



Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club of Madison



December 2011

Schedule: Wednesday's 11:45 – 12:45 Noon, Vintage on Whitney Way, Madison



A jolly "Ho-Ho" and Hello Optimists!!

We're off to a rather good start with over 14 members attending our noon meetings this past month—and that's close to 50% of our membership! We do have a new member, who is familiar to most of you, and that is my best friend, Ted See; Ted has attended all the meetings so far and will be an asset to our club, I know! Now it is your turn, everyone of you, to bring your spouse, friend, acquaintance to join us and grow our club!

Several members responded to our informal survey regarding meeting every week or meeting 2 weeks/month. Most were okay with either way, although some thought we might have better attendance with 2/month; the Board discussed this at our monthly meeting on December 8 and has decided to keep our programs on a weekly basis. For those of you who cannot make every meeting, perhaps you can set a New Year's Resolution to make at least 1/month or better yet, 2 times/month!! We want to see you!

Our meetings have certainly been interesting and enjoyable! With every member in charge of a program, we are getting a lot of variety. The schedule for the rest of December as well as thru mid February is as follows:

- December 14: Paul Gilberson, a Friend of Optimists, will tell his Author's story—he writes children's books; Student(s) of the month also!
- December 21: Our annual Ornament Exchange! Bring a wrapped ornament (\$5 limit) to exchange and be entertained!
- December 28: No Meeting!
- January 4: Bonnie Spindler will have Joanne Ganske tell us about the Optimist National Convention to be held in Milwaukee this next July
- January 11: Greg Hermus
- January 18: Steve Bailey
- January 25: Mark Kraemer
- February 2: Rick Thomas
- February 9: Mary Schwartz

If you are not on the list, please let me know what week you would like to be in charge of the speaker—whether you invite someone in to speak or whether you would like to tell us more about yourself and your work. Not only are we Friends of Youth, but we are friends! And that is what makes our club strong and still going!! Let's make it better with even more friends!

Have a most Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

Jacci

Jacci See
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Sauk Trails Optimist Club
First Weber Office – December 8, 2011 Board Meeting

Members in Attendance:

President: Jacci See

Past President: John Scherer

Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Wortinger

Board Members: Carole Klopp, Ray Schmitz, Mary Schwartz, Darrin Sharp

The meeting was called to order by Jacci See at 7:50 AM. A motion was made by Ray, seconded by John and passed to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2011 Board Meeting with no revisions.

Weekly Meetings

Board members discussed their thoughts and feedback from other members including a straw poll taken at the December 7 lunch meeting regarding continuing with weekly lunch meetings versus meeting every other Wednesday. It was noted that there has been relatively strong attendance at recent meetings with 14 members at each of our past two lunches. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to continue with our present schedule of weekly lunch meetings and re-evaluate this matter later in the fiscal year. Jacci noted that lunch speakers are lined up through at least January and she has been working with the staff at Vintage to provide a more varied lunch menu over a two or three week cycle.

STOC Scholarship Program

The Board discussed our scholarship program at Memorial and whether any changes should be made to our present process. It was noted that in recent years this scholarship has been presented as the Sauk Trails Optimist Scholarship and the Memorial High School Scholarship Committee has selected scholarship winners from a list provided by a JOOI Club advisor based on JOOI Club members who have earned over 40 hours of community service through the Club and our scholarships have been awarded to JOOI club members. The following motion was made by John, seconded by Mary, and approved: The scholarships sponsored by our club will be named the Sauk Trails Optimist Club JOOI scholarship and will be based on the guidelines attached to these minutes which will be submitted to the James Madison Memorial High School Scholarship Committee annually along with the amount and number of scholarships to be provided.

Treasurer's Report

Bob asked for questions regarding the November financial statements which were sent to the Board prior to the meeting. Following discussion regarding an outstanding receivable matter, Bob agreed to provide a follow-up letter for Board approval at the next Board meeting. With Ted See joining STOC in November, our membership is now at 30 regular members plus one FOO. Through our President's Purse program at weekly lunches we have raised \$34 to date, with our initial goal to raise \$150 for the national OI Convention to be held in Milwaukee next summer. The Board discussed OI's proposed Dime a Day donation program – the consensus of the Board was not to participate in this program.

SWIS Optimist Essay and Oratorical Contests

Board members discussed STOC's involvement with these contests. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to not participate in a SWIS District Oratorical Contest this year as the Breakfast Optimists are already working with Memorial High School on this event. A decision was made to proceed with The SWIS Optimist Essay contest which is due on February 28, 2012. This event will be brought up at the next JOOI Board meeting. Three STOC members will be needed to act as judges for this event. Our due date to receive essays will be February 8.

Upcoming Events

Jacsi noted that the next SWIS District Conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 11 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Madison. John noted that the Special Olympics Regional Track Meet is scheduled for May 5 in Oregon – pending approval by the Board at the January meeting he will be working with Carole to get a couple of JOOI Club members involved in the volunteer planning for this event.

Committee Reports

Service/Volunteer – Carole reported that the JOOI Club's fundraising programs are going well and they recently approved donations totaling \$600 to The Road Home, the Lussier Community Education Center, and Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM). The status of our Adopt-a-Family Christmas gift program was discussed. Following discussion, a motion was made by Carole, seconded by Bob and approved to send a \$150 donation to MOM for their Christmas Sharing program in lieu of doing an Adopt-A-Family event this year. The future of our support of the American Family Children's (AFC) Hospital Meal was discussed in view of the difficulty in getting member volunteers for this program. A motion was made by Carole, seconded by John and approved to discontinue our support for the AFC Hospital Meal program. The Board expresses our thanks to Bonnie and Gene for their exceptional efforts in keeping this program running successfully without a lot of support. The Board also discussed other potential fundraising and service club opportunities.

Newsletter – John and Jacsi volunteered to look at website options for displaying and communicating STOC news and events. Eventually, this approach could be used to reduce or possibly discontinue our monthly newsletter.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12 @ 7:45 at the First Weber.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM.

SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB JOOI SCHOLARSHIPS

Two students, normally one female and one male, from James Madison Memorial High School who are members of the Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team are eligible for the two scholarships awarded annually by the Sauk Trails Optimist Club. The actual amount of the scholarship will be determined annually by the Sauk Trails Optimist Club Youth & Community Foundation Board. A list of potential scholarship recipients will be nominated to the James Madison Memorial High School Scholarship Committee for final selection.

Criteria For Selection Process

In order to be considered for this scholarship, students must meet the following criteria:

1. COMMUNITY SERVICE

- a. Student is a member in good standing of the Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team at James Madison Memorial High School.
- b. Student has participated in community service for an extended period of time as documented by the JOOI Team advisers.

2. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- a. Student meets academic requirements for high school graduation.
- b. Student has applied for admission to either a 2 year or 4 year college or technical/vocational school.

3. FINANCIAL NEED

- a. Student has applied for scholarships based upon financial need.

The Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team just exceeded 200 members within the last week. This year's Board of Directors are an extremely dedicated group with service project sign-up sheets filling the wall for students to sign up for weekly. This past week JOOI members voted to provide the following donations: \$300 to the The Road Home, \$200 to the Lussier Community Education Center, and \$100 to Middleton Outreach Ministry. Students presented on each non-profit at the Wednesday meeting and the entire club voted on the amounts to be awarded. The money was raised last year at the football concessions. Oh, looking ahead, Friday, April 13th, 2012 will be SPIRIT Day at Memorial = where over 300 students spend the morning volunteering in the community. The JOOI Team will be looking for chaperones to help with that event. If you can help, please let one of the advisers know - Rick Conne, Carole Klopp, Mary Schwartz, or Rick Thomas. Many thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of this dedicated youth group at Memorial!

ANY Sauk Trails Club Optimists

There should be club representation at each quarterly conference to acquire the information for the Sauk Trails Optimist Club. Please put these dates on your calendar and try to make at least one of these SWIS Conferences.

Feb. 10-11, 2012 2nd Qtr Conference, Middleton

May 11-12, 2012 3rd Qtr Conference, Wilderness-Dells

Aug. 24-25, 2012 4th Qtr Convention, Sheraton, Madison

2010-11 STOC Committee Chairs

Volunteer/Service

Carole Klopp-liaison
Bonnie Spindler
Pat Beiersdorf

Fundraising

Darrin Sharp-liaison
Kevin Campos
Kathy Johnson

Social

Ray Schmitz-liaison
Alison Scherer

Speakers

Chairs?

Membership

Mary Schwarz-liaison
Chairs?

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2011-2012

President

Jacci See

Secretary/Treasurer

Bob Wortinger

Past President

John Scherer

Vice President

Gene Spindler

Board of Directors

Mary Schwartz
Carole Klopp
Darrin Sharp
Ray Schmitz

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

Mike Gustafson 12/5

Editor: Steve Bailey
Sbailey100@aol.com
November Newsletter
Articles Due by
10/30/2011

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.