



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



Apr 20, 2024

Vol. 40, No.14

### Melvin Houser, Pottawattamie Co. Auditor



Melvin Houser (left), Pott. County Auditor, was introduced by Supervisor, Jeff Jorgensen (right), stating Jeff is a new Supervisor, and a good one. Houser is from Macedonia.

Houser stated the Auditor's office is the busiest office in the court house.

April is National County Government Month. He said when he first became Auditor in 2017, he had no idea of that fact. When asked by a reporter what he planned to do to celebrate the month, that's what was put in the paper – "He had no idea."

He stated that surveys indicate only 20% of people trust in the national government, 40-50% in state government, 80% trust in local government and 100% probably in Treynor except for dog issues!

Houser worked 16 years as a Pott. County Supervisor and worked closely with the former Auditor, Marilyn Drake. Drake had said, "All that happens in the Auditor's office is pure chaos." Melvin said, "And that is the way it is!"

There are eleven on the staff, many long-time employees, and it is the hub of county government and budget central for all schools, cities, community colleges and the Board of Supervisors. The Office also clerks and keeps the minutes for the Board of Supervisors so he meets every Tuesday with them. A board administrative assistant actually takes the minutes and he assures they are correct and published.

Melvin stated that the Treasurer pays all bills, payroll, and records incoming money, but money then goes out through the Audit Office. Also the Auditor is the custodian of the courthouse and all the buildings. He stated the Adams Co. Auditor in Corning unplugs toilets, takes care of snowmelt,

and is janitor, but he's thankful that Pott. Co. has a Building and Grounds Division.

Before the 70's, each entity in the county (schools, etc.) had its own elections, but in 1972 it was changed federally that the auditor run all elections. They do lots of crosschecking with obituaries, kids getting drivers' licenses and fraud prevention. Unknown to most, he stated elections take months to prepare and months to clean up after.

When asked, Houser stated when he first took office in 2017, immediately the IRS did their first ever audit of the payroll division. It was clean, but the finance division hadn't been sending W-9's from vendors and was fined \$18,000. He said he talked to others in the state and none had ever had an IRS audit. Melvin asked if there was a red flag for Pott. Co. to be audited, but he was told the IRS wanted to start auditing small government offices.

Melvin stated that auditing in the Auditors Department is not the same as a state auditor or a CPA would do.

Melvin also spoke about the payroll process and how it needs to improve. Many of the county employees do negotiate salaries because there are six unions, four of which are the jail, roads, courthouse, and 911.

Additional topics discussed were: hiring, reduction of taxes for people over 65, paying taxes online, mail-in ballots, and financial efficiency.

Many of the volunteer poll workers are older and young poll workers are needed. If you are interested, contact the Auditor's Office.

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#### Next week:

**Tim Wichman, Pott. Co. Supervisor**

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#### FAMOUS QUOTE

**"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." Mother Teresa**

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## Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order. Seventeen members were present. Melvin Houser and Joe Chapman were guests. By the way I misspelled our guests' names from Studio 7 last week- Sarah and Kynlee Kulmann.

The group recited the pledge and Bill Vorthmann gave the prayer.

**Jokes:** Bill Vorthmann, Steve Chambers, Joe Chapman, and Jordan Campbell

**50/50:** Marsha Underwood

**Attendance:** Steve Chambers (That was nice because it's his birthday.)

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** Steve Chambers birthday was celebrated.

Joe Chapman shared regarding birthdays. His grandma at 75 ran 10 miles a day. Now at age 84, they don't know where she is at!!! 😊

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

- Dale Willenborg has been talking with a Droppett guy about the possibility of them coming to pick up our cans from the Can Kennel. The first response was "No", but the guy is still working on it. Bill and Dale delivered the last batch of cans and filled the thing. They also shared a funny story of almost getting locked in the container. Because of that, Dale and Bill are recommending three people help deliver the cans/bottles to Droppett in Glenwood.
- Gary Funkhouser bragged on the accomplishments of Karsen Elwood having a big year in sports and now track.
- Judy Guttau shared that gson Brock Fox was having a spring football game today at Augustana. The trainer for the team is Brett Chambers, Steve's son. She also shared that gdaughter Emmersen Fox was trying out today for Color Guard at K State. (She made it.)
- Dale Willenborg stated they are on their way to Kansas City this morning to see grandkids.
- Ken Graham shared that Keith Denton's gdaughter, Lilly Denton is a record-breaking runner but sadly missed qualifying for the Drake Relays by 2 seconds.

## Business:

- A check for \$728.05 was presented to Joe Chapman on behalf of the Treynor Girls Basketball team. The money will be used for a basketball camp this summer at Dallas Center/Grimes.  
**L-R: Joe Chapman, Dale Willenborg**
- John Klein reported the school is having issues with finding a date for the Arbor Day planting of trees, so the project is on hold at this time.
- John also reported that a legislator had written in the news that he had written the can redemption law which went into effect a year ago, but admits it is not working. The legislator stated that fewer and fewer people are redeeming. The legislator is now in favor of dropping the nickel redemption. (That would have a negative effect on our Can Kennel and donations to youth organizations!)
- Can Kennel: Boxes for bottled glass are no longer given back to us so our club would appreciate donations of boxes that aren't too big that will hold glass beverage bottles, but not be too heavy.



## Community:

- Sun., April 21 – "Clue on Stage" Treynor student-led Production 2-4 PM
- Mon., April 21 – Boys Soccer vs Creston in Treynor 5 PM
- Tues., April 22 – Elem. Night of Arts, ice cream social, free will donation- 6-8 PM
- Thurs. April 25 – Sat. April 27 – Drake Relays Several Treynor entries
- Sat. April 27 – Treynor City-wide Garage Sale It was announced that St. Paul Lutheran Church is accepting donated items for their sale. Proceeds will help with the youth mission trip.
- Sat. April 27 – Boys Soccer vs Van Meter in Treynor, starts at 10:30 AM
- Sun., April 28 – Treynor Farmers Market 11 AM

- Sun., April 28 – Treynor Optimist Youth Appreciation Event starting at 3 PM at Zion Congregational Church. Two students from grades 7-12, selected by the teachers, will be recognized. Families are invited. The following have signed up to make cookies/bars: Gary Funkhouser, Dee Gutttau, GlenRose Meier, Bill Vorthmann, Jim Clausen, Kevin Underwood, Judy Gutttau. (Please have at the church by 1:30 PM.) Jordan will arrange to have tables and chairs set up. Help is needed to serve and clean up right after the event.
- All April – Shoe Drive – Donation Box at Treynor School outside Secretary's office. (donate unwanted shoes)
- Thurs., Treynor High School Fine Arts 7:30 PM
- Sat., May 4 - Master Gardener Plant Sale (See attachment) 8-11AM
- Sun., May 5 – Legion sponsoring a Staley's chicken dinner at noon. (See attachment)
- Sun. May 5 – Cinco de Mayo fiesta – Zion 5-7:30 PM (See attachment) \$1 tacos, etc.
- Fri., May 24 – Fundraiser spaghetti supper and silent auction 5-7 PM at Treynor High School Commons for Ava Steeve, age 5, diagnoses with severe aplastic anemia. Daughter of Derek & Amberly Steeve. He is a Treynor teacher. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

### Humor

**Welcome to Iowa  
Winter is at 6am.  
Spring starts at  
10am. Summer is at  
2pm and Fall is  
around 4:30ish.  
Dress accordingly.**

## CALENDAR

### Events:

Apr 28

Optimist Youth Appreciation Event 3 PM  
Zion Congregational Church

### Birthdays

Apr 20

Steve Chambers

Apr 24

Linda Danker

Apr 25

Irvin Saar

Apr 28

Gene Seran

### Anniversaries

None

### Programs:

Apr.

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)

June

Steve Irvin (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)

Joel Beyenhof (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat)

Judy Gutttau (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sat)

**First three Sat. OPEN**

Joel Beyenhof (4<sup>th</sup> Sat)

Aug

Chad Gutttau

Sept

Jim Clausen (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)

Bill Vorthmann (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sat)

Oct

Gary Gutttau

Nov

Jordan Campbell (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)

Jerry Hempel (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sat)

Dec

Mick and Judy Gutttau

### Speakers

Apr 27

Tim Wichman, Supervisor

May 4

Christina Bateman, Faith's Friends

May 11

Susan Enewold, Council Bluffs

C.A.R.E.S,

May 18

Scott Rucker, Boys Basketball Coach

May 25

Joe Chapman, Girls Basketball Coach

June 1

Matt Hansmann, Science Teacher

June 7

Jacob Beresh, Social Science Teacher

June 15

Carrie Currin, Elementary Counselor

