



The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Sue Wunsch
Lt Governor: Susan Enewold, CB

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg



Feb 22, 2025

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168th Infantry Battalion of the National Guard



Major Christian Albrecht from the 1-168th Infantry Battalion in Council Bluffs shared his journey with the Iowa Army National Guard (IA ARNG). He enlisted as a junior at the University of Northern Iowa, completed Basic and

Advanced Infantry Training, then returned to finish his undergraduate degree while commissioning through the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

After graduation, MAJ Albrecht worked as a loan officer in Des Moines for seven years while continuing his service with the IA ARNG. During this time, he gained valuable leadership and command experience. Following full-time orders and a deployment to Qatar, he made the decision to pursue a full-time career with the IA ARNG. He has now served for 16 years and earned two Master's Degrees along the way.

The 1-168th Infantry Battalion is part of the 2/34th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), which includes several IA ARNG units and one unit from Minnesota. The 2/34th IBCT is under the 34th Infantry Division, headquartered in Minnesota.

Originally formed in 1861 as the 4th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, the 1-168th Infantry Battalion has supported numerous wars and conflicts. It has also assisted local communities during natural disasters, including floods, derechos, tornadoes, and the COVID response. The 2/34th IBCT is consistently ranked as one of the top performing units nationwide, and the battalion takes great pride in this achievement.

The Governor of Iowa oversees the IA ARNG, working closely with the Adjutant General to

ensure the Guard is equipped to meet both State and Federal missions.

The 1-168th Infantry Battalion is a light infantry battalion, with 700 soldiers stationed across six locations: Council Bluffs, Red Oak, Carroll, Denison, Camp Dodge, and a new armory in West Des Moines. Their primary mission is designed to be light and flexible, enabling them to operate in areas where vehicles cannot.

To join the Guard, you begin by meeting with a recruiter who will discuss your interests and guide you through the process of becoming an Iowa National Guard Soldier. With a more diverse force than ever before, the opportunities are nearly limitless. Senator Joni Ernst, for example, served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the IA ARNG.

Enlistment requires an 8-year contract (6 active years plus two), and during the last two years, you can either continue with your unit or transfer to the Inactive National Guard (ING).

The National Guard follows a 5-year training model, allowing units time to modernize, train, and prepare for assigned missions. Physical fitness is key to accomplishing these missions, and the Army combat fitness test today is more challenging than in the past.

Employers are supportive of National Guard service members, allowing them to attend training events, military schools, and fulfill other obligations. Soldiers receive a yearly schedule to share with their employers in advance.

MAJ Albrecht noted that while recruiting trends fluctuate nationwide, Iowa has been proactive in overcoming recruitment challenges and continues to build strength and readiness.

Next Week's Program

WestFair Building Campaign – Connie Casson

Famous Quote

**“Nothing is impossible. The word itself says
‘I’m possible’”**

Audrey Hepburn

Meeting Minutes

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

Jokes: Keith Denton, Judy Gutttau, Steve Chambers, Ken Graham

50/50: Steve Chambers

Attendance: Jeff Jorgensen who was unable to claim.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- Judy Gutttau donated because of the great wins of the Treynor Girls and Boys BB teams this week. They move on in tournament play.
- Jim Clausen shared some weather records from this week, the year before and this coming week.
- Gary Gutttau contributed for the Treynor Girls BB win last night over Shenandoah.
- John Klein shared that the Treynor Jazz Band won the Class A Division over 7 schools at the Festival in Atlantic. It was determined the Jazz Band has won for 30 plus years. The MS Jazz Band was supposed to perform but had to cancel due to the late-school start. Both bands will play at the Pops Concert next month.
- Gary Gutttau shared a memory of being 9 and putting hay in the hayloft and the rope broke. When it broke, it formed a circle and has been hanging in the barn since 1945. (He brought it in a clear bag.)
- Dale Willenborg paid because we will start a new week. The water line broke this past week in the house and the barn, plus his wife had to go to the emergency room.

Business:

- Can Kennel sorting with the Silver Keg Feeders 4-H Club will be Saturday right after the meeting. The Club will also serve the Optimists breakfast. Thank you!

Community:

- Chad Gutttau gave an update on Monday's meeting of the Beautification & Signage group which is one of the committees of the Treynor's Tomorrows. This spring the Four Corners area will be decorated with kites and pin wheels (spinners). The community is encouraged to display their kite art and/or pin wheels in their own yards, starting on the first day of Spring (March 20/21). The group is also working on directional signage in Treynor as well as a new mural south of the Post Office.
- Optimist member Dick Fox has returned home from being in the hospital.
- Dale Willenborg shared the Glow Circus event is happening this weekend in Omaha.
- John Klein shared that if we want to pursue a Volunteer Recognition evening, he is willing to apply for a community impact grant from the Community Foundation of Western Iowa which needs to be turned in by March 15. It can range from \$500-\$5000 and is for towns in Pott. Co. A project leader is needed. Dale said he would discuss further with John.

Community Events – NOT in Treynor

- Sat. Feb. 22: All State Lg Grp Speech – Ames
- Tues., Feb. 25: Treynor Boys BB District Final vs Clarinda @ TJ
- Wed. Feb. 26: Treynor Girls BB Regional Final vs. Elk Horn/Exira @ Underwood
- Sat., Mar. 1: 1st game of Boys BB Sub-State
- Sat., Mar. 1: District Individual Speech Contest - TJR

Community Events – In Treynor:

- Sun., Feb. 23: Treynor Farmers Winter Mkt Treynor Comm. Center. 10 AM – 2 PM
- Wed. Feb. 26: Open House Russ Maguire, TS Bank, Treynor. 2 -4 PM.
- Thurs., Feb. 27: National Honor Society Induction

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

**Nobody on earth has
more on their to do
list than a child who
has just been told it's
time for bed.**

CALENDAR

Events:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Mar 1 | Optimist Meeting 8 AM Treynor Community Building |
| Mar 1 | Can Kennel Sorting for Silver Keg Feeders 4-H. |
| Mar 1 | Breakfast will be served by the 4-Hers |

Birthdays:

- | | |
|--------|------------|
| Mar 11 | Ken Graham |
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Anniversaries

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

Programs:

- | | |
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| Mar. | Kirk Vorthmann (first Sat.) |
| | Phil Waggoner (2 nd /3 rd Sat.) |
| | Shelly Bailey (4 th /5 th Sat) |

Speakers

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Mar. 1 | WestFair Building Campaign – Connie Casson |
| Mar. 8 | Collen Udell, Treynor Girls Wrestling Coach |

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