,,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

May 2, 2026 Vol. 42, No.18

Wild Hearts and Horses



In 2015 Bob Weilage shared that he and his wife Carol lived near Glenwood on seven acres and had a couple horses. Then Carol felt like God was saying they needed to share the horses with others.

They invited others and over 200 visited the first year. They knew they were to expand. Bob says, "When God says dream, dream big. You can't outdo him."

Right before COVID, they found and now live on a 43-acre ranch next to a creek south of Glenwood. The ministry became Wild Hearts and Horses. Bob says while doing this ministry, God has grown them in their faith, and they continue to learn lessons.

Wild Hearts and Horses provide opportunities for kids and parents to do horseback riding in a round pen, to use a pitchfork to clean manure in the barn and have a Bible lesson in the office. Bob stated that some kids grab those pitchforks and are in a different world even if they are wearing Crocs on their feet! Kids just love it.

Bob shared a story that touches his heart: A mom went with her daughter to get on the stand for the first time to mount one of the six horses and the daughter suddenly can't do it. They have her talk to the horse and pet it. Pretty soon she is up and riding, bouncing and laughing. Then her Mom goes to the stand, and Mom suddenly can't do it either. Now the daughter is the coach and soon both are riding and laughing. Bob then says to the daughter, "Way to go, Coach."

One of the newest things added to their genre is the Glenwood Thrive School, a school which helps students with remedial and at-risk needs. They come in small groups of three for two hrs. on Tues./Thurs. afternoons and work and ride.

There are dogs, cats, and cows too, and it's a new experience for these kids, who come wearing hoodies. Soon their hood is down and they make eye contact, and ask if they can climb the haystack. Bob and Carol try to model Christ and give the kids a chance to ask questions and participate in the program. They see big changes in the kids. However, they do pull their hoodies up when they go back home.

Bob and Carol have held two 5-day camps in June the last three years. The cost is $150/week, but there are scholarships to help 20 children. Besides riding, the kids through the years, have built a large platform which holds 70 people in the area they call the Woodland Sanctuary. With volunteer help the kids have learned to use various tools to help construct.

Last year the boys during the first week built the frame for a cabin and the girls during the second week worked on finishing it inside. There is space for a total of 8 cabins to be built on the property.

Bob told of one girl that participated who probably wouldn't have graduated, but this ministry changed her life, and she is now working. She's no longer a chronic complainer!

Bob said he and Carol are living what they always dreamed, but this is bigger than what they dreamed. They are stay-at home missionaries.

Donations come from individuals, companies and churches. Some end and some continue. They've stopped expecting and put it in God's hand to control.

We would love to have YOU consider joining our local Optimist Club if you are not a member. Call Dale Willenborg or text 402-651-1634 for more information. www.treynoroptimist.org

Next week's speaker:
Pastor Emily Dalen
Treynor St. Paul Lutheran Church

Inspirational Quote:

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Unknown

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Seventeen members were present. Our guest was Bob Weilage.

Prayer: Judy Guttau

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Judy Guttau

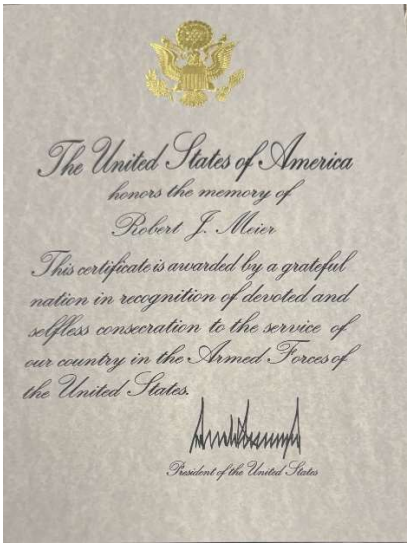
50/50: Keith Denton

Attendance: Dick Fox

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- Glenrose Meier: She read a certificate she received this week from Donald Trump, President of the United States, honoring the memory of her husband, Robert J. Meier. The certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of his devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States.



- Glenrose also stated that the Treynor Legion will have military honors for her husband, Bob Meier on Monday, May 11 at 9 AM since they were unable to do so at the time of his funeral.
- Steve Irvin: His granddaughter Hope played in a soccer game for Sioux City and they won 10-0 against Sioux City North. When she moved into the offense, Hope made a goal right away. Steve and Deb were able to watch on tv.
- Judy Guttau: Bragged on all the good Optimist help with the Youth Appreciation Event.
- Judy Guttau: She paid because she forgot to bring the excess cookies from Youth Appreciation which she froze for today!
- Keith Denton: His granddaughters Lili and Sophie had a good win in soccer. Lili broke the 1500 record at Drake. She has the 3rd fastest time in Iowa and 7th fastest time in the U.S.
- Dale Willenborg: His sophomore grandson went to ISU for an orientation to learn more about what he wants to study. Dale and Dianne met the family there and babysat the younger grandkids at the hotel.
- Gary Guttau: He used to be 6 ft. Now he's 5 ft. 11in. But he went from a size 12 shoe to a 13.

Business:

- Dale Willenborg said that flyers were taken door to door in Treynor regarding signing up for a flag. John Klein, Dale Willenborg, and Kirk Vorthmann helped, and there were 16 JOI members who helped. A total of 475 flyers were produced with just a few not used.
- Treasurer Gary Guttau gave a report on the amount of money taken in from flags already.
- Dale Willenborg stated flags will be put up May 15 for Armistice Day which will stay up for Memorial Day weekend.
- Can Kennel sorting for St. Paul Youth started at 9 AM today. There will be a second sorting next Saturday at 9 AM too.
- The list of seniors receiving Treynor Optimist and JOI scholarships was circulated.
- Judy Guttau passed a sign-up sheet for a 45 min. tour with a guide for **The Wall That Heals** that will be at Lewis Central on their

soccer field. The display is open to the public Friday, May 22 through Monday, May 25. Our tour will be on **Saturday, May 23 at 10:30**. Meet at the Treynor Community Center at 10:00 to carpool or caravan or you can meet us at the Visitor Center at the soccer field. Please let Judy Guttau know if you plan to go on the tour. his is for Optimists, families, and guests.

- Judy Guttau shared that there will be a "Welcome Home" celebration at The Wall That Heals on Friday, May 22 from 5-6 PM. Mick Guttau will be the keynote speaker. The event is to honor the names on the Wall as well as give a proper welcome home to the veterans that returned from Vietnam. The public is invited.
- **Mulch Madness**: John Klein asked for a count of those able to help with Mulch Madness this Friday, May 8. The 5th graders will be planting trees at the school. Community members are welcome to help. Meet at the Visitor Parking Lot at the high school at 12 PM.

Community:

- **Sat. June 6:** Treynor Alumni & Friends Dinner/Program. 5:30 doors open, 6:30 dinner. Treynor Community Center. Jeff Schnepel is one contact to make your reservation: 402-658-4867.

School Events in Treynor:

- **Sat. May 2:** V/JV Boys Soccer vs Van Meter
- **Mon**. **May 4:** JV Girls soccer vs. Lewis Central
- **Thurs. May 7**: Fine Arts Night – 7:30
- **Sat. May 9:** V/JV Girls soccer vs Van Meter

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

"Don't take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive!

CALENDAR

Events:

May 8	Mulch Madness starts at 12 noon.
May 9	Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM, Treynor Community Center- Big Room
May 9	Can Kennel Sorting 9 AM for St. Paul Youth
May 23	10:30 AM Guided Tour of The Wall That Heals, Carpool or caravan at 10:00 AM or meet us there. Sign up with Judy Guttau

Birthdays:

May 11	Keith Denton
May 16	Dick Fox
May 21	Steve Irvin
May 27	Kirk Vorthmann

Anniversaries: None

Programs:

May	Ken Graham (1st,2nd Sat) Jeff Jorgensen (3rd,4th Sat) John Klein (5th Sat.)
June	Steve Irvin (1st,2nd Sat) Judy Guttau (3rd.4th Sat)
July	July 4 – no meeting July 11 – Open for a Speaker Phil Waggoner (3rd, 4th Sat)

Speakers:

May 9	Pastor Emily Dalen, Treynor St. Paul Lutheran Church
May 16	Andy Wicks, Pott. Co. Engineer
May 23	Keith Jones, Pott. Co. Board of Supervisors, Candidate for Iowa Legislature
May 30	Cody Abbott, Manager of Home Depot (to be honored)
June 6	Tracy Petersen: Treynor High School Teacher who teaches Sports Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Careers/Finance, Work Based Learning
June 13	Steve Irvin, Secretary/Treasurer of the Southwest Iowa Educational Foundation
June 20	Kelsey Stupfell, Treynor Teacher Grants recipients and Treynor Tomorrows Update
June 27	4th Grade Invention Convention – State Participants
July 4	No Meeting
July 11	Open for a Speaker

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