



The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Jane Schmidt
Lt Governor: George Volz

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg



Oct. 25, 2025

Vol. 41, No. 42

Barbara Vorthmann, Gold Star Mom



Barbara Yllescas Vorthmann shared she is a Gold Star Mom because her son, Captain Robert Yllescas, died as a result of being hit in Afghanistan seventeen years ago, December 1. Before he was shipped out to lead the command there, he prayed that

God would let him die on US soil and he did. Barb said she recently dreamed about Robert. He was laughing and so happy. It was so comforting.

Gold Star Moms unite because they have lost a child in service. Her Nebraska Gold Star Moms Club together performs 4000 hrs./year of volunteer work helping veterans; it helps them heal. Her Club receives an award every year for their hours of service in Omaha and Lincoln.

Acts of service include providing a food pantry for 286 veterans who live in Victory Apartments. Companies partner with them in providing food. They also put on Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for these 286. Active duty children join with them. The Vietnam Combat Motorcycle group sets up tables and chairs. Some residents don't leave their rooms so the food is delivered to them.

Vietnam pins are given out. They put up fallen hero Christmas trees in the VA hospital. Christmas cards are sent to over 400 veterans.

They have made and given out over 100 Quilts of Valor. They sew once a month in Malvern at the library Carnegie room.

Nebraska is divided into three Gold Star group areas. This year they hope to sponsor a Ruck March with the Airborne, and all proceeds will go to pay for a retreat for Gold Star families in Mahoney State Park.

The Gold Star Moms also partner with Blue Star Moms (Moms who have someone on active duty or a veteran) to send 70 boxes of goodies overseas. Cabela's and Bass Pro help provide

candy, beef jerky, drink mixes, etc. She praised Blossoms in Oakland for collecting a lot of things for Gold Star Moms – lots of canned goods and from the grocery store in Oakland.

Because food is so expensive, a food pantry (no cold foods) is being started at the VA hospital. The Moms will volunteer, but don't have to raise the funds.

Barb is on the National Gold Star Mothers Board also. Many of the moms serve on Legion auxiliaries. Lots are veterans too and many have more than one child serving.

Barb stated Robert and her other children grew up in Guatemala. He worked in the US Embassy there, then taught in a Christian School. His degree was in agronomy, and he wanted to come to the Midwest to be close to corn and help Warren out.

Afghanistan was his third tour of duty. He was married and had two young girls. As a child he was always the family leader. When he took command, they called him Captain America. He loved Nebraska football and named the camps Big Red, Corn Husker, etc.

A book and a movie, Outpost, includes a story about Robert. Mel Gibson's son, Milo Gibson, plays him in the movie.

Robert spoke multiple languages which gave him inroads in the community in Afghanistan. He helped the communities by showing them how to do things to improve their community. The Taliban didn't like him and assassinated him by detonating a bridge. He lost both legs, part of his hand and had brain injuries. He was dragged to safety by a soldier Chris Briley (who has now passed), then airlifted out of Bagram to Germany and then to the Bethesda, MD Hospital where he passed. The town's people sent a letter after his death to Barb saying how Robert was helping them so much, and those Taliban didn't survive!

Next Week's Program
Chaley Rath Hempel
Treynor Boys and Girls Cross Country Coach

Famous Quote:

**“For every minute you are angry you lose
sixty seconds of happiness.”**

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. 18 members were present. Guest: Barbara Yllescas Vorthmann

Prayer: Judy Guttau

Jokes: Keith Denton, Dale Willenborg

50/50: Kevin Underwood

Attendance: Kathy Luedke

Football Pool: Dennis White won.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: We celebrated Bill Vorthmann's upcoming birthday.

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

- Judy Guttau bragged on the Treynor football team's win in the first playoff game Friday. Seven separate boys on the team made touchdowns, and their grandson Dane made his first ever touchdown!
- Chad Guttau shared that the Reagan Lincoln Dinner was Thursday. Faith and Freedom will have an event for Iowa's top contenders for the US House of Representatives – District 4 at the Treynor Community Center starting at 6 PM Monday, Oct. 27. Suggested contributions are \$20 each or \$30 per family.
- Glenrose Meier was touched that nearly 450 people attended the fundraiser of Taiya Vorthmann. She also stated her son who has stage 4 cancer is doing well and a big test showed he is doing really good and showed no cancer.
- Steve Irvin is excited that his freshman granddaughter came in 7th place in cross country at Emmetsburg. The top 10 girls go to state.

- Dennis White bragged on the Treynor cross country girls winning the district meet and they finished five individuals in the top 15. The team and those five girls qualify for state.
- Jerry Hempel paid for the same brag and said the coach, his daughter-in-law, will speak next week.
- Dee Guttau bragged on the cross country team too.
- Keith Denton paid to state that the St. Albert's Volleyball team his granddaughters are on is doing well and also Lily Denton is doing well in cross country. (first place)
- John Klein contributed because the city is finally getting "The T" road built. The hill is chewed down!
- John also bragged on the girls Volleyball team taking three straight wins Tuesday in their tournament.
- Dale Willenborg stated the Good News Global meeting was good Monday night that several Optimists and spouses attended.

Business:

- A sign-up list for speaker programs for 2026 was passed. Thanks to the nine members who signed up immediately.
- Dues are now due: \$75. The actual amount that we pay Optimist International is more, but our bragging dollars help cover the extra cost.
- Can kennel sorting is in two weeks for St. Paul pre-school.

Events this week:

- **Mon. Oct. 27-** Parent Teacher Conference- School out at 2 PM
- **Mon Oct. 27** – VB vs Westwood @ Treynor
- **Tues. Oct. 28-** Parent Teacher Conference- School out at 2 PM
- **Tues. Oct. 28** – Girls swim meet @ Atlantic (Treynor girls are part of LC team)
- **Wed. Oct. 29** – School out at 2
- **Thur. Oct. 30** – No School
- **Fri. Oct. 31** – No School
- **Fri. Oct. 31** – Second FB Playoff game- Treynor vs. Hinton @ Treynor
- **Sat. Nov. 1-** SWIBA Jr. High Honor Band Auditions @ Clarinda

Coming Events:

- **Sun. Nov. 2** – Bingo – Treynor Legion sponsor

6:30 PM @ Treynor Community Center

- **Mon. Nov. 3** – Wrestling Club Fun Night for Pre-K – 8th grade 5:30 – 6:30 PM.
- **Tues. Nov. 4: VOTE**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

Why are ghosts bad liars?

Because you can see right through them.

What's a witch's favorite school subject?

Spelling

How do you fix a broke jack-o-lantern?

With a pumpkin patch

CALENDAR

Events:

Nov. 1 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM,
Treynor Community Center

Birthdays:

Nov. 8	Mick Guttau
Nov. 18	Phil Waggoner
Nov. 18	Dianne Willenborg
Nov. 22	Kathy Luedke

Anniversaries:

Nov. 2	Kirk & Lynell Vorthmann
Nov. 6	Ken & Linda Graham
Nov. 22	John & Carol Klein
Nov. 25	Ward & Suzanne Chambers

Programs:

November	Jerry Hempel (1 st /2 nd Sat.) Linda Danker (3 rd /4 th Sat.) Judy Guttau (5 th Sat.)
December	Mick and Judy Guttau

Speakers

Nov. 1	Chaley Rath Hempel – Girls CC Coach
Nov. 8	Jeff Casey, Treynor FB Coach
Nov. 15	Susan Enewold – CARES Program
Nov. 22	Terry Richardson, Judge Richard Distillary, Carson, IA
Nov. 29	Korbin Horton, 2025 SE Asia Mission Trip

Editor: Judy Guttau, judy.guttau@tsbg.com, 402-670-4330. Contributors: Dee Guttau, Mick Guttau
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 5157