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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 15, 2026 Vol. 42, No.32

Pat Thomas, JustServe



Pat Thomas worked as a registered nurse at Methodist Hospital. Then she became an insurance agent, and now volunteers with Just Serve. Check out JustServe.org. Her family is her husband, seven kids, grandkids and greats.

Pat challenged us with how our service meets our Optimist Creed. We talked about the various ways our club serves. She then asked how we look for ways to serve? When she retired, she checked out places where she could be of value. She first helped a refugee women’s group in Omaha working with them to be healthy and to translate that to their children, plus she also taught some to drive a car which had its scary moments. She then volunteered with the Red Cross to help people find resources after a disaster.

This led to Pat helping Just Serve, which is a volunteer matching website. It is controlled by the Church of the Latter Day Saints, but it is not owned by them. It helps people find where they can volunteer. An example of how it works is that an almost full-time Librarian in a small southwest Iowa community kept running out of hours to look at all the books for damage, duplication, etc. Pat got the Librarian on Just Serve, and two people then volunteered a couple times for a week to help, and the job was done! One was a retired school teacher; the other was just looking for an activity.

Another example was a retired military family in Bellevue who were down on their luck. Some young women responded with a visit and a donation of food and supplies.

The Furniture Project is located in Omaha (Google it). Connect with them to learn more about how to donate, volunteer, or receive furniture. You can schedule a furniture pickup. The Furniture Project can use volunteers to help refurbish some furniture. Drop-offs and pick up from your home are possible. Even JustServe can help you with this.

A church pantry in Glenwood needed help in getting volunteers. JustServe helped them organize volunteer workers. Just Serve is international. Register on JustServe.org. Local specialists: Jeff & Stacie Smith – jssmith@justserve.org

We talked briefly about our organization’s need for community volunteers for helping with Can Kennel and flags. Pat encouraged us to put this info on JustServe. JustServe is also in some schools. A teacher needs to be the coach. It gets youth to develop serving skills.

Pat stated that Just Serve and the Church of the Latter Day Saints partnered with America 250 to deliver 250 semis full of clothing and supplies to the largest pantries all over the country to celebrate our country’s 250th. On Sept. 1 a semi is coming to the Metro area – Food Bank of the Heartland. Volunteers will unload and organize the pantry.

Just Serve is promoting HeartlandHonors 911.com, an organization founded to honor first responders. It is an effort in recognition of the 25th anniversary of 911 to unite Omaha and nine Iowa counties to choose a charity meaningful to individuals to serve between 9/1 and 9/11. Pat said, “Imagine if everyone did that!” Garden signs will be available next week to put in your home and business lawn. She said, “No act is too small!”

Next week’s speaker:
Speaker to be announced

Positive Quote:
“If cauliflower can become pizza crust, you can do anything!” Anonymous

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Fifteen members were present. Guests were Pat Thomas and Leah Wilwerdering.

Prayer: Glenrose Meier

Joks: Keith Denton

50/50: Kevin Underwood

Attendance: Chad Guttau

Birthdays/Anniversaries:
Judy Guttau will bring breakfast next week for her birthday.

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

- Judy Guttau: She and Mick had a great trip to Louisville, KY for his Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Reunion.
- Kirk Vorthmann: He found out their Niagra Falls trip brings more people there than visit both Disneyland and DisneyWorld in a year.
- Keith Denton: He shared that he reads Epic Times and told about Venzuela and the effects of communism. The US will watch over for a free election.

Business:

- Can Kennel to help VolleyBall will be Monday from 2:30-3:30. Community workers are invited also.
- The Optimist Club received $996.95 for their month to help with youth activities. The Boy Scouts will receive $1357.50 for their month.
- John Klein stated that if 5" cans were lined up end to end, our Can Kennel would now reach Chicago from Omaha. 32 cans make one lb. of aluminum. Therefore, the Optimists would have dealt with 33 tons of aluminum cans over the years.
- The Optimist Club of Underwood is inviting us to their 43rd annual Installation & Awards Banquet on Sunday, Oct. 11 at Twisted Tail in Beebeetown with a social at 5 and meal at 5:30. RSVP Oct. 1.
- John Klein stated he had a grant idea about us helping other communities starting a Can Kennel, but the idea wasn't accepted by the funding source.
- Bret McVey gave a brief update on things happening at "The T:– playground equipment is being installed.The Legion has purchased the flag pole, and a location has been determined.

Community:

- The GreenSpace Jam country concert by Western Sky held in Treynor was reported as enjoyable and well attended.

Community Events:

- **Tues. Aug. 18**: Treynor Farmers Market 5:30-7:30 PM Last of the season. There will be one later in September. Food Trucks: Tastee Treet, Smokin' Good Times, Twisted Hitch plus Legion Beer Garden;
- **Fri. Aug. 22:** End of Summer Bash in the green space by Treynor Community Center 4-7 PM See attached flyer.
- **Aug. 13-23: I**owa State Fair continues

School Events:

- **Fri., Aug. 21:** Varsity Football Earlham vs Treynor @ Treynor
- **Fri., Aug. 24:** First day of school
- **Fri., Oct. 9:** Homecoming

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

"Everybody wants to change the world, but nobody wants to change the toilet paper!"

CALENDAR

Events:

Aug 17	Can Kennel sorting 2:30-3:30
Aug 22	Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM Treynor Community Center

Birthdays:

Aug 23	Judy Guttau

Anniversaries:

Programs:

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

Speakers:

Aug 22	TBA
Aug 29	TBA
Sept 5	TBA
Sept 15	Vicki Dowling, Treynor History

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