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,,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

Aug 1, 2026 Vol. 42, No.30

Jeff Schoening



Jeff Schoening, Treynor’s retired long-time band director, stated he remembered his first time speaking was in 1989 at the Treynor Shortline and Optimist members were all dudes! He expressed great appreciation for what the Optimists do and he knows the kids appreciate it too.

So what has Jeff been doing since he retired?

1) He serves on the Board for SWIEF, an extraordinary facilitation of the awarding of $500,000 in scholarships in SW Iowa.
2) He teaches 8-10 private students from area schools in his drum studio in the basement of their home. “Teaching helps you learn how much you don’t know.” He told of one “beast player” student from Lewis Central who could be a professional.
3) He practices himself an hour or more a day.
4) He does lots of judging- marching band contests, festivals, solo and ensemble contests. Jeff stated no one was more critical of judges than him….until you are on the other side.
5) He is a clinician for bands at schools state-wide and regionally.
6) He’s presented a directors’ beginning drum clinic at the State Bandmasters’ Conference, and he hopes to do so in Nebraska and Missouri in the future.
7) He’s part of SW Iowa Bandmasters – retired directors.
8) He’s a member of the IBARD – Iowa Bandmaster Association of Retired Directors. Members mentor first and second year new directors.
9) He prefers only substituting in Treynor.
10) He is a painter for the Treynor school – hallways and classrooms this summer.
11) He plays for two bands. He talked about “Music is a time machine.” The power of music can cause old people to put their walker aside and dance to a song from their era!
12) His latest project is GreenSpace Jam. He and Mike Holton had the idea three years ago and Kelsey Stupfell is the glue to hold it together. Funding is important. The last concert this year is August 13 in the Green Space west of TS Bank, and it will be country – Western Sky.
13) He hangs out with his dad, who dances every week at age 89 with his wife. He shared about his Grandma at age 78-79 teaching herself how to play drums and did so for ten years with the Regal Riots!
14) He’s a grandpa and spends time with gkids.
15) He’s a Cubs fan.
16) He spoke of the new Treynor band director – Meagan Powell and the interesting story of how she was selected. She has been teaching at Sioux Center and had top-notch bands. That’s a story for the future.

Jeff shared that COVID hurt band numbers, which caused a trend down in numbers. Some schools are gangbusters, others are struggling. It was fun to hear about Denison having 400 band members. The Director recognizing the Latino community introduced a Mariachi band. Jeff shared that they play seriously cool music, and it has helped community growth in that town.

Next week's speaker:
Rachel Chappel, Home Schooling

Quote:

"Joy is not in things; it is in us."

Richard Wagner

Meeting Minutes

Optimist Bill Vorthmann called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Eighteen members were present. Guests were Leah Wilwerding, Mike Holton and Jeff Schoening.

Bill stated that in history in 2021, the virologist, Dr. Anthony Fauci, stated that things are going to get worse as COVID cases will double in ten days.

Prayer: Jordan Campbell

Jokes: Steve Chambers, Kevin Underwood, Bill Vorthmann, Gary Guttau

50/50: Steve Chambers

Attendance: Dennis White who could not claim.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Mike Holton's 38th anniversary is this week. They were married on 8/8/88 so he would remember it. And his birthday is the following day so he can remind his wife!

Chad Guttau will bring treats for his birthday next week.

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

- Dick Fox stated he helped his wife yesterday can 10 quarts of tomato juice. His peach tree is hanging in there with 15 supports and one ladder and the approximate 500 peaches might be ready this week.
- Jordan Campbell shared his younger daughter needs braces - $3000. Their 11 year old son got hit with a baseball in the face - $5000. They have an HSA. Katie and he went on a baseball trip seeing five major league stadiums, then the family went to South Padre for vacation. Then the old car was leaking transmission fluid - $2500. He had to keep telling the service repair guy that they were poor in spite of two vacations!

Business:

- Can Kennel sorting helpers last week were John Klein, Steve Chambers, Bret McVey. Today the Optimists will help Teammates after the meeting. John Klein later reported it only took 30 minutes to sort. John Klein, Steve Chambers, Jordan Campbell and family, Steve Irvin, and Bret McVey worked. Teammates had new people helping.
- John Klein was thanked by Bill Vorthmann for conducting the meeting last week and opening the can kennel.
- Next week's Optimist meeting will be at the TRA.
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Bill Vorthmann announced that he and Glenrose Meier are Thrivent members and were granted five new flags from Thrivent for the Optimist Club. Thanks, Bill, for applying!

Community:

- John Klein stated you can research that the first weekend in August is "National Night Out". Some towns are promoting, and he suggested maybe Treynor will in the future. It's organized by Law Enforcement people in the community.

Community Events:

- **Tues. Aug. 4**: Treynor Farmers Market
  5:30-7:30 PM Food Trucks: IAWAH Grill (Hawaiian) Pims (Thai food),Tastee Treet, Legion Beer Garden
- **Fri., Aug. 7:** First Friday Food Truck – 11 AM – 1 PM

School Events: None on Calendar

Cucumbers and cherry tomatoes were available from Dick Fox.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

"He who laughs last didn't get it!"

CALENDAR

Events:

Aug 8	Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM TRA

Birthdays:

Aug 11	Chad Guttau
Aug 23	Judy Guttau

Anniversaries:

Aug 5	Josh & Shelly Guttau
Aug 13	Jerry & Barb Hempel

Programs:

August	Dale Willenborg
September	Jim Clausen (1st, 2nd Sat)
	Bill Vorthmann (3rd, 4th Sat)

Speakers:

Aug 8	Rachael Chappell, Homeschooling
Aug 15	Pat Thomas, Just Serve
Aug 22	TBA
Aug 29	TBA

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