

WAVERTY EXCHANGE CLUB

Waverly, Iowa

DATE: Thursday, April 15, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Arns, Irv Bettenga, Jim Brandau, Dennis Button, Bill Carpenter, Clarence Diekman, Gary Duneman, Steve Egli, Kevin Fiene, Dewey Hildebrandt, Jim Hurley, Al Janssen, Len Jentz, John Johnston, Brad Knudson, Ron Leibold, Louis MacDougall, Jim Maixner, Dan McKenzie, Jeff Meyers, Dick Miller, Linda Miller, Dennis Peterka, Mike Siberski, Stu Thorson, Jerry Vallem, Jere Vyverberg, Kasey Wadding, Bill Westendorf, Clark Wilharm, Steve Willemsen, Gary Williams, Rick Willis

GUESTS PRESENT: Karmen Mehmen (speaker)

MEETING RECAP:

- President Duneman called the meeting to order with prayer (Janssen) and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Information/Updates:
 - Sign-up sheets were passed around for:
 - Softball field maintenance on Saturday, April 17 @ 9:00 a.m. (Arns, Johnston, MacDougall, Meyers, Vallem, Westendorf, Williams) ... **All are welcomed and encouraged to participate!**
 - Baked goods for the Family Fun Fair on Saturday, April 17 ... Carpenter and Jentz
 - Golf Tournament
 - Currently have 57 hole sponsors ... still short of last year's total and goal for this year ... Keep going everyone!!!
 - Call the pro shop if interested in playing in the tournament
 - Sign-up sheets to work will be presented next week
 - Report on the Pizza Ranch fundraiser
 - Len Jentz reported a profit of approximately \$200 for everyone's efforts!!!!
 - Thanks to all for participating!
 - Family Fun Fair is scheduled on Saturday, April 17, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at W-SR High School
 - Friday, April 16 @ 4:00 p.m. – Meet at the Wartburg maintenance shed to haul tables to the high school (Cashman, Duneman, Egli, MacDougall, Miller, Vallem, Williams, Wuertz)
 - Saturday, April 17 @ 1:00 p.m. – Meet at the high school to return tables to Wartburg (Duneman, MacDougall, Meyers, Vallem, Williams, Wuertz)
 - Jim Brandau has agreed to serve as secretary for next year!!! ☺
 - Best wishes to Bill Westendorf as he has a heart procedure next week.
- Al Janssen (also known as Curley) introduced today's speaker Karmen Mehmen. Karmen and her husband Stanley farm approximately 10,000 acres in the Plainfield area. Highlights of her presentation, entitled *Size Really Does Matter*, included:
 - "Change is inevitable; normal doesn't live here anymore"
 - Started as dairy farmers but moved into a large livestock operation
 - Added hogs and calving to the operation reasonably early on
 - Kept adding land through the years ... their operation has evolved from a 160 acre dairy farm
 - Demand for lean pork led to raising hogs indoors in order to control the amount of fat
 - Their hog operation is primarily to provide good fertilizer for their grain operation
 - Moving to strip till farming (tills, fertilizes, and plants specific areas instead of the whole field)
 - Role of technology has radically changed the farming operation
 - Round-up ready bean and corn seeds has had a huge impact on farming
 - 1-2% of the nation's population is involved in production agriculture
 - Small farms are defined as those that produce less than \$250,000 of product ... 92% of all farms in the nation ... approximately 10% profit margin so this classification has off-farm income. Many of these operations are family farms and are disappearing rapidly across the country.

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- Medium farms are defined as those that produce between \$250,000 - \$500,000 of product ... attempts to only farm, e.g., no off-farm income. This group is shrinking in size.
- Large farms are defined as those that produce over \$500,000 of product.
- Farming more land is about the only way to increase revenue
- Their current operation includes seed sales, trucking, and custom farming work
- They really do have a family operation, e.g., husband, wife, son, daughter-in-law, and remote assistance from two other daughters

What an interesting program! Thanks ... Curly ...

UPCOMING SPEAKER SCHEDULE AND EVENTS:

- Friday, April 16 -- Move tables from Wartburg to W-SR HS (4:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, April 17 -- BCCP Family Fun Day from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (return tables at 1:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, April 22 -- Len Jentz program
- Thursday, April 29 -- John Johnston program / Student of the Month
- Saturday, May 1 -- Tee Off Against Child Abuse Golf Tournament
- Tuesday, May 4 -- Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:00 a.m. (Grace Baptist Church)
- Thursday, May 6 -- Business Meeting and Meet the Members
- Thursday, May 13 -- Peace Officer of the Year presentation (meet at Law Enforcement Center)
- Thursday, May 20 -- Brad Knudson program / W-SR A.C.E. Award / Bremwood Student of the Year Award
- Thursday, May 27 -- Brian Larson program / W-SR Student of the Year
- Monday, May 31 -- Memorial Day parade
- Thursday, June 3 -- Proudly We Hail presentation
- Tuesday, June 8 -- Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:00 a.m. (Grace Baptist Church)
- Thursday, June 10 -- Business Meeting
- Thursday, June 17 -- Jim Lee program
- Thursday, June 24 -- Ron Leibold program

Responsibility for inviting guests/prospective members:

- April – Larson, Williams, Willis, Winter
- May – DeBoer, Hurley, Janssen, Willemsen

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fiene

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