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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. 10, 2026 Vol. 42, No.40

Getting to Know Steve Chambers



Steve Chambers shared memories of a life deeply rooted in agriculture, family, and community. Farming was not just an occupation in the Chambers family. It was a way of life that shaped generations.

Steve’s father, Warren Chambers, spent his entire life on three different farms along Highway 6. Warren loved farming, and that passion influenced Steve and his two brothers, who also chose to remain near Highway 6. Farming was a family tradition.

Steve recalled growing up in a wonderful environment with cousins, neighbors, and friends nearby. Families worked together, sharing the labor of making hay and putting up straw. As a youngster, Steve enjoyed feeding cattle and chickens, was less enthusiastic about hog chores. His father began as a tenant farmer before purchasing land in the 1970s.

Steve’s mother, Geraldine “Geri” Juleen, was an only child who grew up on a farm near Essex. During World War II, she came to the area to help with labor needs and later attended college in Maryville, Missouri, to become a teacher. She married Warren in 1944 and quickly became part of the close-knit neighborhood. Geri first taught in a country school near where Freddie Sudman lived, giving her children opportunities to meet families from across the area. The Chambers family also enjoyed church activities at Mt. Hope Church. At some point Steve made a decision that Christianity was to be a part of his journey in life. Winter evenings on the farm were spent with friends in a neighborhood card club.

Steve shared in the early years that they as a family with three sons were selected to be the TV Farming Family of the Week on Channel 6 with Arnold Peterson in 1952. Steve and his brothers were young and not too excited to sit and smile!

Born in 1947, Steve joked that the biggest present his father gave his mother on her birthday was “Steven Juleen Chambers,” who shared both her name and birthday. Humor remained a constant theme throughout his presentation. He recalled his mother insisting on afternoon naps when he was young and describing his objections as “resisting arrest.” Another story involved walking beans when he accidentally turned his bean hook the wrong way and cut his leg badly. After a quick bandage made from a sock, he went right back to work. His mother later quipped that Steve was “a cut above the rest.”

Steve remembers driving down Broadway with a load of cattle to show at Playland Park for 4-H. In addition, a special memory was being a state champion hurdler. Steve credits his mother teacher and longtime girlfriend, Jeannie Schnepel, for also helping him stay focused on academics.

Steve and Jeannie attended a drive-in theater on their first date, remained together through college, and married in 1969. They later had four sons and now many grandchildren.

After attending the University of South Dakota on a scholarship, Steve earned a degree in business education, taught typing, accounting, and some of the earliest computer classes. He served 23 years in the National Guard, and built a successful career in education, coaching, and later insurance.

Although retired, Steve still assists with coaching and continues to encourage young athletes with the same warmth, wisdom, and humor that have characterized his life.

Steve’s story was a reminder of the lasting influence of family, faith, community, and the values learned on the farm.

Next week's speaker:
Dennis White, Personal Story

Positive Quote:
"Always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals."

Michelle Obama

Meeting Minutes

President Kirk Vorthmann called the meeting to order at St Paul Lutheran Church. Sixteen members were present.

Prayer: Bill Vorthmann

Jokes: Phil Waggoner, Steve Chambers

50/50: Steve Chambers

Attendance: Chad Guttau

Football Contest: Kevin Underwood

Thanks to Kevin Underwood for coordinating this.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: On Oct. 17 Marsha Underwood will provide breakfast for her birthday.

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

- Judy Guttau: She and Mick are headed to K State football game today to watch their granddaughter in the band.
- Dick Fox: Daughter Amy arranged for a family trip to Park Rapids, MN staying in a cabin owned by an aunt and uncle. There were seven people and a dog and it was cold and wet.
- Dick Fox: He's trimmed some of his tomato plants, but has 10-14 and one plant has 40 tomatoes on it – Big Boy.
- Kirk Vorthmann: He got his grandpa's old John Deere 60 running correctly and used it in the parade. He shared that when two grandkids were age 3-4, he thought they could ride with him on his lap on that tractor in the parade. They both fell asleep and he had quite a time turning from the old bank onto Hwy 92!
- Gary Guttau: The first Homecoming was in 1953. He was a junior and the class built a junior float and a commercial class float. Ms. Etta Neunaber was the teacher to promote having Homecoming floats.
- Gary Guttau: When Chad worked on Sept. 17 at HyVee, the Stewart girls were there celebrating what would be their dad, Gene Stewart's 100th birthday. He came to Treynor in 1953.
- Bill Vorthmann: His grandson Eli was student of the month last week. And grandson Brock's teacher sent an email to his parents that was very complimentary.
- Dale Willenborg: His mom's birthday is Tuesday and she will be 96.
- Gary Guttau: Daughter Lyse is home for her 40th class reunion – Class of '86.

Business:

- The Can Kennel sorting for St. Paul Youth started today at 8 AM. John Klein picked up 5 cases of clear 55 gallon barrel bags from Home Depot (donation) so there are a total of 8 cases in stock. He also brought home a mess of bottle boxes.
- Today 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.
- Thanks to Kirk Vorthmann and family for working on the Homecoming float for the Optimist Club. Our theme was the Little Train that said "I Can", "I Can", I Can".
- The Cardinal Combine was after the Homecoming parade, led by Jordan Campbell. John Klein assisted as well as a number of parents.
- Flags will be put out along the highway for Veteran's Day in November. More will be determined later.
- The Program List was circulated for members to pick months/weeks for seeking speakers.

Community:

- John Klein announced the block party on Terrel St. was to be tomorrow, Sun., Oct. 11. Zion Congregational Church makes it easy providing door hangers, hot dogs, buns, etc. and everyone brings a pot luck dish. Games are played as well.

- Gary Guttau said he continues to look for volunteers to assist with a Treynor History Museum. Gene Seran indicated the old bank and locker are for sale.
- Judy Guttau talked more about the "Treynor Through the Years Celebration" on Sunday, Oct. 18. We are looking forward to having a good crowd and we hope lots will come for the whole thing, but coming for part of the afternoon is okay too!

Community Events:

- **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 + Big Events

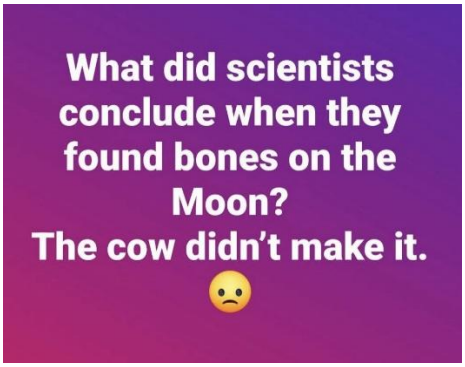
- **Mon. Oct. 12 – Thurs. Oct. 15 :** Varsity WIC Volleyball Tournament – To Be Announced
- **Wed. Oct. 13:** School out at 2 PM.
- **Sat., Oct. 17:** State Marching Band Contest at Lewis Central.

AUCTION:

Tomaotes were donated by Dick Fox and bought by Chad Guttau and Phil Waggoner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR



OPTIMIST CALENDAR

Events:

Oct. 17	Meeting 8-9 AM, Treynor Community Center

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. 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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