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,,The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Joleen Jorgensen

Lt Governor: George Volz

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Kirk Vorthmann

Oct. 3, 2026 Vol. 42, No.39

Getting to Know Ken Graham



Fellow Optimist Ken Graham shared his story with the club, taking us from computers and camping to family history, football, and even an unusual “electric scooter!”

Ken has always enjoyed computers and figuring out how things work. He and his grandson, Kedryn, once built a cryptocurrency mining computer using YouTube videos for guidance. They mined Ethereum until it was no longer profitable. More recently, Ken began using Salad AI, essentially renting out his computer’s processing power. Always one to watch the numbers, Ken uses a Govee smart plug to monitor how much electricity his computer consumes and compare the cost with what he earns.

Ken also showed us his EcoFlow portable power station, which can provide backup electricity during a power outage or while camping. It can be charged from an electrical outlet or with solar power. Ken has used it to run two computers for five hours and a large-screen smart TV for four hours. It can also help his son, Kory, continue working from his home office during a power outage.

Camping has been a favorite Graham family activity for many years. They have owned their pop-up camper for 18 years and usually spend a week or two each year vacationing in nearby states. One memorable adventure took them to Disney World. After Ken added up the expenses, he discovered that half the cost of the entire trip was Disney tickets. Still, he says they had a great time seeing all the sights!

Ken grew up on his grandfather’s farm near Persia. His grandparents, Charles and Elizabeth Kemmish, came from England in 1853. Ken’s dad farmed that land and bought 120 acres during WWII. Ken attended school in Persia and Neola before graduating from the new Tri-Center High School in 1964. He especially enjoyed math and football and even brought along an old program from a Tri-Center versus Treynor football game.

One of the most entertaining photos Ken shared was of his mother at age 10 riding her 1930 version of an “electric scooter,” which was actually a goat pulling a cart! She was a farm girl, who later became a country school teacher before marrying Ken’s father.

After high school, Ken began working at Mutual of Omaha while continuing his education. With the military draft approaching, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and trained at Camp Lejeune, where he learned a great deal about electricity. He also attended Graceland College and eventually Iowa State University, where he studied computer science. He would work to pay for his education over a period of years. That education led him back to Mutual of Omaha, beginning a career in computer programming and coding systems that lasted 40 years.

Ken met Linda through mutual friends, and the two married in 1971. And if all of that isn't interesting enough, Ken has also sold more than 2,000 items on eBay, including a pair of cowboy boots from a brand Britney Spears was known to wear. They sold for $380!

Thank you, Ken, for giving us an interesting glimpse into your life, family, career, and adventures!



Computer put together by Ken and his grandson, Kedryn.

On the right is the Eco Flow Power Source.

Next week's speaker:
Steve Chambers, Personal Story

Positive Quote:
"Forget about what you might have lost but instead focus on what you have room to gain." Lindsey Rietzsch

Meeting Minutes

President Kirk Vorthmann called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Fifteen members were present. Guest: Itzel Wilwerding (Leah's young daughter)

Prayer: Dennis White

Jokes: Keith Denton, Kevin Underwood

50/50: Dale Willenborg

Attendance: Dianne Willenborg, but was not present

Football Contest: Judy Guttau

Thanks to Kevin Underwood for coordinating this.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: In two weeks on Oct. 17 Marsha Underwood will provide breakfast for her birthday.

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

- Dale Willenborg: He attended a two week class at IWCC and received 5 certificates in various things such as HVAC and Plumbing. He said he gained 4 lbs in those 2 weeks.
- Dale Willenborg: He has received 11 inches of rain over the last 30 days.
- Gary Guttau: He went to a doctor on 175th street in Omaha and drove home from 180th to 72nd on Pacific St., stating how much growth has taken place there since he did drilling north of Boys Town in 1992.
- Jim Clausen: He bragged on the Girls Volleyball team having a Pink Out.
- Gary Guttau: He enjoyed seeing the Jerry Hempel family with lots of grandkids at the Volley Ball game this week in Treynor.

Business:

- The Can Kennel sorting for St. Paul Youth will take place Sat., Oct.10 starting at 8 AM. They most likely will be done by the time our meeting is over. Denise Wilson will work on getting more boxes too.
- Today we will put up flags after the meeting.
- Next Sat. Oct. 10 after the meeting flags will be taken down except for those along Hwy 92. Those will stay up for the "Treynor Through the Years" Celebration on Sun., Oct. 18.
- We look forward to having our final scholarship winner Kiera Vorthmann get her Optimist scholarship soon.
- Kirk Vorthmann and family are working on the Homecoming float for the Optimist Club. The theme is storybooks. Our theme will be the Little Train that said "I Can", "I Can", I Can".
- The Optimist meeting next week will be at St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- Dale Willenborg said it would be good to have a board meeting in the middle of November as he's received two applications for the Can Kennel for next year. He will send applications to other organizations.

Community:

Community Events:

- **Fri. Oct. 9: Zion Lunch** from 11AM – 1 PM at Zion parking lot.
- **Fri. Oct. 9: Cardinal Combine after the parade.** 3:00 – 4:30 PM. The Optimists sponsor this event. Jordan Campbell leads it and parents help.
- **Fri. Oct. 9: Treynor City-Wide Cleanup**
- **Fri. Oct. 9: St. Paul Pre-school Tailgate** (**A fundraiser**) 5:15 PM – 6:45 PM before Red Oak football game. BBQ Pulled pork and hot dogs will be served.
- **Sun. Oct 18**: 2- 4 PM, **"Treynor Thru the Years" Celebration** at Treynor Community Center. Historic Mural dedicated with ribbon cutting, presentation of the $6120 grant from AARP, 5 min. history of the items on the Mural, Treynor Tomorrows update, Free Root Beer Floats, and an hour of fun Bingo. Hope you can come!
- **Sun. Oct. 25**: 1-3 PM, **Treynor Spooktacular**, Treynor Community Center, Games, prizes, treats, free Halloweenies, costume contest.

School Events in Treynor:

- **Mon. Oct. 5:** JV Boys FB vs AHSTW
- **Tues. Oct. 6:** 7/8th, JV, JV Res. V FB vs Riverside
- **Wed. Oct. 7:** School out at 2 PM.
- **Thurs**. **Oct. 8:** 7/8, JV, JV Res, V VB vs. Logan Magnolia
- **Fri., Oct. 9:** Homecoming vs Red Oak
- **Sat., Oct. 10:** Loess Hills Marching Band Festival @ Glenwood

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR



OPTIMIST CALENDAR

Events:

Oct. 10	Meeting 8-9 AM, St Paul Lutheran Church

Birthdays:

Oct. 17	Marsha Underwood
Oct. 29	Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries:

Oct 13	Dale and Dianne Willenborg
Oct. 17	Dennis and Kay White

Programs:

October	Judy Guttau
November	Jerry Hempel (1st, 2nd Sat)
	Josh Guttau (3rd, 4th Sat)
December	Mick & Judy Guttau

Speakers:

October	A series of talks this month by members to get to know them better:
Oct. 10	Steve Chambers, personal story
Oct. 17	Dennis White, personal story
Oct. 24	John Klein, personal story
Oct. 31	Judy Guttau, personal story
Nov. 7	Chaley Hampel, Cross County Coach
Nov. 14	Jeff Casey, Football Coach
Nov. 21	Ashleigh Croushorn, Chief Technology Officer, TS Bank – topic: learn about AI
Nov. 28	Joel Beyenhof, Treynor Superintendent, (school related topic)

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

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