



# Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club  
Dec 2023 News, Jan 2024 Plans  
<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



## Sauk Trails President's Message December 2023

As we look forward to a new calendar year, we can be excited by the opportunities and options we will have to grow the club, to increase our social activities, and to increase our fundraising. We do this to be able to build relationships and to give scholarships and grants.

- We can have new ideas, perform new social activities, and create new committees.
- We will have committee chairs who are committed to lead in these efforts.
- We can be flexible. Look at how the weather decides to have spring weather in the winter.

Do we miss the snow over Christmas? Certainly. However, the holiday drivers appreciated driving in rain instead of in snow. There can be good things about change. We can challenge ourselves to make this club the best it can be. Let's talk about it!

Our club has been doing great things and 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, and participating in Oratorical and Essay Contests.

This is the purpose of our Sauk Trails Optimist Club - supporting kids and the community.

Promise Yourself,  
Your 2023-2024 Club President, **Kathie Newman**

## What Happened in December 2023: for the Sauk Trails – Madison Optimist Club:

- 12/6: We discussed the suggested updates to the Club Policies and voted to approve.
- The dues to be increased by \$5 per quarter, effective Jan 1.
  - We also reviewed Lussier Center Christmas party and what is still needed

12/13 Wed 11:45      Wrapped Gifts for the Lussier party on Dec 15th

12/15 Fri 3:30-7 pm      Christmas Party at the Lussier Center

12/18 Mon. 5:00 pm      Board 'ZOOM' Meeting

12/20 Wed 11:45      Ornament Exchange

12/27 Wed              NO Meeting - Enjoy your family time!

## STOC Bulletin Board

### Sauk Trails Club Officers December 2023

**President:** Kathie Newman

**Vice President:** Steve Bailey

**Secretary:** Bonnie Spindler

**Treasurer:** Carole Klopp (Jan24)  
Rick Thomas

**Past President:** John Fons

#### **Board of Directors**

Pattu Levenson 23-25  
Rick Conne 20-23  
Jane Meyer 21-23  
Frank Rath 23-25  
Trisha Lucas 23-25  
Mary Wykle 22-24

### Dec Birthdays

**Barb Sheerhan-Hill 20**  
**Barry Levenson 30**



Thanks to Paul Johnson for coordinating speakers. If you have a speaker or would like to speak yourself, contact Paul for future 2024 scheduling.

### Newsletter Editor:

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

[blspindler@charter.net](mailto:blspindler@charter.net)

### SWIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conference

#### ZOOM

**Saturday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024**

**10 am – 1:30 pm**

### Terri Lynn Fundraiser for STOC

One of our annual fundraisers is selling nuts/candies from Terri Lynn through our online store. In the past I have usually received orders in about 2 weeks. This is a nice fundraiser because all you have to do is send someone the link or just order product which you can have shipped directly to the recipient. The link to place an order is here: <https://sauktrailsoptimists.terrilynn.com>

If you have any questions, please contact **Rick Thomas** at [rthomas5914@gmail.com](mailto:rthomas5914@gmail.com) or call 608-212-7582.

### Sauk Trails 'Zoom' Board Meeting

**Tuesday, Jan. 16, 5 pm**

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

### ADDITIONAL FUND RAISING OPTIONS

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!

Plans are being made to work at the Ronald McDonald House to prepare food. More information to come. Rick Thomas (contact)

### Optimist International Dues Increase:

**Beginning January, 2024 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 2024. 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 treasurers Jeff K and Rick T.

**STOC Preparation for Lussier Center: Wrapping Gifts**

**December 13, 2023**



Thanks to Frank Rath and other Optimists who brought over 180 toy items for the Lussier Party scheduled for Friday, December 15. A budget of \$2000 was voted on earlier, the food was donated by Texas Roadhouse and cookies came from Stella's Bakery. Rick Conne and his daughter decorated them.

All the gifts were wrapped by over 15 Optimists at a Vintage lunch and, put in their various pre-identified boxes. Thanks to all who were supportive of the preparation for the Lussier Party.

**ANNUAL Ornament Exchange of Optimists Present on December 13, 2023**



Lussier  
Community  
Christmas  
Party  
  
December  
15, 2023



THANKS  
To ALL  
Optimists  
Who  
Helped  
With this  
EVENT.



December 7, 2023  
Optimist Jacci See participated in the presentation of Grants that were received for Horizon High Schools in Wisconsin. The club has been supportive of this alternative high school.

**ANNUAL Ornament Exchange of Optimists Present on December 13, 2023**



**Scheduled Lunch Speakers, Thanks to Paul Johnson**

**Jan. 3:** Paul Johnson will lead a creative exercise for those attending. Bring a pen or pencil, he will try to remember to bring paper.

**Jan. 10:** - Eric Salzwedel will be sharing about the non-profit Do Good Wisconsin.

**Jan 16:** Board meeting at 5:00 PM by ZOOM.

**Jan. 17:** George Hesselberg, author of "Dead Lines" and former columnist for the Wisconsin State Journal.

**Jan. 24:** Neil O'Connor, a chief election inspector for the City of 4-8Madison

**Jan. 31:** Mary Bergin, author of "Small-Town Wisconsin: Fun, Surprising and Exceptional Road Trips" and other books about food and travel.

**Feb 3:** SWIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conference by ZOOM. (Registration is available currently).

**February 13<sup>th</sup>** Culver's Fundraiser, 4-8 PM and also **May 14<sup>th</sup>** 4-8 PM.(Sign-ups and more information will be coming.

**February 28<sup>th</sup>:** Essay Contestants Need to be turned in to Optimist International. Please contact any Youth who could participate for this annual scholarship.



**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB**  
**Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM**  
**Monday, December 18, 2023; 5pm**



1. **Welcome!:**

**Kathie Newman, club president**, called ZOOM meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**Present:** Kathie Newman -President; Bonnie Spindler – Secretary; Steve Bailey – Vice President; Patti Levenson- Board, Trisha Lucas – Board, Mary Wykle – Board, Frank Rath – Board. **Guest** – Carole Klopp.

2. **Approve November Board Minutes** - attached to the email:

A motion was made by TrishaL to accept the November Board minutes, seconded by PattiL. The motion passed by the quorum present.

3. **Club Financial Report:**

Treasurer JeffK provided a Word Doc as his report. JeffK did not attend the meeting and therefore, there were unanswered questions. We will not have votes to accept or approve Treasurer's Reports from this meeting forward. Per a current recommendation from a CPA firm, we will simply state that "The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report."

4. **Discuss and approve the budget for 2023-2024.**

This was started but will be finalized during the following Foundation Meeting.

5. **Sauk Trails Updated Policy:**

As revised, these policies were approved by the STOC Board of Directors on Monday, November 13, 2023, at their regular monthly board meeting. These policies were submitted to the Club for approval on December 6, 2023. Motion by Steve Bailey to approve the 2023 policies as distributed with a second by Mary Schwartz. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Lussier Center Christmas Party:** on Dec 15th - review and expense

The Lussier Party was a great success. Frank Rath, was sending back about 25-presents that were not needed and will give a final expense total on Wednesday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. at the lunch meeting.

7. **Chairs for Oratorical & Essay Contests:**

Steve Bailey is coordinating the Oratorical contest. There is a need to have a volunteer to coordinate the Essay Contest. (*Essays are due by Feb. 28, 2024.*)

**Membership:** John Fons and Jane Meyers submitted their removal from the club to president Kathie Newman effective immediately. Motion to accept the members resignations by PattiL and seconded by SteveB. Motion passed by those present.

8. **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Mary W to adjourn the meeting, seconded by FrankR, and passed by all present at 5:30 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:00 pm by Zoom.

## **Sauk Trails Optimist Club Foundation Meeting**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM, by ZOOM**

We worked on the budget for 2023-2024. We used the budget spreadsheet from the previous year. The numbers were updated in the spreadsheet. We also considered the information in JeffK's Word Document. The Budget was approved and covered our year to year recurring items.

This does not preclude us from participating in things not in the approved budget line items. At President Kathie's direction, we will pursue answers to questions with the previous Treasurer that basically involve other items in the spreadsheet not affecting the new budget.

A motion was made by Steve Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM, seconded by Patti Levenson, and passed by all those present.

Respectfully Submitted: **Bonnie Spindler**, STOC 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 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.**