



Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Feb 24 – Apr 24

<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



President's Message March 2024

March is a special month for a number of reasons. The early tulips and crocus poke their heads out and flower. We see buds on the trees and bushes. The earth wakes up. Then the March Madness Basketball tournament comes and snowfalls seem part of that week.

It is a great month for Optimist Clubs to host their oratorical contests. The students who gave their talks at the Cross Plains and Verona contests were amazing! There was even a 4th grader who looked like she really enjoyed the experience. They put a lot of thought into their talks. What a good event to help kids learn and grow and put their thoughts and feelings on paper and then practice for their delivery at the contest. I am so proud of all of them. In addition, essays have been written by students with the top 3 winners reading their essays to us on March 27th.

I'm happy about our upcoming service and fundraising plans that are being scheduled for the summer. We will be working at Culver's Share Night on May 14th. I hope to schedule another one in July/August. We will prepare dinner at Ronald McDonald House on April 8.

We are looking forward to working as wrappers (May 25th) and grillers at the Brat Fest at the Alliant Center. We are talking with WayForward to set a date to pack groceries for those who are not able to get to the pantry. We are looking forward to having fun and working at the National Mustard Day in downtown Middleton - August 3rd, I believe.

** Let's continue to look for new fun ways to work together for the kids and the community.

Although there have been some bumps, we are a strong club and we want to serve our community and kids. Without participation, we couldn't do all these things. I am so proud of all of our members! Please know that any of your ideas are welcomed.

My joke for the month:

Why did the mustard lose the race between sauces?

Because it couldn't ketchup

Promise Yourself! to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

😊 **Kathie, President 2023-2024**
Lt Governor Zone 6, 2021-2024

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Club Officers Jan/Feb/Mar 2024

President: Kathie Newman

Vice President: Steve Bailey

Secretary: Bonnie Spindler

Treasurer: Carole Klopp (Jan24)
Rick Thomas,
Jeff Kuchenbecker (qtr1)

Past President: John Fons

Board of Directors

Pattu Levenson 23-25
Rick Conne 20-23
Frank Rath 23-25
Trisha Lucas 23-25
Open Position 24-24
Diane Hoebel 24-24

Mar/Apr Birthdays

Jason Kadow 03/02
Paul Johnson 03/07
Diane Hoebel 03/10
Brinda Thompson 03/10

Doug Poole 04/11
Jeff Kuchenbecker 04/12
Pete Graven 04/25
Liv Sandberg 04/25



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](mailto:Bonnie.Spindler@charter.net)

blspindler@charter.net

SWIS 3RD Quarter Conference

Hilton Inn,
Milwaukee

Sat, May 11th 2024

8 – 3 PM,

Sauk Trails 'Zoom' Board Meeting

Mon, April , 15th 5 pm

Each Board Member
will be receiving
ZOOM link.

Terri Lynn Fundraiser for STOC

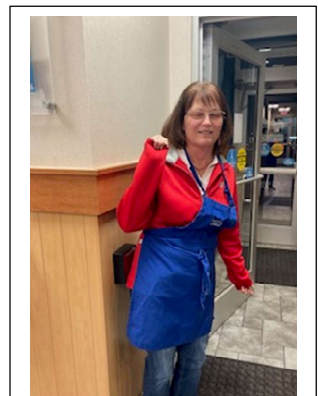
One of our annual fundraisers is selling nuts/candies from Terri Lynn through our online store. In the past I have usually receive in about 2 weeks. This is a nice fundraiser because all you have to do is send someone the link or just order product which you can have shipped directly to the recipient.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

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Thomas rlthomas5914@gmail.com or call 608-212-7582.

*Thank
you!*



**Feb 13: Culver's
volunteering
Fundraiser. Thanks to
the 4-6 pm shift of:
Carole K, JacciS,
SteveB, PattiL and 6-8
pm shift of: BonnieS,
LivS, KathieN, &
TrishaL. Next date:
Tuesday May 14th.**



Sauk Trails Noon Meeting Speakers, February/March 2024

February 7: Our club moved our meeting to Nonno's Ristorante Italiano on Whitney Way. It was attended by about 12 Optimists where we had a nice opportunity to share with each other. Nonno's will be a nice location for future NOW –New Optimist Welcomed get-together's. It would not work out well for any meetings where there is speaker scheduled, being a very open environment.



Feb 14: Governor, Diane L. Matuszak shared about her experiences as an Optimist, starting more clubs and supporting her own club in various district positions.



Feb 28: Leslie Huber, strategic engagement director of Way Forward Resources, formerly Middleton Outreach Ministry.

March 13: Madison's leprechaun visited briefly. An interview on WKOW with him can be seen here: https://www.wkow.com/video/madisons-leprechaun-celebrates-st-patricks-day/video_b0147367-88b9-59f0-9b91-6745e2b5440e.html



Feb 21: Scott Spoolman, author of two books about the geology and natural history of Wisconsin state parks and the ancient history of Wisconsin's lakes, rivers



Mar 7: , Bill Becker, author of "The Creeks Will Rise," and an expert on climate policy, energy and disaster prevention and recovery. He is also a pal of Diane Hoebel.

Sauk Trails Club Future Planned Events Feb/Mar 2024

March 6, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting, Bill Becker, author of "The Creeks Will Rise," and an expert on climate policy, energy and disaster prevention and recovery. He is also a pal of Diane Hoebel..
March 13, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting, speaker, Leprechaun speaker.
March 18, 2024	Monday, On-Line ZOOM Board Meeting at 5:00 PM.
March 20, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch, plans for Oratorical Students sharing.
March 27, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting, Essay Students Sharing.
April 13, 2024	Saturday 9AM, Oratorical Zone 6 Contest at the Verona Senior Center. (Kathie is Zone 6 Chair and Jodi Farritor of Verona Club is Zone 6 co-chair.)

May 11, 2024	Saturday, SWIS 3 rd Quarter Conference, Oratorical / Essay / CCDHH Events and Scholarships presented.
May 22, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch, plans for Respect for Law.

Tri-Star Basketball 2023 Date is April 27, 2024

Tri-Star Basketball has been held in many SWIS Clubs during the year. To view the winners and some highlights from the previous years, please...[Tristar Info](#)

TRAINING AVAILABLE for ALL OPTIMISTS for FREE:

The Optimist Institute offers a lot of interesting courses for club officers and members.

You will need to use your user id or register to obtain a user id. Your email address could be your user id. <https://optimist.tovuti.io/>

On the left side of the screen, scroll down to subscriptions.
Choose the Optimist member Free. The passcode is CLUB2324.

Annual BRAT FEST, May 24-26

Brat Fest which bills itself as the "World's Largest Brat Fest" is being held Friday, May 24 through Sunday, May 26. The event has been held every Memorial Day weekend since 1983, when it was launched by Tom Metcalfe, an area businessman, who owned the Hilldale Mall location of Sentry Foods in Madison.

This is an annual fundraiser for our club. Many of us will be working on **Saturday, May 25 from 9:30 to 1:30** as brat wrappers extraordinaire or brat tent cashiers. We will be paid \$10 per hour. You will also receive a coupon for a brat and chocolate shop ice cream. If you would like to join in the fun, please contact Diane Hoebel at 608 334-3112 or hoebels2618@yahoo.com. You can also go to the Bratfest website and sign-up under volunteer.

Thanks to **Diane Hoebel** for coordinating this annual event.



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM



Monday Feb 19, 2024; 5pm

1. **Welcome! Kathie Newman**, Club President called the meeting to order at 5 PM. There was a quorum present: KathieN; CaroleK; BonnieS; SteveB; TrishaL; PattiL; & FrankR.
2. **Approve January Board Minutes** – The minutes were approved by CaroleK with a second by SteveB and approved by those present.
3. **Club Financials** – CarolK presented a spreadsheet for the Operating Account as of January 31, 2024. The Operating checkbook has a balance of \$2628.32. The Foundation Account has a balance of 1596.53. *(Additional fundraisers of Culver's of \$528.06 and \$50 from Teri Lyn at Xmas.). Past Dues will be followed up by Treasurer for multiple optimists. (DanC, who has moved, will be dropped after his remaining dues are taken care of).*
4. **Culver's Share Night** yielded \$528.04. *(By Contract: 4 optimists each 2 times)* Culver's said that it usually takes the check about 4 to 6 weeks to get to us. Next Share Night for us is May 14th.
5. **Membership** - Mary Wykle has moved and requested resignation from membership. A motion was made by CaroleK and seconded by TrishaL to accept her resignation, which was approved by those present. vote to accept termination requests from Mary Wykle and Dan Chart. Dan's resignation will be accepted after Treasurer contact on remaining dues.
6. **Replacement Board Member Jane Meyer**. Suggestion of Paul Johnson & others.
7. **Oratorical Club Contest - SteveB chair** :- Contest held March 20 or 27. Location for Club Contest, TBD. Gift Cards of \$25 from Barnes & Nobles for contestants was suggested by CaroleK and seconded by SteveB, passed by those present. Zone Contest April 13th , 9AM Verona Senior Center
8. **Essay Contest – RickT: Chair**. 3 essays will be judged by club optimists. The date it will be presented to the club, TBD. A gift card for \$25 will be presented to the winner. *(I e-mailed Rick to ask for a date when the winner may be able to attend a meeting.)*

Sauk Trails Optimist Club “Pathways” Feb 2024 - Apr 2024

9. **SWIS 3rd Qtr Conference**, May 10-11, 2024 at Hilton Garden Inn NW, Milwaukee, WI. Encourage members to go to hear the Oratorical contestants and participate in conference.

10. **Club President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Foundation Rep** are required by the District to complete the Optimist Institute training courses **by March 31, 2024**.

<https://optimist.tovuti.io/> Each officer (President, Secretary, Treasurer, and CFR) has 4-5 courses that are required. There is a course titled specific to your officer title, and then all 4 officers must also take the following: Communications for 2023-2024 Officers; Goal Setting for 2023-2024 Officers CARE for Club and District Officers Presidents and Secretaries take: Leaders for Club Officers (You will need to create a userid. I just use my email address as my userid. Although it asks for payment, ignore that and scroll down. It is now free. The password is CLUB2324.)

11. **Ronald McDonald House:** Rick Thomas is determining a date to make a meal.

12. **Adjourn of Meeting 6PM: Motion by CaroleK, second by PattiL, approved by present. Next Meeting: Monday, March 18, 2024, at 5PM, via Zoom**



AGENDA - SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting **via ZOOM**
Monday, March 18, 2024; 5:00 pm

1. **Welcome!** **Kathie Newman**, Club President called the meeting to order at 5 PM. There was a quorum present: Kathie Newman; Carole Klopp; Bonnie Spindler; Steve Bailey; Trisha Lucas; Patti Levenson; Diane Hoebel.

Absent: Jeff Kuchenbecker; Rick Conne; Frank Rath.

2. **Approve February Board Minutes** – The minutes were approved by SteveB with a second by PattiL and approved by those present.

3. **Club Financials** – Carole presented a **revised budget** after reconstructing the last 5 months. She also presented a Feb 29, 2024 Balance Sheet and Operating Statement. The Revised Budget shows a deficit at the end of the year/Sept 30th. There was a motion made by TrishaL and seconded by SteveB to accept by those present the revised budget.

We will revisit the budget in July/August after our upcoming fundraising. *(Please see the Foundation minutes for scholarship gifting. We hope to give grants this year.)*

It was also reported that back-dues were in the process of being received from Dan Chart who has moved. His resignation was approved by TrishL seconded by DianeH, & approved by those present.

4. **Financial Audit:** At the January meeting, we passed a motion to audit the financials in September, 2024. We need to move the audit for the 23/24 Annual year to November, 2024. This will allow time to close the books for 23/24 and propose the 24/25 budget. A motion was made by TrishL seconded by BonnieS and approved by those present to move the Audit to October 2024.
5. **Lunch Billing Increase:** The Vintage has been charging \$16.50 for lunch since July 2023. This includes 1/2 sandwich, cup of soup or side (tots or coleslaw) fountain soda, lemonade, coffee, tea, special salads, and the service charge. CaroleK made a motion to increase meal billing to members to \$17. It was seconded by PattiL, with approval by those present after discussing with more members at the lunch meeting on March 13th. and March 20th.
6. **OI and District Dues Increase:** Optimist International and District Dues will be increased this fall. The OI dues are currently \$95/year and SWIS District Dues are \$14/year. The goal is to have about \$20/quarter per member left after dues. This will be discussed with the membership at the next meeting on March 20th. We also discussed whether to make the increase now or in the next fiscal year starting October 1, 2024.

(Note: The members decided to make the increase now so that we can remain financially viable. It is \$5 per quarter or \$20 per year and members didn't feel it significant enough to delay. We will see the increased dues on the April billing.)
7. **Optimist Leadership Required Training:** The Club President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Foundation Rep are required by the district to complete the Optimist Institute training courses for their offices plus additional requests March 31, 2024. There is one club officer who has yet to complete the training.
8. **Summer Meeting Schedule:** Stay with an every week meeting schedule during the summer or twice a month. This will be brought up at a lunch for more discussion by the membership.
9. **Nominating Committee for Future Officers:** The incoming officers need to be determined for the 2024-2025 year. Officers should be selected and given to OI by May 20, 2024. Everyone needs to take their turn in these positions.

10. **Vintage Availability:** The Vintage is not available for us on April 24th and May 1st. Suggestions on either Nonno's or other locations to meet or Cancel these two dates to be discussed at a lunch meeting.

(Note: Since the meeting, Paul will try to set up a tour at the Distillery for one of the dates and we will meet at Nonno's on the other date.)

11. **Selling Bucky Books:** The club has been approved, thanks to Kathie's inquiry, to be able to sell Bucky Books this year. PattL and BobW will be leaders in the distribution process this year in September/October for this fundraiser.

12. **Culver's Share Night** - Next Share Night for us is May 14th.

13. **Ronald McDonald House.** April 8th 4 PM. We need 4-6 people. Sign up with Rick Thomas.

14. **BratFest Saturday, May 28,** 9:30AM - 1:30PM. Sign with Diane Hoebel. *(10 have volunteered so far).*

15. **Oratorical Club Contest** - Steve is the chair and received a lot of interest but no one signed up for the contest to present at March 20, 2024 meeting. Thanks to Steve for his effort.

(Zone Contest April 13, 2024 at 9AM at Verona Senior Center).

16. **Essay Contest** - Rick is the chair. The 3 essays winners will read their essays to us at the March 27th meeting

17. SWIS 3rd Qtr Conference, May 10-11, 2024 in Milwaukee.

18. **Adjourn** **Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2024, at 5PM, via Zoom**

The meeting was adjourned by SteveB and seconded by CaroleK, and closed at 5:55 to be continued by the Foundation Meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted by: Bonnie Spindler, STOC Club Secretary



AGENDA - SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
STOC Foundation Meeting via ZOOM
Monday, March 18, 2024; 5:55 pm

Welcome! Kathie Newman, Club President called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM. There was a quorum present: KathieN; CaroleK; BonnieS; SteveB; TrishaL; PattiL; DianeH..

Approve Last STOC Foundation Meetings Minutes from December 18, 2023 – The minutes were minimal from a previous quarter, so there was no need for approval.

Financial Report: Last one in progress. Bottom line: \$17,747.00, need to keep \$10,000.00 in Wellington Account, which is doing great.

Scholarship Number & Value: Discussion followed with a decision to give 3 \$1,000 scholarships, the same as last year. A motion was made by CaroleK and seconded by SteveB on that amount for 3 students, which was approved by those present.

GRANTS Number & Value: Grants will be addressed later by RickT and CaroleK and presented at a future meeting.

(Carole has already submitted an application for our club to be part of the grant process. Waiting until fall will no longer work for us.)

Future Dollars Available: This amount will be determined in the future depending on the various fund-raising events being planned.

Adjourn: A motion was made by CaroleK and seconded by TrishL to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM and approved by those present.

Respectfully submitted by: Bonnie Spindler, STOC Club 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.