,,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

June 27, 2026 Vol. 42, No.26

Dale Willenborg - Slide Show

The speakers for today had a conflict arise, which led to our President Dale Willenborg sharing an interesting short **slide show** for our program today:

1) Blackbirds swarming Dale's home place as well as their neighbors for a couple days.
2) Cedar Waxwing birds enjoying Dale's tree berries as they migrated north.
3) The Dutch use a round circle method of stacking wood – bigger logs around the outside with smaller wood pieces in the middle. Dale has a large stack like this.
4) Dale has a small wood burning stove in their basement which he feeds twice a day with wood, and it heats the whole house all winter.
5) A cute ground hog standing on its hind legs lives in Dale's machine shed.
6) A tulip tree in Dale's yard will grow to 200 ft. tall, but it is now at 75 ft. It gets loaded with distinctive yellow tulip-shaped flowers and as the petals fall, they disintegrate fairly quickly.
7) Dale shared pictures of bikes when they visited the Harley Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.
8) Dale's sunroom is built with windows on three sides attached to their house. He closed the whole bottom, but two skunks were under there so he had to take out blocks to let them out. He and Dianne were glad it didn't stink in the house.
9) Dale's grandson and granddaughter's Robotic Team received the Innovation Award at competition in Coralville, Iowa and placed 14th. Dale shared a video of the robots created that shoot balls into a basket and compete against each other according to specific rules.
10) Dale helps with TREK, a youth activity of their church, where the kids dress like pilgrims and pull hand carts for several days. Last year they went on the Wabash Trail. He showed a picture of the youth trying to cross a small creek and videos of a skit and the kids having fun with dancing in the round.

Thanks, Dale. This was interesting.

Next week's speakers:
Saturday, July 4: No Meeting
Saturday, July 11: Andy Moats, Pott. Co. Engineer

Quote:

"Optimism isn't a belief that things will automatically get better; it's a conviction that we can make things better."

Melinda Gates

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Eighteen members were present. Guests were Rikayla Champlin, Ethan Hill, Luke Christensen, Colton Lane, Dane Guttau, Michael Holton, Leah Wilwerding.

Prayer: Bill Vorthmann

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Judy Guttau

50/50: Jim Clausen

Attendance: Kevin Underwood

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Judy Guttau announced their 58th wedding anniversary June 28.

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

- Chad Guttau: Thanked all who came to the bench dedication last Sat. for his Mom, Dee.

- Dick Fox: His son and two big grandsons worked on his peach tree and put in 10 supports. The tree is happy now.
- Dick Fox: His wife's cousin from Texas came to visit and 19 people and one dog showed up for a party.
- Dick Fox: He had 7.5 inches to date in June.
- Judy Guttau: She announced the excitement of Treynor's Tomorrow (Beautification Committee) receiving a $6120 Flagship Grant through the 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant program. The funds will support the work of two upcoming murals as part of the Treynor effort to enhance the Four Corners, the town's sole four-way intersection area, a major junction. Signs to the park too.
- Jim Clausen: The Treynor girls softball team won their first game against Underwood.
- Bret McVey: Zion Church's 125th anniversary was celebrated last Sunday with videos, artifacts, and an album from the 60's, etc.
- Steve Chambers: He shared a newspaper article about the first Treynor Homecoming.
- Gary Guttau: The first Homecoming was when he was a Junior. Teacher Etta Neunaber said the school needed that. Gary helped build a class float and a Commercial Class float.

Business:

- Bret McVey gave a report on the Optimist-sponsored two weeks of swimming lessons, thanking the school, TS Bank, Zion Church, the driver Diane Rath, chaperones, and John Klein. John reports there have been 225 kids participating since 2015, not COVID years.
- The club will discuss at a board meeting how we might help contribute to a flag pole that Vision Treynor is planning for "The T".
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Four senior boys were present to receive their $500 scholarships. President Dale presented and interviewed the boys. L.R.: Colton Lane will study computer science at ISU, Luke Christensen will study finance and actuarial science at ISU, Dane Guttau will study finance at Univ. of Iowa, and Ethan Hill will study biochemistry at Univ.of Nebraska-Lincoln.
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Jordan Campbell received the $1199.65 Optimist Can Kennel check for the Zion Youth Group. The group meets every Wednesday during the school year. There are 25-30 kids grades 9-12 who meet from 6:30-8 PM for a lesson, a meal, and recreation. Jordan praised the Ladies Group for providing a meal every other week. He provides the meal the other weeks and this check will be used to help with meal costs. 80% of the group are boys and, guess what? They eat a lot!

Bill Vorthmann thanked Zion for sponsoring the outdoor movie last night at Treynor Days!

- Let Dale Willenborg know if you are interested in attending the Optimist Convention in Dubuque Aug. 28-30.
- There will be an Optimist booth at the Iowa State Fair, Aug. 13-23. Three shifts of volunteers are needed each day to pass out candy and have kids sign up for a free bike. If you can volunteer, let Dale know.
- Westfair gate volunteers are needed Thurs., July 23 from 1-3 PM and 3-5PM. Ken Graham, Bill Vorthmann, Dale Willenborg volunteered. Let Dale know if you can also help.
- If we see flags in Treynor in need of repair, please let Dale know. They will be taken down at 5 PM on Monday, July 6.



- Rikayla Champman, Administrative Assistant, Pott.Co.Jail was present to share about the "Shop with the Sheriff" event. It started in 1998 with the vision of Lt. Larry Brown to take kids in need to shop for winter clothes and a toy for Christmas. 50 students are nominated by five rural schools in Pott. Co. including Treynor. Their siblings are included. Donations year round from the communities fund this program. The Treynor Optimist Club passes the hat annually. We invite you to consider donating too.

Community:

- City Administrator Mike Holton gave congratulations to Treynor's Tomorrow (Beautification Committeee) as a recipient of a national Flagship Grant of $6120 through the 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant program.
  There were 5100 applications nationwide and 13 were selected in Iowa with two being in Pott. Co. – Minden and Treynor.
- Mike Holton reported the inspection by the Iowa Economic Development Agency of the splash pad, playground, etc. at "The T" was successful. The inspector was impressed with the layout overseeing the Loess Hills fields, the lush green due to the rain, and ten boys who were enjoying playing a game of baseball on the field. She sent an email Friday that $512,000 would be sent - $400,000 for the road (which has been expected) and an additional unexpected $112,000 to the city to help finish the trails/splash pad. A big Hoorah!
- Mike Holton stated the three flags at the Welcome signs are for Legion, Treynor Cardinals, City of Treynor special 250th celebration flag. The City Hall is decorated for the 250th birthday. Treynor has been named a "Patriotic City of Iowa" by the Iowa League of Cities!
- Emily Dalen, pastor of St. Paul, has asked to share that at their home, they have a 13-14 ft. flagpole they would like to give away to anyone who would like to dig it up and transport it. Contact Emily at the church. (A stronger, larger pole is needed at "The T".)

Community Events:

- **Tues., June 30**: Treynor Farmers Market
  Young Entrepreneur Night- 5:30-7:30 PM
  Food Trucks – Family Traditions BBQ, Iowah Grill, Tastee Treat
- **Fri., July 3:** First Friday Food Truck – 11 AM-1 PM - Treynor Fit Parking Lot
- **Sat.**, July 4: Independence Day, Big Fireworks at Dusk on Zion Drive, Bring a blanket/lawn chair to "The T". Sponsored by the city.

School Events in Treynor

- **Mon. June 29:** V Baseball vs TJ
- **Tues. June 30:** JVR Baseball vs Bellevue East
- **Wed. July 1:** JV/V Softball vs. Atlantic
- **Fri. July 3:** V Baseball vs. Red Oak

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Garrison Keillor Quote

"Welcome to Lake Wobegon (Treynor 😊), where all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average!"

CALENDAR

Events:

July 4	Holiday – No Meeting
July 6	Take Down Flags – 5 PM, Can Kennel - TBA
July 11	Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM Treynor Community Center – Big Rm.

Birthdays:

July 14	Gary Guttau
July 23	Jerry Hempel
July 27	Jim Clausen

Anniversaries:

July 15	Jordan & Katie Campbell

Programs:

July	July 4 – Holiday - no meeting July 11 – Jeff Jorgensen Phil Waggoner (3rd, 4th Sat)
August	Dale Willenborg
September	Jim Clausen (1st, 2nd Sat) Bill Vorthmann (3rd, 4th Sat)

Speakers:

July 4	Holiday - No Meeting
July 11	Andy Moats, Pott. Co.Engineer
July 18	TBA
July 25	Dr. Joel Beyenhof, Supt.of Treynor Community School

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