



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec 2023 News



<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



Sauk Trails President's Message October 12, 2023

As we start this new Optimist year and the trees change colors to enhance their beauty, we look forward to enhancing our relationships with each other and with the students and non-profits that we wish to support with our time and donations.

We will consider more time spent working together in service to our community. Opportunities exist to serve meals to those in need (Triangle Ministry), Food Pantry, Habitat Restore, among other things. We will continue with fundraising at Culvers, working at Mustard Days, giving gifts to kids at the Lussier Center, honoring police officers at our Respect for Law Luncheon, giving scholarships and grants.

We look forward to renewed energy and dedication to the purpose of our Sauk Trails Optimist Club. We will serve others to improve the lives of students and those in the community.

Promise Yourself

Your 2023-2024 Club President, Kathie Newman



ENJOY a BEAUTIFUL FALL as Winter Approaches

Sauk Trails Immediate Past President John Fons Message: September 30, 2023:

It's been quite a year. My 1984 motor home broke down. My 1985 pickup broke down. My 2000 sedan broke down. All within the number of weeks you could count on two hands. Thousands in towing and repairs.

A death in the family and the ensuing chaos of possessions wanted or unwanted and the emotions wanted or unwanted of what might or should or never should have been.

A mistake in the laundry room that ran my wallet and cell phone through the wash. A new cell phone made for an idiot it takes a genius to understand. All my phone contacts, the cherished accumulation of years, lost including yours if you're reading this litany.

A molar extraction and dental implant interrupted for major surgery and that surgery albeit successful with its six-inch scar on my replaced left shoulder to hopefully prove I'm harmless to the next security guard who motions me through a magnetometer.

Let's not forget the daily news, although we're well advised to try.

The thrill of sleeping upright for weeks until the sling comes off. And that special feeling you get as you occupy the passenger's seat until the doctor says you can drive yet you darn well know even with a gimpy arm you wouldn't accelerate that fast, stop that short or follow that close.

Oh yes. It's been quite a year and now my term as President of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club, in 22-23 comes to a close. I'm grateful.

Don't get me wrong. If we're looking back as I have done for the last few moments, I'm not talking about the stuff and nonsense. I'm not particularly grateful for any of the problems, difficulties or disagreements, although important lessons have been learned. I'm talking about the heartwarming and inspirational opportunities I enjoyed and cherish as an Optimist and the future which remains pristine and unaffected.

I'm talking about the Romance of Optimism. That's right. I'm talking about what can be, what could be, what should be and what any of us can actually make happen if we stash our fears, our preconceived notions, a bit of our pride and get going. The future is ours if only we have the courage to make it and take it.

I'm in physical therapy right now and I don't resonate to the helplessness I experience as my arm dangles to my side. I don't have the strength to pick up a hammer or a shovel or so much as a broom. I'm ordered not to, but I sure will. In my preferred way of saying things, I sure as hell will. As sure as we all experience hell in this life one way or another what is far, far more important and powerful is our power to overcome it.

I've been President of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club for a total of two years and Governor of the SWIS District, all in the last five years. It's been fun.

Thing is I've just had about all the fun I can manage for the time being. Other hands, other arms now need to do lifting. Best of luck. Don't drop anything and don't be afraid to wear yourselves out. They do wonderful things these days with chrome steel and stainless screws and nobody messed with my good right arm or the hand God gave me at the end of it. That's how I'm typing this message of appreciation. **That's how I'm saying Thank You to each and every one.**

John Fons, Immediate Past President, Sauk Trails Optimist Club 22-23

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2023/2024

President: Kathie Newman

Vice President: Steve Bailey

Secretary: Bonnie Spindler

Treasurer: Jeff Kuchenbecker
Rick Thomas (on-site)

Past President: John Fons

Board of Directors

Trish Lucas 23-25
Patti Levenson 23-25
Frank Rath 23-25
Rick Conne 23-25
Jane Meyer 23-25
Mary Wykle 22-24

October Birthdays

Rick Thomas 21
Ted See 28

December Birthdays

Barb Sheran-Hill 20
Barry Levenson 30



Sauk Trails Board Meeting

--Tues, Oct. 17, 2023, 5:00

Newsletter Editor:

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

blspindler@charter.net

SWIS 1st Quarter Convention

Deforest, WI

Fri/Sat, October 6-7

Conference Saturday,

9:00am-3pm

ADDITIONAL FUND RAISING OPTIONS

Let's do some fundraising so that we can give more scholarships!

PLEASE take a look at the schedule and see if there are any events that you want to participate in to have fun while fundraising! There are soccer games and concerts at Breese Stevens Field. It would be a good time to socialize and fundraise for the club! (Food and Beer/Wine Concessions)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dada72aa5fac34-2023#/>

Kathie Newman, Lt. Governor Zone 6



ENJOY FALL PUMPKINS

SCHEDULE of MEETINGS, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES	
Wednesday, August 30, 2023	VINTAGE SPEAKER: Pat Zeitlow Miller , children's book author. Her first book, "Sophie's Squash," is one of Paul Johnson's favorites. Pat is a true optimist. Her extraordinary persistence and determination got her past numerous early rejections and she is now able to pursue her dream of writing children's books full time.
Wednesday, September 6, 2023	Vintage Speaker: Optimist, Mary Schwartz sharing about her trips in Sand Dunes of Western United States.
Wednesday September 13, 2023	Vintage Speaker: Ben Stanger , founder and CEO of Green Box Compost, a service that picks up residential food waste, composts it, and returns compost to subscribers.
Tuesday, September 19, 2023	ZOOM BOARD Meeting, 5:00 PM.
Wednesday September 20, 2023	Vintage Speaker: Charles Payne , a Madison transplant, accredited teacher and self-described social artist. I read an essay of his a few months back in Isthmus about the power of one and how a teacher's kindness transformed his life, Awards were also given to Bonnie Spindler, for the SWIS Henry Stiner Award.
Sunday, September 24, 2023	SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB BANQUET Get Together at Mary Schwartz's Home in Darlington,
Wednesday September 27, 2023	NO LUNCH MEETING.
Wednesday, October 4, 2023	CANCELLED by VINTAGE.
Saturday, October 7, 2023	SWIS 1st Quarter Conference, 23-24 Year, Sun Prairie
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023	Vintage Speaker: Zin Kyaw , founder and executive director of The Plate Initiative, a culinary education program.
Tuesday, Oct, 17, 2023	ZOOM BOARD Meeting, 5:00 PM.
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023	Vintage Speakers: Kathie Newman and Bonnie Spindler , sharing about their recent trip to Italy.
Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023	Vintage Speaker: Robert Enright , the forgiveness professor. He is an educational psychology professor at UW-Madison and is known as a pioneer of the scientific study of forgiveness.
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023	Vintage Speaker: Clean Lakes Alliance - someone from the Alliance will be able to address our club..
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023	Speaker tba
Monday, Nov. 13, 2023	ZOOM BOARD Meeting, 5:00 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023	EARLY EVENING Get-together Being Planned
Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023	CANCELLED, Enjoy Thanksgiving Days

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023	Vintage: Fran Puleo Moyer , who graciously agreed to reschedule from Oct. 4. She is associate director of outreach programs at UW-Madison. She will discuss three programs that bring the Wisconsin Idea to the state: Badger Talks, Bucky's Classroom and Badger Ambassadors.
Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Speaker TBA
Tuesday, December 12, 2023	ZOOM BOARD Meeting, 5:00 PM
Wednesday, December 13, 2023	VINTAGE: Plans to Wrap Xmas presents for Friday, December 15 th Lussier Community Party.
Friday, December 15, 2023	LUSSIER CENTER XMAS Party, Info TBA
Wednesday, December 20, 2023	VINTAGE LUNCH: Ornament Exchange.

August 30, 2023

VINTAGE SPEAKER: Pat Zeitlow Miller, children's book author. Her first book, "Sophie's Squash," is one of Paul Johnson's favorites. Pat is a true optimist. Her extraordinary persistence and determination got her past numerous early rejections and she is now able to pursue her dream of writing children's books full time.



September 6, 2023

Vintage Speaker: Mary Schwartz shared about her trip out west to the White Sands in Colorado.



September 13, 2023

Vintage Speaker: Ben Stanger, founder and CEO of Green Box Compost, a service that picks up residential food waste, composts it, and returns compost to subscribers.



September 20, 2023

Vintage Speaker: Charles Payne, a Madison transplant, accredited teacher and self-described social artist. I read an essay of his a few months back in Isthmus about the power of one and how a teacher's kindness transformed his life. Presentation for SWIS Henry Stiner Award given to Bonnie Spindler.



September 20, 2023

Installation of Michele Nicholson. Sponsored by Kathie Newman and Installed by President John Fons. SWIS Governor 22-23 Jo'El Pearlman also joined us at lunch.



September 24, 2023

Installation Banquet at Mary Schwartz's house in Darlington. Jo'el Pearlman, Governor 22-23 presided.



October 11, 2023

Our speaker was Zin Kyaw, founder and executive director of The Plate Initiative, a culinary education program designed to help disadvantaged youth develop life skills and access to career opportunities.



October 18, 2023

Our Speaker was our new Club President, Kathie Newman who shared about a recent trip to Italy. A very informative picture presentation included maps of destinations and accompanying pictures of scenery in those areas. Bonnie Spindler, who also went on the trip, contributed some general information. Great presentation of sharing.





SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 5 pm
Via Zoom

Agenda

1. Welcome 5:04 p.m. by John.

Attending Bonnie, Mary W, Ted S, Kathy J, Jane M, Steve B. Not attending Rick Thomas, Mark Kraemer.

2. August Board Minutes Kathy motioned to approve. Second by Ted. Passed Unanimously

3. Financial Report ending 8/31/23.

1. Interim Treasurer Rick Thomas advised by email that we have a cash balance of \$3213.79 in the operating account. OI invoices are coming up.
2. We have an application from Michele Nicholson from the Vintage which we need to approve.
3. There is an invoice from Isadex (website) which we should approve for \$359.88.
4. We should determine if we want to make a donation to the OI Foundation? We have often made \$500 donations at this time of year. We have \$1979.57 in the Foundation checking account so we can choose to donate \$500 or more depending on what the board decides to do. Let me know what the decision is so I can write a check to OI.

4. Isadex Invoice: \$359.98 – Discussion & Motion to approve. Motioned by Ted and seconded by Mary. Passed unanimously.

5. Culver's Share Night – September 5 - \$568.72 per Delaney Falkner, Crew Chief re: email 09.06.

6. Silent Auction donors (partial list): Contours Lingerie; Burnie's Rock Shop; Monroe Street Framing; Calabash Gifts; Katy's American Indian Arts; SO Collection; Mad Cat; Mystery to Me, Frank Distributing, Adler's, Longhorn Restaurant, The Brow Boutique. John's sister donated 2 tickets to the Madison Symphony for Sept. 24, and he will auction them off at the meeting on 9/20/23.

7. New Member – Michele Nicholson – Application & Motion to Approve, Sponsored by Kathie Newman. Moved by Bailey and seconded by Jane.

8. Sauk Trails Officers & Board 2023-2024 – Roster & Election to be presented to the members 9/20/23.

1. Reference 09/11 email to board per Kathie Newman

23/24 Officers: Kathie Newman President
Steve Bailey Vice President
Bonnie Spindler, Secretary
Treasurer, Jeff Kuchenbecker

Board Members: Rick Conne, Mary Wykle, Trisha Lucas, Patti Levinson, Jane Meyer, Frank Rath (completing Steve Bailey's Board term as he serves as Vice President).

9. Henry Stiner Award Presentation – to be presented to Bonnie Spindler at the September 20 meeting.

10. **Annual Banquet – Installation of Officers – Schwartz Residence, Darlington, WI 9/24/23**
11. **Donation to OI:** Motioned by Bailey, seconded by Ted to donate \$500. Passed unanimously.
12. **OI Banner Patch in honor of deceased member, Mary Poole.** John is ordering.
13. **Closing the meeting, John thanked the Board for its support this past year.** Kathy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mary. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 Next Board meeting Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 5 p.m

Submitted by Secretary: Kathy Johnson



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

**Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 5 pm
Via Zoom**

1. **Welcome** by Kathie Newman, Club President 23-24, at 5:00 PM..
Attending Bonnie S, Steve B, Jane M, John F, Jeff K, Patti L, Trisha L, Mary W, Frank R.
2. **September Board Meeting Approval:** –Motion by Steve B to approve the minutes and seconded by Patti L. Passed by those present.
3. **Financial Report:** Jeff K shared about the Park Bank Account. Operating Account has \$2,686 . Another account has \$3,299 and OI Foundation balance is \$12,458, some of which is in a Money Market fund. More discussion on the balances after approval of the financial report by Trisha L and a second by Mary W, which was passed by those present. (There was discussion about having an annual STOC Foundation Meeting, which will be scheduled soon).
4. **Change of Registered Agent with Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions for the club and foundation was proposed by Treasurer, Jeff K. A motion to approve was made by Patti L and seconded by Trisha L, which was passed by those present.**
5. **Thank you to Mary Schwartz for hosting the Annual Banquet on September 24, 2023. Also thanks to those who worked on obtaining and displaying auction items that day.**
6. **Culver's Share Night: Previous Share Night September 5, 2023 made \$568.72. Contact to request another time frame was not successful. President Kathie N is planning to follow-up with the Culver Contact for a future date to be scheduled.**
7. **Lussier Center Christmas Party, scheduled for Friday, December 15, 2023. There was discussion with Frank R and more is needed about the finances, presents, and distribution process.**

8. Continued Discussion of Lunch Meeting schedule for Next Year, starting in January 2024. **Also including a pre-scheduled evening Meeting would also be worked into schedule. More discussion in the future.**
9. **Chairs for Oratorical and Essay Contest. Rick Thomas and Rick Conne, will approach the JOI group at the High School. There is a need to make early contact to acquire participants.**
10. **Committees to champion serviced Opportunities. Suggestions: Triangle Ministry Meals, Habitat Restore, Food Pantry, and other ideas were discussed. Suggestion: Stay on the West Side of Madison for opportunities.**
11. **STOC Bylaws and Policies need to be reviewed every few years.** They were reviewed in 2020 and will be looked at by both Board members and non- Board members, who have significant knowledge, for any 'suggestions' for future Board discussion and Board decision.
12. **Adjourn meeting at 6 PM. Motion by Patti Levenson and seconded by Mary Wylie, motion approved.**

The Next Board Meeting is planned for the 2nd Monday of November the 13th at 5PM by Zoom.
Future Zoom meetings are planned for the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Respectfully submitted by: **Bonnie Spindler**, Secretary 23-24

The Optimist Creed

Promise yourself...

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

