaron also did road shows for Menards, speaking to high schools about part time workers.

He encouraged people to work the second shift part time at \$18/hour and they would only need to be there 3-4 hrs. every other night.

The founder of Menards, John Menard, was in college in the 50's and needed to fund his education. He developed a pull mart – machine sheds so dropped out and started selling full time in Eau Claire, WI in a room the size of the Treynor Legion Room. The first store opened in Eau Claire in the late 60's. Today there are 300 stores. Home Depot and Lowes are larger. Menards is a 100% debt free company – the only one that way so is totally profitable from Day 1.

They have a Midwest plant that manufactures doors, steel, wooden trusses, treated lumber, and composite decking made from ground up pallets instead of buying from vendors. Concrete blocks are made at the Shelby plant. Items can be gotten in three days rather than four weeks such as at Home Depot. Klear-vue cabinetry allows Menards to do their own work instead of using vendors.

There are four distribution centers. Shelby is the smallest and only one not next to a rail line. Employees come from all over. Aaron's starting wage was \$12.80. Later the first shift made \$18-19/hr. Maintenance gets more. The 2nd shift and weekend employees get more.

Menards is a family-owned business. One daughter is a pro volleyball player and Aaron shared stories about Australian Gold tanning lotion. Kiosks for that lotion are in each store.

Menards prides itself on having five different product choices, knowledgeable workers who can tell you where everything is, and wider aisles and more open space in the new stores.

Next week:

Cullen Udell, Girls Wrestling Coach
Cody Kingery, Boys Wrestling Coach

Famous Quote

“A positive attitude is not a destination; it’s a lifelong journey of self-discovery and personal growth.”

Gabriel Cruz

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order. Seventeen members were present. The group recited the pledge and Dee Gutttau gave the prayer.

Jokes: Bill Vorthmann, Keith Denton, Steve Irvin, Steve Chambers, Dale Willenborg

50/50: Steve Chambers

Attendance: Jerry Hempel who was unable to claim

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Keith and Georgia Denton celebrated their 50th Anniversary recently.

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

- Keith Denton shared about their Anniversary trip to the Grand Canyon and Palm Desert and told about a quote of President Eisenhower.
- Keith also paid to state that his granddaughter Lilly Denton set a state record in the 1600 last year at the state meet. Several mentioned they had seen recent articles about her.
- Gary Gutttau paid \$2 because ISU has two teams in the March Madness tournaments.
- John Klein bragged on the outstanding Pops Concert
- Jim Clausen, a Nebraska fan, stated he watched UNL get skunked so paid to brag on ISU women coming from behind 20 points to win and on Audi Crooks who had 40 points.

Business:

- It was announced that Optimist scholarship applications are being circulated for review. Mid-April is the deadline.
- Can Kennel sorting will be Wednesday at 2 PM. Gary Gutttau stated he may be able to haul cans to Glenwood to the Droppitt containers.

- Sat., April 6 – The Optimists will provide flyers for flags to be distributed door to door in Treynor with Scouting for Food Flyers.

Community:

- Sat., March 23 – Father/Daughter Dance for age 3 to 8th grade at Treynor Community Center.
- Tues., March 26 Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships.
- Tuesday, March 26 JV and Varsity Soccer Games in Treynor
- Wed., March 27, 11 AM – Treynor Community Center – discussion about future of Treynor Senior Citizen Home.
- Sun., March 30 – Easter Egg Hunt – JTW at Palace Event Center (rescheduled due to weather).
- Tues., April 2 – Iowa Jazz Championships

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Humor

Fun fact: If Celine Dion sang just the vowels in her name it would be the chorus to Old McDonald's Farm.

CALENDAR

Events:

Mar 27	Can Kennel Sorting with KKA 2 PM
Apr 6	Flag Flyers put door to door in Treynor
Apr 28	Optimist Youth Appreciation Event 3 PM
	Zion Congregational Church

Birthdays None

Anniversaries None

Programs:

Mar	Phil Waggoner (5 th Sat)
Apr.	Kathy Luedke (1 st /2 nd Sat)
	Jeff Jorgensen (3 rd /4 th Sat)
May	Linda Danker (1 st /2 nd Sat)
	Phil Waggoner (3 rd /4 th Sat)

June	Steve Irvin (1 st /2 nd Sat) Joel Beyenhof (3 rd Sat) Judy Gutttau (4 th /5 th Sat)	Speakers Mar 30	Cullen Udell, Girls Wrestling Coach Cody Kingery, Boys Wrestling Coach
July	First three Sat. OPEN Joel Beyenhof (4 th Sat)	Apr 6 Apr 13	Doug Gray, Prairie Crossing Winery Mark & Joey Sornson, Sornson & Sons LLC
Aug	Chad Gutttau		
Sept	Jim Clausen (1 st /2 nd Sat) Bill Vorthmann (3 rd /4 th Sat)	Apr 20 Apr 27	Melvin Houser, Supervisor Tim Wichman, Supervisor
Oct	Gary Gutttau		
Nov	Jordan Campbell (1 st /2 nd Sat) Jerry Hempel (3 rd /4 th Sat)		
Dec	Mick and Judy Gutttau		

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