



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. 28, 2026

Vol. 42, No.09

Garry Clark – An Amazing Story



Garry Clark, author, TED Talk speaker, Executive Director of Omaha Inland Port Authority, husband of Tina, father of three school aged children, and resident now of Oakland, Iowa,

spoke about his life which most of us would never comprehend.

He grew up in the DC Projects where there were drugs and crime all around him. His mom stole his birthday money from his pocket when he was asleep. He would be afraid that his dad was in jail. He saw his first drive-by shooting at age ten. He made excuses, cried a lot, prayed a lot, and feared for his family and friends a lot.

Even though his parents had addictions and violence, they were Garry's only true solace. They dared him to be different, be a track star, read books. Fear was strong. Even though he was the fastest at track meets in school, he would hide under the bed to avoid going. He feared the starting pistol, feared his dad's disappointment. He didn't know how to handle winning or losing. There were food stamps, living and dying – a cycle of misery.

Graduating from high school as the fastest runner, he self-sabotaged, failing ACT tests three times. When his mom was clean and sober, she found a place he could go – rural Nebraska to Dana College in Blair. He cried like a baby on arrival at Eppley Airport. His ride was two hours late and he sat wondering about his choices.

Garry was late arriving at Dana and had no sheets, clothes, or toiletries and ended up in the senior dorm. Someone gave him a sheet. But he had a 3.9 GPA his first semester. He became a running star. Basketball was his first love and played two years in college, but he soon found he

was winning the track records in the 400, the 200, the 4x4, the 800. The “shackles” were released as he found new freedom through running! He challenged us with “What are we running from? What are we running to?”

Garry became president of Campus Crusade, learned to speak and tell his story. He received a full-ride scholarship at UNO for his Masters. His first job after college was at Gainesville, FL as a city planner.

Eventually they went back to DC, but soon there was a drive-by shooting in front of his office. They departed and he's lived and worked in rural NE, Seattle, Tulsa, and now is happy to be back where the kids' grandparents are – Oakland, IA. He enjoys his job in Omaha and also has various speaking engagements. His job is to use \$120M to help restore North Omaha and East Omaha to help provide workforce and market priced housing. His goal is to help locals to buy their first lot, build, and sell to get started.

Garry stated his journey has not been perfect, but believes we are here for a purpose and to bestow our gifts to others. The ability to run was a surprise and gave him freedom he didn't know he had. He was willing to take a risk to do something different. He feels many get stuck because everything draws them to distractions and pitfalls, like quicksand. He believes in the power of prayer and had praying parents, in spite of their addictions. They would get high in front of him but state this is not for you.

Garry stated his mom has now been clean for 30 years. She feeds the homeless and transports people who need to go to places. His dad is also helping feed the homeless.

Next Week's Program:
Cody Abbott, Home Depot Manager

Inspirational Quote:

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

Nelson Mandela

Meeting Minutes

Vice President Kirk Vorthmann called the meeting at Zion Congregational Church to order. 13 members were present. Guests: Garry and Tina Clark and their three children, Azlyn, Delano, Camella.

Prayer: Kirk Vorthmann

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Judy Gutttau

50/50: Gary Gutttau

Attendance: Phil Waggoner, but he was unable to claim.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- Judy Gutttau: Good luck to the Treynor Girls BB team at state next week and for the Treynor Boys BB team with hopes of a win to go to state. (They won!)
- Kevin Underwood and Marsha Underwood: They paid to support the above.
- Judy Gutttau: Mick was honored this week by Deaf Missions’ directors presenting him a plaque for his 33 years’ service and having been chairman since 1996.
- Gary Gutttau: He shared his story about having vertigo last year and more recently. A brain scan shows he still has a brain and the diagnosis was vertigo!
- Keith Denton: Their pug dog just died. He made them smile as he bounced around. They called him “Bouncy”.
- Kathy Luedke: Her oldest granddaughter graduated from Tech School at Lackland Air Force Base and is now stationed at Kirkland AF B in Albuquerque, NM.

Business

- Zion Youth Group will have Can Kennel sorting today after the meeting. Because of

activities today, they will finish up Wednesday evening.

- John Klein passed a final 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. 14 plan to attend which will include a few guests.
- John Klein circulated the Can Kennel group date assignments which will be posted behind the door in the Can Kennel building.
- Chad Gutttau is working to have Attorney General Brenda Bird speak in April.
- John Klein reminded us that we will present a plaque to our speaker, Home Depot Manager Cody Abbott, next week for his support of our community by helping the Optimists, the Treynor’s Tomorrow Beautification Group, and the Treynor School.
- Mulch Madness will take place May 15. Kirk Vorthmann will provide a pickup and trailer, and Keith Denton will provide a trailer.
- John Klein will contact the Lewis Central school about organizing swim lessons for Treynor youth this summer.
- John Klein will also advise Mercer Insurance Co. of upcoming activities. The liability insurance for our club comes with our dues.

Community Events:

- **Mon. Mar. 2:** Legion Fish Fry, 5:30- 7:00 PM

Events this week in Treynor and some away if indicated:

- **Sat. Feb. 28:** V Boys BB vs Underwood @ TJ
- **Tues. Mar. 3:** JH B/G Wrestling @ Tarkio
- **Wed. Mar. 4:** No school. State G BB vs. Central Lyon 11:45 AM in Des Moines.
- **Sat., Mar. 7:** Bluff Jazz Festival @ AL

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Please note if you know someone who would like to get the free Optimist Club weekly newsletter, contact judy.gutttau@tsbq.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

What did scientists
conclude when they
found bones on the
Moon?
The cow didn't make it.



CALENDAR

Events:

- March 4 Possible finish up with helping ZCC
Can Kennel sorting
March 7 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM,
Treyner Community Center

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: None

Programs:

- March John Klein
April Chad Gutttau
May Ken Graham (1st,2nd Sat)
Jeff Jorgensen (3rd,4th Sat)

Speakers:

- Mar. 7 Cody Abbott, Manager of Home Depot
store and Optimist/School/Treyner
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 – Treyner boys
and girls wrestling program

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