



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



Feb. 21, 2026

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Jeff Hazlewood & Darin Proffit – VN and Korea



Both Jeff and Darin have ties to farming, live in SW Iowa, sell seed corn, are involved as leaders with Iowa Corn Growers, and

were part of the Iowa Corn I-LEAD Class 11.

I-LEAD is an Iowa corn leadership enhancement & development program. There were 25 in their class from ages 24-50, all involved with agriculture.

Jeff and Darin's activities with I-LEAD have included going to other states where people don't know about growing corn. Some places they have traveled to and learned so much are:

Near Washington, D.C.: aqua farming, hydroponic lettuce farm, organic chicken farm.

Eastern Iowa: Lock & Dam 12, Cornelius Seed, Waterloo tractor tour, E-15 campaign, Field of Greens (promoted by Iowa Corn Growers). Eastern Iowa is dedicated to moving commodities on the Mississippi River. There are plans for big upgrades on the Lock & Dams.

Pacific NW: Forestry is one crop in a lifetime. It takes 40-50 years to harvest one tree crop. They toured the biggest food pantry which supports homeless and those in need throughout the whole state.

To travel to **Vietnam and Korea**, the I-Lead group had to raise \$150,000 in 14 months to go. Vietnam is an emerging country wanting to buy our product, but they can't always afford it. It is a huge deal that the US has the best quality corn in the world. Countries want it for the quality- called Dent corn. Brazil produces a different type of corn – called Flint corn- yellow, but with less starch. The Vietnamese are very appreciative of the

American farmers and have no idea how they farm the size they do. Their farms are 1-2 acres each. DDGs (dried distillers' grain), a co-product of ethanol, is important to them and the locals come to a DDG plant to scoop up a 5-gallon bucketful for their use. A DDG plant was toured, as well as a growing dog food industry, a banana farm, a rubber plantation, a worm farm, and a chicken farm. The locals want American corn because it produces yellow skinned chickens.

Upon arrival in VN, their very first tour was of a fish market at 10 PM. The speakers stated that OSHA and FDA are not at all in their world. Some in the group threw their shoes away after the tour.

They toured VN war museums and went through the tunnels which was emotional. The VN war is known as the American War and pictures are very graphic. The group went to Hanoi in North VN, where there is a big difference in Communism levels. There are billions of dollars growth in VN since we buy products from VN. **South Korea** is the hub of shipping for all that area. It looked like a clean version of NYC and is so much more developed than Vietnam. They are huge supporters of American livestock and are proud to have US beef labeled on everything!

Darin stated he and Jeff are pro carbon sequestration in the US because it unlocks low carbon fuels for sale in other countries. Many countries have mandates to use low carbon fuels. Even CA won't buy fuel unless it is low carbon.

The group experienced the history of S. Korea and went through small tunnels a mile down into the earth and at the bottom could look through a window into N. Korea. Fake towns have been created at the border to show they are successful.

An interesting concluding comment is that it's important these countries become wealthier so they buy more from us. Cultural relationships matter so they trust us. Asian business is very trust based.

Next Week's Program:
**Garry Clark, Growing Up in the Projects of
D.C., Sports Changed His Life**

Inspirational Quote:

**“We have two lives, and the second one
begins when we realize we only have one.”**

Confucius

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. 17 members were present. Guests: Jeff Hazlewood, Darin Proffit, Lynell Vorthmann, Kelby Vorthmann

Prayer: Steve Irvin

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Dale Willenborg

50/50: Keith Denton

Attendance: Dianne Willenborg, but she was unable to claim.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- Chad Gutttau: He shared a memory with his neighbor about his mom having him and his sister sing the Cattle Call song every night when they took a bath when they were little.
- Dick Fox: He had 7-8" of snow and the drift in the garden measured 3 ft. He and Sherry have put together their 12th puzzle since Christmas. It had 12 hot air balloons on it and took 2 weeks. Plus, he's color blind!
- Steve Irvin: He went to his first indoor soccer meet, which he stated is more interesting than outdoor soccer. Playing on the basketball floor, they can get more goal shots. One granddaughter also participated in archery and lacked one shot of having a perfect score – 49/50. If she had made it, her dad would have to do 10 push-ups.
- Dale Willenborg: Dale will be gone next week as his grandson will participate in robotics at Iowa City. Using robotics there is a contest to

see how many balls can be picked up in 30 seconds. The usual score for their team is 120, but a team in Washington gets 400.

Business

- Zion Youth Group will have Can Kennel sorting next Saturday after the meeting.
- Our meeting will be at Zion Congregational Church next week.
- Sympathy was expressed because our member Glenrose Meier's husband Bob passed this week. The funeral is Monday at 11 AM with visitation the hour before.
- There is a board meeting today after the meeting.
- John Klein showed the plaque which will be presented to Cody Abbott, manager of Manawa Home Depot at the first meeting in March when Cody speaks. Home Depot has been a great friend for the Optimists and other organizations in Treynor.
- John Klein passed a sign-up sheet for the Channel 7 KETV tour in the renovated Burlington Building at 10 AM Friday, March 20. Plan to meet at the Treynor Community Building at 9:15 AM to carpool.
- Correction to the newsletter last week.



L.R. Violet Wellman, Ellie Kinsala, Dale Willenborg
The JOI Club received a check for \$215 to help offset JOI Club state convention expenses for five members to attend.

The JOI Club will have the can kennel soon.

- Correction to the newsletter last week.



L-R: Mrs. Davis, Gabby Blanchard, Brooklyn Casey, Dale Willenborg

A can kennel check for \$1367.15

was presented to the Treynor Speech Program which is used for the purchase of speech materials as well as items for producing plays.

Community Events:

- **Sun. Feb. 22:** Treynor Winter Market 10-2
- **Sat. Apr. 25:** Citywide Garage Sale
- **Fri. May 1:** Citywide Spring Cleanup

Events this week in Treynor and some away if indicated:

- **Tues. Feb. 24:** V B BB vs Ridge View @ AL (was earlier indicated to be at Treynor). If you are unable to attend to support the boys, the game will be streamed free on Hudl through the Treynor School.
- **Wed. Feb. 25:** V G BB vs Pleasantville @ West Central Valley High School (Stuart)
- **Thurs. Feb. 26:** JH B Wrest @ Woodbine
- **Sat. Feb 28:** If Boys BB win on Tues. they play tonight.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. (Board meeting minutes are being sent in a separate email for members.)

Please note if you know someone who would like to get the free Optimist Club weekly newsletter, contact judy.guttau@tsbg.com. It is an additional way to keep up with what is going on in and around Treynor. It also lists our upcoming weekly speaker guests at our meetings on Saturday mornings. Other Treynor Optimist news can be found on the website: treynoroptimists.org

HUMOR



CALENDAR

Events:

Feb. 28 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM,
Zion Congregational Church

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: None

Programs:

February Keith Denton (4th Sat.)
March John Klein
April Chad Guttau
May Ken Graham (1st, 2nd Sat)
Jeff Jorgensen (3rd, 4th Sat)

Speakers:

Feb. 28 Garry Clark- He grew up in the D.C. Projects and how sports changed his life.
Mar. 7 Cody Abbott, Manager of Home Depot store and Optimist/School/Treynor supporter
Mar. 14 Andy Mayer- Droppitt Can Kennel recycling process
Mar. 20 **Friday** – Channel 7 KETV Studio tour at 7 Burlington Station. Car pool: 9:15 AM.
Mar. 21 “The Wall That Heals” speaker
Mar. 28 D.J. Walton & Dan Kinsella – Treynor boys and girls wrestling program

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