



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**



Dec. 13 2025

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### Douglas Jensen, Candidate for U.S. Congress



Douglas Jensen was a candidate for U.S. Congress in the 4<sup>th</sup> District until recently. Douglas lives near Silver City with his wife, Heidi, and two children.

Douglas grew up in central Wisconsin where he says there were more cows than people. He is a combat veteran, and his wife is a Lt.

Colonel in the Air Force. They found they spent more time apart than together and didn't want to both be gone while raising a family. Doug retired. His wife's assignments have taken them to many places in the U.S. as well as overseas with multiple deployments. When at Offutt, they decided they wanted to live in a small town with Midwest values to settle in and raise their kids.

Douglas has received two Masters' Degrees and then while in Washington, DC, he started his PHD through Auburn Univ. His wife was working at the Pentagon, managing the budget and equipment for future conflicts. He chose to do his doctoral research on Congress, realizing there are so many type A leaders in Congress and how does that work or not work! He studied them all, spoke with them and their senior staff.

Douglas says he needs to finish writing his Doctoral paper, but is currently teaching as an adjunct for IWCC, and works for a commercial concrete business.

Jensen's decision to run for Congress was based on his intimate knowledge of the system having worked for academia, the military, and private business. He said a member of Congress has an impossible task of being an expert in all the areas and is expected to know a lot. It takes a statesman to rely on advisory committees. He feels lots of legislators don't have the full picture

when going to vote on a bill. And everyone has a pet project.

Douglas' vision is getting back to debating with discussion, working through order in committees to find the best ideas, rather than who has the most money.

1996 was the last time Congress has passed appropriations bills on an annual basis. Jensen stated this is a moral failure. This is not being done, and it is the only thing the Constitution requires. It is difficult for one person to do something as Congress is so highly polarized. You need over 200 people in Congress and 60 in the Senate to agree to get something done. Think of how difficult it is locally to get a group of people in one room to agree.

But...what can one person do? He feels he can be a role model – a person of integrity, listening to other's viewpoints, and it will take a lot of work to build relationships. It really is pushing the entire body of Congress to get back to the process, Jensen said. He is a conservative Republican but stated the Republican party wasn't even meeting during the shutdown and they could have been working on longtime appropriations because that ends in January, and there is still more to do.

Douglas explained why he is withdrawing from the campaign at this time. His wife was selected to attend War College to help promote her to Colonel. She has been able to come home every few weekends since summer. But now the Air Force is deploying her overseas for at least six weeks and possibly more, and they feel it is too much stress on the family.

Douglas said he will stay politically active because he sees the dangers of the direction our federal government is going. He is encouraged that he sees local family values are still well and thriving. He will look at future opportunities,

stating he is a man of faith and knows God has a plan.  
Other topics discussed: Term limits, Congressional hearings, Results of contacting Rep or Senator, Gold cards, and National Debt.

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### Next Week's Program

**Josh Bintz, Physical Therapist – his new information**

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### Inspirational Quote:

**“Christmas is about giving from the heart, more than giving from the store.”**

**Toni Sorenson**

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### Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg presided. 19 members were present. Guests: Shirley Chambers, Carrie Radford, Andyn White

**Prayer:** Judy Guttau

**Jokes:** Keith Denton, Steve Chambers

**50/50:** Keith Denton

**Attendance:** Joel Beyenhof but couldn't claim

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** None

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

- Kirk Vorthmann: The 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys won their basketball game and commented that Treynor will continue to do well in sports in the future.
- Kevin Underwood: Iowa State beat Iowa in men's and women's basketball and wrestling.
- Dick Fox: 18 family members came for Thanksgiving. There were two smoked turkeys, sauerkraut (a tradition) and a 60 lb. puppy looking over the table.
- Dick also stated his granddaughter is playing for Concordia in NAIA tournament and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place at Sioux City where they played Northwestern.
- Keith Denton: Sophie made a 3 pointer in the St. Albert ball game last night. Lily received an award in Omaha for Athlete of the Year!
- Gary Guttau: His computer problem was resolved by Isaac Clausen in a few minutes.

- Dale Willenborg: IWCC plays Hutchinson Community College Wed, Dec. 17 at 6 PM in Canyon, TX. IWCC is 11-1 with their only loss to Hutchinson in Sept. 30-27.

### Business



- **Andyn White** received her Optimist scholarship today. She has just finished her first semester at St. Mary. She works as a CNA at Primrose in the evenings and

helps coach the Treynor Girls' Wrestling Team.

- **Jordan Campbell** received a check for \$1436.50 for Zion Congregational Youth. Every Wed. from 6:30-8 a group of high school students (31 and growing) come for a meal, a lesson, and



some games. He thanked the Priscilla Circle for providing meals every other week.

- **Jordan Campbell** also received a check for the Cardinal Combine event held at Homecoming. 25 winners were presented during half time of Friday's girls game and received concession stand vouchers, which were paid for by the Treynor Optimists.



**St. Paul Pre-school** represented by (Left) Carrie Radford, Director, and (Middle) Shirley Chambers, Pre-school Board President, received a check from Dale Willenborg (right) for \$2331.50, the highest amount ever given to an organization. Shirley praised Kevin Pingle for saving the TRA cans and hauling them for them to help them increase their amount. The Pre-School has 20 children. The money is used for operational costs and supplies.

- John Klein presented information about replacing some hand-made signs for the Can Kennel. He is waiting for a final bid, but the consensus was for him to proceed with the lowest bid to get these signs made and to divide the cost between the organizations' proceeds. (A reasonable amount)

### Community:

- **Bingo – Sun. Dec. 14** at Legion at 6:30 PM. Next Bingo is Jan. 4.
- **IWCC – Mon. Dec. 15-** USAF Heartland of America Band concert.
- **Light Up Treynor:** Call or email the city to enter. Judging will be at 6 pm on **Dec. 19**.
- **Occasional Collective: Dec. 30** the store is pivoting to an online store.

### Events this week in Treynor and some away if indicated:

- **Mon. Dec. 15-** 7/8<sup>th</sup> Vocal/Band Concert 6:30-7:30
- **Mon. Dec. 15-** HS Vocal/Band Concert 8-9 PM
- **Tues. Dec. 16** - V Wrestling vs Underwood
- **Thurs. Dec. 18** -7/8 Boys BB vs AHSTW
- **Thurs. Dec. 18-** B/G BB vs Clarinda @ MAC
- **Fri., Dec. 19** – Christmas Break starts at 2 PM
- **Fri., Dec. 19-** B/G BB @ IKM – Manning
- **Sat., Dec. 20-**V G Wrestling Invit @ Shen
- **Sat. Dec. 20** -Wrestling Tourn away but check w school.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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 Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 5157

### HUMOR



### CALENDAR

#### Events:

Dec. 20 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM,  
 Treynor Community Center

#### Birthdays:

Dec. 23 Chuck Nielsen

#### Anniversaries:

Dec. 27 Glenrose & Bob Meier  
 Dec. 27 Gary & Dee Gutttau

#### Programs:

December Mick and Judy Gutttau  
 January Judy Gutttau (1<sup>st</sup> Sat)  
 January Keith Denton (2,3,4,5 Sat)  
 February Linda Danker (1<sup>st</sup>,2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)  
 Kirk Vorthmann (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)  
 March John Klein

#### Speakers

Dec. 20 Josh Bintz – Physical Therapist – his new information!  
 Dec. 27 Brian Young, Pastor, Living Hope Church  
 Jan. 3 Collins Consulting – Tax Update on the tax changes from the Big Beautiful Bill.