

# Sauk Trails Optimist Club, Ltd

VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1

November 1997

## Taking S.T.O.C.

A few random thoughts as we begin the 1997-98 Optimist year.

I don't believe that I've ever had the opportunity to make "remarks" before Tom Allen designed the Induction Banquet program with "Remarks from the President". I've kind of taken a fancy to them. I hope you like them too. If you don't give it some time they grow on you.

If anyone thinks that playing nursemaid to a live rooster is fun, just try it for a week!

Enclosed in this month's newsletter is a questionnaire designed to help us make the club more valuable and interesting to everyone. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and have some input on how we can improve what already is the best Optimist Club in Madison. (We'd also like everyone to get to know everyone else, so please fill out the personal stuff as well!) Return the questionnaire to me or fax to me at 836-8081 or Darcy at 833-6996. Thanks!

If anyone would like to donate a mascot to the club, such as a rubber duck or a live rooster, please contact Jim Judd.

Geez, one more Wednesday change I forgot about. Instead of having the drawing from the attendance slips to split the quarters, we will be rolling dice to pick one badge number from ALL the membership numbers to be the winner. If that person is not in attendance, their half of the pot will roll over to the next week. Last week's (10-22) pick was 13. (I believe it was Tim Harns' number), who



couldn't make the meeting, so his entire \$1.40 share rolls to this week!

Please, PLEASE, PLEASE pay your dues on time! As Andrew Bryant's article explains, the club pays district and national dues for you whether we get your money or not. Please give Steve Bailey a break and don't make him chase you down (he doesn't run as fast as he used to or recover as well either).

We felt that a change in the newsletter format would stimulate interest in the Club. Please give any suggestions that would make the world a kinder, gentler place (and make the newsletter better too). Thanks to Darcy Mercer for again putting this whole thing together. There is a lot of effort put into this revamp of the system, and we appreciate it. I am acting as newsletter editor for now, but I need help. Please volunteer to lend a hand. It

won't take much time now that the format is set and could even be fun!

Holy cow - at first I was wondering what I was going to say here and now everyone has probably stopped reading three paragraphs ago.

OK, if you've read this far, here's the rooster thing. Optimist International put out a list of things to do in order to boost attendance at weekly meetings. One idea was to give a "member missing a club meeting the responsibility of caring for the club mascot, which could be a live rooster or a rubber duck until the next meeting he or she attends". I am not making this up (as Dave Barry would write). I wonder what a rooster eats ...

Definition of Optimism: a cheerful frame of mind that enables a tea kettle to sing through in hot water up to it's nose.

- John Scherer



*November 12, 1997*

Dr. John Bonsett-Veal, OD will speak to us on Enhancing Your Cosmetic Appearance thru Laser Eye Surgery. Dr. Bonsett-Veal serves on the Wisconsin State Board of Optometry as Chair, as well as just having played the role of Ferris in the Diviner this fall at MATC.

*November 19, 1997*

Monica Hunt, a children's speech pathologist at Meriter Hospital will introduce us to the Hanen Program, a new program which teaches parents how to help their children with speech disabilities.

### **Any Other Clowns Out There?**

On Monday evening, October 20th, ten very enthusiastic and daring people gathered at Jacki See's and with the help of TADA the clown, we learned how to apply clown make-up.

We had a lot of fun, many laughs and great success at our first attempt to look like a clown. Jackie took pictures and had them at the meeting on October 22nd. It is not as easy as you might think to get the make-up on (getting it off was easier). Each person came up with some pretty clever looks. Now we have to decide how to develop this into a project for children and fund raising. Any ideas,

see the future "clowns" . . . Jackie, Mitch, Jim, Dee, Laura, Lynne, Natalie or Caroline. (Laura's daughter was also there.) Any other clowns out there?

*- Blue-Blue the New Clown*

### **Koeze Nut Sales**

October 15 marked the kick-off for the 1997 Koeze Nut Sales Fund Raising Campaign. This will be a major fund raiser for the year and we need everyone's support! President John Scherer hopes to add another Youth Activity during 1998 and proceeds from the nut sale will fund our youth projects.

Those at the meeting each received an order form for the nut sales. The first order deadline is November 12 and orders received by this deadline will be delivered in time for Thanksgiving. If you need an order form, please contact co-chairs Cheryl Vickroy at 828-2412 or Mary Norrbom at 829-3779. Be sure to bring or send your order forms to Cheryl or Mary by November 12 for the first order. A second order deadline has been established for November 26. Good Selling!



### **A Changing of the Guard**

On the evening of October 9th, the Sauk Trails Optimist Club formally inducted its new officers to their dually elected posts.

The night began with a pleasurable social hour and hors d'oeuvres served at Imperial Gardens in Middleton, followed by a full Chinese dinner served family style. Those in attendance were then entertained by U.W. - Madison Head Volleyball Coach, John Cook, as he discussed the volleyball team's overseas trip to the former Soviet Union. Among the topics discussed were the Russian lifestyle and the athletic system.

At the conclusion of dinner, the Sauk Trails Optimist Club began the induction ceremony by welcoming a new member, Bonnie Spindler, who was sponsored by Jacci See. The outgoing officers were acknowledged and thanked sincerely for all of their help over the course of last year. The new board members were then introduced to the Club and sworn in by Lieutenant Governor, Joanne Ganske.

Please Welcome your new leaders:  
President: John Scherer  
Vice President: Cheryl Vickroy  
Vice President: Natalie King  
Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Bailey  
Board Member: Chuck Koehler  
Board Member: Caroline Heath

*- John Scherer*

# November 1997

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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November 5 - MASCC Fall Luncheon - 12:00 p.m. - Holiday Inn West

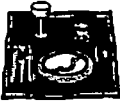



Meetings:

November 12 - Speaker: Dr. John Bonsett-Veal, O.D.

Topic: Enhancing Your Cosmetic Appearance Thru Laser Eye Surgery

November 19 - Speaker: Monica Hunt, Children's Speech Pathologist at Meriter Hospital

Topic: Hanen Program

2	3	4	 MASCC 34th Annual Fall Luncheon Holiday Inn West	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	Board Member Election Board Meeting Koeze Order Due  Optimist Meeting	12	13	 Newsletter Info. Due	14	15	
 Special Olympics Reg. Bowling	16	17	 Dee Judd	18	Koeze Order Due  Optimist Meeting	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	 Networking Meeting	26		27	28	29	
30	 Board Meetings - 5:30 p.m. at AAA  Optimist Club Meetings - Wednesdays - 11:30 a.m. at Mountain Jack's  Newsletter Information Due to Darcy Mercer (fax: 833-6996)								



## **Notice to All Sauk Trails Optimist Club Members**

Dear Friends: At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board held Thursday, 10/23/97, it was brought to the Board's attention that there is a very significant problem with our club's operating account. We are in serious financial peril because funds available to operate the club are reaching a dangerously low level. The primary reason for this shortfall in our operating funds is a lack of timely payment of all of our members of quarterly dues. A significant number of our members are not regularly paying their quarterly dues. In fact, some members have not paid for a year. This is problematic for us at the club, because we have to pay all dues to the International Headquarters for each of our listed members, regardless of whether our members pay their dues to our local chapter.

As a reminder, quarterly dues are \$30.00 per member. A portion of the dues goes to the International Headquarters for the operating budget, a portion goes to the Optimist Magazine, a portion goes towards office fees and a portion goes towards insurance. There is also a district fee billed twice a year. Enclosed, please see the breakdown of how dues are used. the remainder of the quarterly dues that each of us pays goes to our local chapter for operating expenses and projects. Again, we must pay full dues each quarter for each listed member in our chapter. If each member does not pay their dues each

quarter, there is less and less money available for our local chapter to operate. Our club cannot carry members who do not pay, because we cannot afford to, therefore, the Board unanimously voted to implement a new policy as follows:

*With the next newsletter, a separate notice for members who are overdue will be provided.*

*Each member owing past dues must pay this amount, plus the current quarter dues within fifteen (15) days of receiving the due notice. If the fees are not paid within fifteen (15) days from the due notice, then the club will have to drop members from our membership who have not been paying. (We Do Not Want to Do This!)*

It is, of course, not fair to the members who always pay and it makes it nearly impossible for the club to continue without full participation by all listed members. We regret to have to send this notice, but have high hopes that this will prompt all our members to pay up on any dues owed, so that our club can continue to function and grow.

We truly need and want all members, but cannot continue to carry non-paying members out of fairness to members that are paying and for the practical financial reasons. Thank you.

- Andrew J. Bryant

## **Board Report from 10/22/97**

The Board opened by approving last months minutes. Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Bailey reported that we have \$511.00 in the Operating Account and \$1813.00 in the Fund Raising Account. Bills approved to be paid were \$60.00 to Russell Hampton for plaques and pins from the Induction Banquet and district dues of \$300.00. Newsletter publishing software was also approved at \$31.00.

Three very important items were decided at the meeting. The first was that the Board decided not to appoint a director to the vacant director's seat and instead will set the precedent of holding an election for vacant board positions. This election will be held at lunch on Wednesday, 11/12/97.

The second major item was that board members will be able to register their votes by proxy should they be unable to attend the meetings. The board member must notify an officer prior to the meeting to get an agenda and place his/her vote, which should eliminate any problems regarding lack of quorum among busy schedules.

The other major decision relates to dues. The club must pay dues each quarter for all members on the roster. Some members have not paid dues all year, which seriously

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c/o John Scherer  
Northwestern Mutual Life  
1350 Deming Way  
Middleton, WI 53562

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depletes the operating recount. It was resolved that if a member does not pay one quarter's dues, they will be given (15) days from the following quarter's dues statement to be paid up to current or will be automatically dropped from the roster. This is a stiff penalty, but necessary to maintain the fiscal integrity of the club.

The meeting adjourned in near record time. The next board meeting is on Wednesday, 11/12/97 at 5:30 p.m at AAA. All are welcome to attend and are promised that November's meeting will rival October's in brevity.



**Breakdown of How Dues  
Are Used**

District #: 09  
Zone#: 06  
Club #: 083

Dues:  
International: \$22/year quarterly  
Magazine: \$4.50/year quarterly  
Office Fee: \$0.50/year quarterly  
Insurance: \$6/year quarterly

District: \$11/year semi-annual  
Club: \$120/year quarterly  
Lunch: \$6/week quarterly

New Member Fees: \$30