



Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club
January / February 2023 News

<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



Sauk Trails Optimists:

We bought a clock.

We bought it at the last SWIS District Optimist Conference.

Well, we didn't actually buy it.

We won it in a raffle.

The clock doesn't work.

Someone donated the clock to be place in the raffle as a fundraising premium and it looked like a good clock. Wooden case, three winding ports, polished metal key, Westminster, St. Michael and Whittington chime settings and it doesn't work.

The clock ticked when we bought our raffle tickets. That's why we bought them. That's why we put all our tickets in the basket for the clock and we won the clock, but the clock doesn't work.

It runs for a while. Then it stops. You wind it. You take the back off. You give the flywheel a nudge. It runs a little more. Then it stops again and so after a while you begin to wonder.

"What am I going to do with a clock that looks fancy and doesn't run? Won't chime. Won't keep time? Won't do anything a clock is supposed to do but sit there looking like a clock?"

A couple ideas come to mind.

Target practice. Doorstop. Yard ornament. Bird feeder.

Or the inspiration for this question directed to Optimist members.

"Does your Optimism resemble a clock that doesn't work, a fancy clock with bells and whistles, elaboration and complications that just sits there?"

Does your Optimism work?

Or does it sit wound up tight and stuck stock still?

There's no chime. There's no movement. Time goes by, except you're not keeping it.

Your Optimism isn't running.

In the last few days and weeks:

Sauk Trails volunteers earned over \$522 for our Foundation by working for **Culvers' restaurant Share Night in January**. More Share Night dates are being sought this summer;

Sauk Trails directors have approved creation of a **Benevolence Fund** to answer sudden and compelling humanitarian and sympathetic needs;

The interest of Sauk Trails members is being sought to join Spartan Youth in working at Memorial High School on the afternoon of **May 18 for Spirit Day** to perform chores around campus;

A **JOI club in Algeria** is being contacted to initiate Zoom interaction with Spartan Youth members in cooperation with the Madison Optimist Club;

Sauk Trails essay contestant Jonathan Buscher will advance to District competition;

Spartan Youth Service members Lavenia Vulpal, Sydney Dai and Gersely Rios Carmona, participated **February 18** in a parallel JOI conference in Sun Prairie during the SWIS District Conference where they met with International JOI President Fatima Zaidi of Canada;

A delegation is being discussed involving **Sauk Trails Optimists to visit Waukesha** in response to the tragedy that befell that community in what has come to be called the 2021 Holiday Parade Massacre;

April 15 will realize performance of **Super Optimistic Sibs Day** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to benefit the brothers and sisters of children with developmental disabilities involving volunteers from Sauk Trails Optimists, Spartan Youth Service, Edgewood College and University of Wisconsin in a fully funded program for which funds outside Optimism have already been obtained and for which application has also been submitted for continuation of the program.

Now, if all that doesn't set your clock ticking and there's more if we had the time, if your chimes aren't ringing, if you're an Optimist who donates something you really don't want any more just to get it off your closet shelf and you know it doesn't work, but you don't think anyone will notice because after all it's only a good cause, think again.

The Sauk Trails Optimist Club and Spartan Youth Service are running right on time.

If you want to run with us it's time to start ticking.

John Fons, Sauk Trails Optimist Club President

**Induction of STOC Optimists, January 18th, 2023
STOC Lunch Meeting at Vintage**

Trisha Lucas and Mary Wykle were inducted into Sauk Trails Optimists Club.

We also talked about membership and visitors and threw in a few New Year's resolutions for fun, because some of us are still taking down Christmas decorations.

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2022/2023

President: John Fons

Vice President: Kathy Johnson

Secretary: Carole Klopp

Treasurer: Bob Wortinger

Past President: Rick Thomas

Board of Directors

Steve Bailey 20-23

Rick Conne 20-23

Jane Meyer 21-23

Ted See 20-23

Mark Kraemer 21-23

Mary Wykle 22-24

January Birthdays

Kathy Johnson 2

Frank Rath 2

February Birthdays

Diana Johnson 6

Bonnie Spindler 11

Jane Meyer 20

Trisha Lucas 23



Sign-up for obtaining future speakers or speaking yourself is being continued in 2023.

Newsletter Editor:

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

blspindler@charter.net

SWIS 3rd Quarter Conference

Kalahari

Wisconsin Dells

Fri/Sat, May 5-6, 2023

Conference Saturday,

9:00am-3pm

UPDATE on Spartan Youth JOI Group:

I had an excellent conversation with the Spartan Youth faculty advisor two different times. Wonderfully enough, she served as President of the Spartan Youth in 2006 and is now a teacher at Memorial High. She remembers exactly the golden days of Spartan participation with Sauk Trails and the District and we agree completely in an effort to re-awaken and rebuild the cooperation and involvement of the clubs together and Spartan Youth at the District level.

There will be more information coming in early 2023 about the relationship with the JOI organization.

John Fons, Club President

Sauk Trails Board Meeting

Tues, March 21st 5:00 PM

Each Board Member will be receiving a ZOOM Link for that meeting. Any STOC Optimist is welcome to attend. .

Optimist International Dues Increase:

Beginning January, 2023 Sauk Trails members will see a slight increase in their dues statement. It will cost you \$5 more per quarter to be an Optimist in 2023. That's 5 ½ cents more per day and that's a bargain. The dues increase comes as a result of decisions made in St. Louis at the Optimist International Headquarters and you'll see it reflected on your quarterly statement from our own Sauk Trails treasurer Bob Wortinger. Smile at Bob the next time you see him and tell him how much you appreciate his work. He's the messenger.

John Fons, President, Sauk Trails Optimists

SWIS 2nd Qtr Conference Feb. 18, 2023



Sauk Trails Optimists, who attended the SWIS Conference, John Fons, Steve Bailey, Kathie Newman, Bonnie Spindler joined with the Spartan Youth Service members Lavenia Vulpal, Sydney Dai and Gersely Rios Carmona (left earlier) who participated in the JOI Conference.



JOI Conference Attendees at SWIS 2nd Quarter Conference in Sun Prairie

JSS of Madison – Jewish Social Services

**Wednesday, February 1st, Noon lunch
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

We had a very enlightening Guest speaker Kai Yael Gardner Mishlove, Executive Director of Jewish Social Services of Madison. She shared about various programs for Senior and Family Support to help them navigate the complex web of social, emotional, medical and financial issues relating to aging. JSS Social workers assist people or families of all backgrounds (regardless of income) who are facing disability, illness, homelessness or other significant life challenges.

JSS has: Social and Recreational Activities; Lunchtime Plus for community members; Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services; & Jewish Spiritual Care.. JSS is a non-profit agency, that provides compassionate social services to help individuals and families residing in Dane County.

If interested, you can become a Volunteer by contributing your gifts, make new friends, and put your values to work at: jssmadison.org/volunteer. You can also become a supporter by donating at jssmadison.org or calling 608-442-4060.

THANKS to Rick Thomas, Patti Levenson and others who provided the great lunch.

SIBS Program, 4/15/23 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

SWIS Lt. Governor Zone 6, Kathie Newman shared with Jane Meyers, SIBS Coordinator / Chair about Optimist International Grants that are available.

The applications are at OIFoundation.org under Community Impact. This SIBS event would be good for a Childhood Health and Wellness Grant for New or Ongoing Projects.

Kathie asked Jill Fix, OI Grant Coordinator, if a grant for the STOC Sibs program would be approved for a *Childhood Health and Wellness Grant* which is for new or ongoing projects

She thought it would be approved, especially if our members are actively involved and also provide money for it. Since our event is coming up on **4/15/23**, she thought we could tweek it by adding donations from businesses or also including something for the child suffering from a debilitating illness.

(Application dates when OI needs to have a completed application in their hands are Jan 27, April 28, August 25. Jill said it is 30 days to approval.)

Our Christmas program could be approved for a **CLUB Grant**.

Jane Meyer, as the SIBS Coordinator/Chair will be filling out that grant application.

More information on the SIBS program planned for April 15, 2023 will be in the next newsletter.

March 8, 2023 Speaker:

He is Marvin Moore of Metcalfe's Hilldale, hardworking cashier and floor manager whom everyone in the Sauk Trails Club who ever shops at Metcalfe's has met and enjoyed seeing.

Marvin will speak to us about the world from the other side of the check out counter, the challenges and satisfactions of being in service to the public of working two and three jobs to support his family and riding the bus to work.

Marvin is the man I call The Hardest Working Man In Show Business.

March 22 or March 29th Students Share

Either Oratorical and/or Essay contestants are invited to present their speech or read their Essay. The District winners will present at the May 5th SWIS Conference and received their scholarships.

Special Track Olympics, May 6, 2023

The annual Special Olympics Track Meet will be held at the Oregon track again on May 6th. There is a need to have volunteers help with coordinating and helping that day for this continuing event. Please contact Club President John if you're interested in helping with this very special project for these special youths.

Spirit Day, May 18, 2023

On Thursday, May 18, members of Spartan Youth Service will participate in **Spirit Day** which takes them out into the community to interact with students at eight local elementary schools.

After their off campus visits, the Spartan Youth return to Memorial High School to continue their Spirit Day activities. Members of Sauk Trails are being asked if they would be interested in participating with Spartan Youth on the Memorial campus as Spartan Youth advisor Annie Wilcox makes preparations.

Here is what Annie has to say:

"If there are Optimists interested, we would love to have them come to school and participate in the service activities with the students. These activities include trash clean-up, organizing book rooms, etc. They would work alongside a group of students."

The time element on May 18 would be 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Please let John Fonz, Club President know if you would be interested in Spirit Day activities with Spartan Youth members on May 18. Further announcements will be made accordingly.

Bratfest, May 26 – 29, 2023

Another successful volunteer/fundraising opportunity for Sauk Trails is coming in May. **Diane Hoebel** will be organizing this event for us again this year. More information coming by e-mail and in future newsletters.

CULVER's Fundraiser Update

Change of format at Culver's. We no longer run meals. Merely wipe tables clean and keep the dining area tidy, visiting with guests as we do so. Thanks to the following Optimists who volunteered on Tuesday, January 31st at Culver's:

4-6pm: , Kathie Newman, Mary Wykle, John Fons, Barb Sheerhan-Hill, Liv Sandberg

6-8pm: Patti Levenson, John Fons, Jane Meyer, Steve Bailey, Bob Wortinger

Culver's donates a percentage of their receipts that night to our ,charitable Sauk Trails Foundation.

Future dates for Culver's volunteering will be June 20th or 27th .

National Mustard Day - August 5

Please mark your calendars for National Mustard Day on Saturday, August 5 in Middleton. In recent years this has turned into a fun fundraiser for STOC with 15 - 20 club members helping make this a great event. More information will be coming.

Horizon High School Update and Support

We have started our campaign to bring the issue of support for recovery schools to the Wisconsin legislature and Governor! On February 16, we met with Senator Jesse James (R-Altoona), chair of the Senate Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families, and his staff at Horizon*. He showed deep interest in the problems youth are facing and was very interested in learning how Horizon works to help our students turn their lives around. In response to our question, Following are some general points:

- According to Wisconsin DHS data, Wisconsin high school students report drug and alcohol use higher than the national average.
- Youth returning to their old high schools after going through rehab, inevitably relapse. Recovery schools are sober schools where they can develop new habits while being educated.
- Recovery high schools provide a smaller educational environment with higher staff to student ratios, strongly supporting youth trying to remain sober and also deal with mental health problems.
- Kids who were expelled from their prior schools, actually get clean, succeed and graduate from recovery schools with high school diplomas.
- Horizon High School is Wisconsin's only recovery high school, and has a strong track record showing it is possible for young people struggling with drugs and alcohol to change their lives.
- Horizon could be a model for other recovery schools throughout Wisconsin.
- Recovery schools save taxpayers money! It costs \$358,000 a year to incarcerate a youth (<17) at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake. It costs over \$44,000 a year to lock them up when they turn 17.

For more information either contact Jacci See at seej@firstweber.com OR

*<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkl7FV5BEjk>> "Sen. James visits Horizon Recovery High School"



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, January 17, 2023 MINUTES

PRESENT: John Fons, Carole Klopp, Jane Meyer, Kathy Johnson, Rick Thomas, Mary Wykle, Mark Kraemer,
And Steve Bailey

ABSENT: Rick Conne, Bob Wortinger, and Ted See

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:08pm.

1. Welcome/ There were no agenda additions.
 2. **November/December Board Meeting Minutes:** Steve moves to approve, Rick seconds, motion passes unanimously.
 3. **Financial Report** – End of December 2022
 - a. Balance Sheet: Checking operating cash balance is \$2272. Will need to watch this. Foundation cash equivalents came in at \$12,192. Lussier Xmas fund has \$12.41. (Further discussion below.)
 - b. Income Statement – We received a substantial amount in November for Bucky Books. Vanguard increased in value. The annual fee for the Website was paid in October. Carole moves to accept the financial report, Kathy seconds, motion passes unanimously.
 4. **Culver's Share Night – Tuesday, January 31st from 4-8pm**

For the 4-6pm shift we have 7 volunteers and 4 volunteers for the 6-8pm shift. We're good for volunteers, but would accept more for 6-8p.
 5. **SWIS District Conference** – February 17 and 18th

John urged all to attend and referenced the email he just forwarded to the board with all pertinent information.
 6. **Proposed Sauk Trails Benevolence Fund**

Discussed last week at regular meeting. Use for sudden needs that come up to help folk in need. The idea of a voluntary contribution at any time to create a fund as needs arise to benefit those in or outside of the club. Maintained by voluntary contribution. Kathy asked about criteria for how someone qualifies. Jane suggested that if someone ends up in hospital, we could use this to send flowers or help with groceries. John feels that the amount in the fund will determine how much we can help. There would have to be some thought that this help would not be an ongoing thing one time only. John will write a synopsis of the parameters and will share for February Board meeting. Would be under the auspices of the Foundation. We'll discuss further in February.
 7. **Report: Spartan Youth Service**

John has asked the SYS secretary to forward to Sauk Trails the roster and to inform STOC of club activities. Had further discussion and Rick Thomas volunteered to report on the club as the current adviser. John will look further into the entire matter.
 8. **Membership:**

Carole brought up contacting members who have been absent from the meetings. Steve brought up doing a voluntary phone tree to contact folks who have been absent for awhile.
 9. Jane moves to adjourn, Rick seconds, motion passes unanimously.

We stand adjourned to Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5pm on Zoom.
- Respectfully Submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, February 21, 2023 MINUTES

PRESENT: John Fons, Carole Klopp, Bob Wortinger, Jane Meyer, Kathy Johnson, Mary Wykle, Mark Kraemer, Ted See And Steve Bailey

ABSENT: Rick Conne & Rick Thomas / Mark left early

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:04pm.

1. Welcome/ There were two agenda additions – Audit Report and Lunch Protocols
2. **January Board Meeting Minutes:** Bob moves to approve, Kathy seconds, motion passes unanimously.
3. **Financial Report – End of January 2023**
 - a. Balance Sheet: Checking operating cash balance is \$4395.07. Accounts receivable good. Bob reviewed restricted funds with the board.
 - b. Income Statement: We received \$16 dollars in Amazon Prime donations which will be the last donation as Amazon has discontinued this program. We received \$136 in “nuts” revenue as opposed to last year’s record amount. This is a \$1200 drop in income and Bob suggested we seriously look at other fundraisers. Vanguard is up over \$900 for the fiscal year.
 - c. January Cash Activity Report: first amount is from JOI account for which STOC is custodian; positive numbers are dues billings coming in; paid out for Optimist dues. Going forward Bob will just ask if you have any questions. Mark moves to accept the financial report, Steve seconds, motion passes unanimously.
 - d. Audit Review Recommendations – Bob met with Laura and Frank Rath in Appleton. Bob will show all accounts on every invoice (#2) and will send out a monthly Cash Report (#3). #1 – Bob doesn’t feel account numbers designation is necessary as we don’t have that many accounts. Carole moves acceptance of the Audit Report recommending implementation of items 2 and 3 and tabling item #3, Ted seconds, motion passes unanimously.
4. **Culver’s Share Night Review – Tuesday, January 31st from 4-8pm**

Still waiting to hear what we made at Culver’s. Do we continue our participation? John is willing to contact them – for one evening per month. Interested in having the Spartan youth to join us. Ted asked if JOI helps, do we give them a portion of the funds raised. Steve suggested could use the funds to pay their dues.
5. **Brat Fest – May 26-29**

Paperwork completed for our participation in Brat fest and we have been approved.
6. **SYS “SPIRIT Day” – May 18th, 1:30-3:30pm volunteer help**

Brought to John’s attention by the school adviser. Looking for an indication of STOC member interest in going to Memorial and participating with the students for the afternoon service at the school. The school Administration would still have to approve. A few board members expressed interest in participating.
7. **Essay Contest**

We have one essay submitted for the contest. Jonathan Buscher has submitted an essay which John will submit to the Zone. Bob indicated he has a medal for when he attends our meeting and we still

have some gift cards left. Carole moves to present Jonathan with the medal and 2-\$15 gift certificates to Barnes & Noble book store, Steve seconds, motion passes unanimously.

8. SWIS District Conference Report – February 17 and 18th

John felt the best part of the conference was unnoticed by conference at large, because the JOI students were meeting in a separate room coordinated by CoryAnn, district JOI Lt. Governor. Many thanks to Rick Thomas for attending even though he had to leave for work. Vern Andren shared with John that there was a JOI club in Algeria and wondered if SYS would be interested in connecting them. Looking into it.

9. Proposed Sauk Trails Benevolence Fund

Carole moves to establish a President's Benevolence Fund as a line item in the Sauk Trails Optimist Club Youth & Community Foundation LTD account to be funded entirely by voluntary contributions to allow the Sauk Trails President to respond in a timely and unscheduled manner to charitable or humanitarian needs in the community without formal application being made for any payments from the Benevolence Fund by the STOC president with said expenditure to be reported according to recipient and amount to the Foundation Treasurer with the fund never to be overspent and a cap of \$200 per recipient. Bob seconds. Discussion followed with 2 changes to the motion – added in funding this with voluntary member donations and putting a cap on each donation. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Report: Spartan Youth Service

Carole asked we had parent permission for sending the student names to OI. John did not know, but will pursue this with Anne. John will get further information and will send the Board an email for further action.

11. Lunch Protocol- postponed to future meeting.

12 Adjournment: Kathy moves to adjourn, Mary seconds, motion passes unanimously.

We stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5pm on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary

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 you 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.