



# Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club  
March / April 2023 News



<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>

## Sauk Trails Optimists:

Imagination is wonderful.

So is Optimism.

They must be preserved, protected, nurtured and encouraged in ourselves and in others.

Reality helps us do this.

It seems an unlikely combination.

This is how it works.

Yesterday as I sat resting from a physically demanding job, I watched as police cars began to speed by on a busy boulevard. First, I heard them, the sirens and wailing emergency sounds as they approached, slowed down for a busy intersection, then accelerating up the hill in front of me to the scene of their dispatch.

One. Two. Three. Four.

Five police cars including one unmarked detective cruiser. I said a prayer, knowing it must be bad.

Knowing nothing else.

Until I learned today a 43-year-old woman had been found dead in her place of business a short distance from my home, directly down the road from where I watched the police cars. The woman ran a tiny shop and kept it open seven days a week by all reports, an ambitious, energetic, conscientious woman found dead, the victim of a suspected homicide.

In her own shop.

Eleven police vehicles eventually responded to the scene and remained after midnight collecting evidence.

Now comes the part about Optimism and Imagination.

Today I received the names of the four students to be awarded scholarships by our Sauk Trails Youth & Community Foundation.

These students are the future. They and their classmates and youth everywhere are the reason we exist as an organization, the reason we must persevere to affect the lives of others for good when life can be cruel, careless and even criminal.

Our four scholarship students will advance, God willing, to academic careers and find their place in the world. They each have a future we hope will succeed. The six-year-old daughter left by the woman found dead yesterday also has a future. Perhaps that little girl and children like her also deserve our support with scholarships of a different sort. Young victims of tragedy so abrupt and heartrending could also benefit from our Imagination and Optimism.

As we discuss ways to raise money and attract guest speakers to inform and entertain us, as we seek new members, let's also seek new ways to give into our hurting world.

When reality brings grief and sorrow, shock and disbelief, especially to the young, we can use Imagination and Optimism to prove what we believe.

News reports and police briefings can only tell us what has already happened.

Our Optimism and Imagination tell us the future.

**John Fons, Sauk Trails Optimist Club President**

### NEWSLETTER BULLETIN: BOARD MEETINGS RECORDED

Dear Sauk Trails Optimists,

Meetings of the Sauk Trails Board of Directors and Youth & Community Foundation which occur regularly on the third Tuesday of each month at 5pm are now recorded for your convenience to view firsthand the important work of your Board members.

Board and Foundations meetings are conducted and recorded via Zoom. The recording link may be requested from club President John Fons or found here in the newsletter:

#### March 21

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RiA7bsGpKwee7hxNndmFIFo9LcQ9XI20tPNjQqB3AXK8u6IUptS4Jaq8bxPbBqA.2WvAgAQgZmFURmr>

Passcode: %Kx4sS3d

#### April 18

- [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VJ2vbHEcv0XWVSB6SmevpMXa\\_uH1kQrIUpmGLtA4xglAfKVRJdeEtssOnvznHKH9.bG82CXa\\_7rC-p3Ku](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VJ2vbHEcv0XWVSB6SmevpMXa_uH1kQrIUpmGLtA4xglAfKVRJdeEtssOnvznHKH9.bG82CXa_7rC-p3Ku)

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### 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.

*Sauk Trails Optimists and family and friends, beyond the membership of our club, wish to extend sympathy and our condolences at the recent passing of **John Schwartz**, husband of **Mary Schwartz** and **Judy Conne** wife of **Rick Conne**. Both families have been foundational in the life of Sauk Trails Optimist Club for decades.*

### Sauk Trails Madison Optimist Club FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

**Candidates sought for Club officers**

**Raise your hand. Stand up. Be counted.**

**Club President; Vice-President;**

**Secretary; Treasurer**

**Terms begins October 1, 2023.**

*We trust their memory will instill a deeper sense of Optimism and charity in our club for years to come.*

*Sauk Trails Optimist Club Members*

## STOC Bulletin Board

### Sauk Trails Club Officers 2022/2023

**President:** John Fons

**Vice President:** Kathy Johnson

**Secretary:** Kathy Johnson

**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

### March

Jason Kadow 2

Paul Johnson 7

Diane Hoebel 10

Brinda Thomson 10

### April Birthdays

Doug Poole 11

Jeff Kuchenbecker 12

Pete Graven 25

Liv Sandburg 25



### Newsletter Editor:

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

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

### SWIS 3rd Quarter Conference

Kalahari

Wisconsin Dells

**Fri/Sat, May 5-6, 2023**

Conference Saturday,

9:00am-3pm

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

### 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.

**John Fons, Club President**

### Sauk Trails Board Meeting

**Tues, May 16, 2023 5:00 PM**

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

### ADDITIONAL FUND RAISING OPTIONS

Let's do some fundraising so that we can give more scholarships!

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! There are soccer games and concerts at Breese Stevens Field. It would be a good time to socialize and fundraise for the club! (Food and Beer/Wine Concessions)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dada72aa5fac34-2023#/>

Please let me know what you are interested in?

**Kathie Newman, Lt. Governor Zone 6**

**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 spoke to us about the world from the other side of the checkout 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.



**Joseph Lancaster, March 29<sup>th</sup> Oratorical Entry**

He was joined by his mother Michele to present his Oratorical Presentation to the Sauk Trails Optimist Club Members present. It was a very inspirational presentation on the subject of: **"Discovering the Optimism within Me"**.

Joseph was the Sauk Trails Optimist Club Representative in the SWIS Zone 6 contest on April 15<sup>th</sup>. He was not selected to represent Zone 6 at the SWIS District Zone contest, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Following are some pictures from the Zone 6 contest.



**SWIS ZONE 6 Participants sponsoring clubs.  
Coordinated. By Kathie Newman, SWIS Lt. Governor  
Zone 6 (in middle)**



**Participants Name - Sponsor Club -  
winning position - position in picture**

1. Elizabeth (Ella) Farritor - Verona Club - 3rd place winner ( far right with tan jacket)
2. Aariya Gopal - Verona Club - 5th place winner (2nd from right with green dress and black jacket)
3. Joseph Lancaster - Sauk Trails Club - 4th place winner (far left in picture with dark suit)
4. Jonah Johnson - Cross Plains/Middleton Club - 1st place winner (2nd from left, tallest with dark suit)
5. Rebecca (Becca) Sanders - Cross Plains/Middleton Club - 2nd place winner (3rd from left with pigtails)

### **SIBS Program, Planned for 4/15/23 - CANCELLED**

Years took their toll and unexpected circumstance intervened resulting in cancellation of Super Optimist Sibs Day planned for April 15 by the Sauk Trails Optimist Club with **Jane Meyer** and a host of volunteers.

This program to benefit the brothers and sisters of children with developmental disabilities originated from a twenty year history as a program of the Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin where it rose to national honors while Jane served as program director.

The event became an opportunity for our Sauk Trails Youth & Community Foundation in 2020 with ongoing enthusiastic participation by volunteers from the University of Wisconsin, Edgewood College, Madison Area Ukulele Initiative and others and primary funding by The Capital Times Kids Fund.

Those funds and initial planning were held in abeyance as the pandemic put public gatherings, especially among high risk participants, in jeopardy. Now despite extensive contacts and announcements made well in advance throughout the community, adequate response to the April 15 event to be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Madison simply did not materialize. Therefore our dedicated volunteers were notified and the event canceled. It is intended funds made available by The Capital Times Kids Funds will be returned to that generous agency.

Thanks to all who worked and extended their time and talents to this unique and heartfelt event. -

### **Special Track Olympics, May 6, 2023**

The annual Special Olympics Track Meet will be held at the Oregon track again on May 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 Fons, 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 2023 - May 26 – 29, 2023**

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

### **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 in January 2023. The next date planned for Culver's is **June 20<sup>th</sup>**, from 4-8 pm with sign-up coming soon. Culver's donates a percentage of their receipts that night to our charitable Sauk Trails Foundation. **Future dates for Culver's volunteering will be in later August.**

### **NATIONAL Mustard Day, August 5, 2023**

Please mark your calendars for National Mustard Day on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 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 as the date comes closer.

### **SWIS Conference, May 5-6, 2023**

The Oratorical Students will be high-lighted at the SWIS Conference. More information, speakers and details for registration is available at: <https://swisdistrict.org/conferences/default.asp>

### **Sauk Trails Scholarship Awards**

Four members of Spartan Youth Service attending Vel Phillips Memorial High School have been selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Sauk Trails Youth & Community Foundation, following a meeting of the Foundation board April 18. Those graduating students are:

Emily Cai

Shreepriya Sengupta

Yangtze Phintso

Elfin Wirriyan

Accepting with gratitude the recommendations of advisors Annie Wilcox Panzer and Rick Thomas in determination of this year's scholarship recipients, the Foundation board will continue to develop the Sauk Trails scholarship application process to include members of Sauk Trails in the selection process. This will strengthen ties between Sauk Trails and Spartan Youth and allow members of each organization to recognize one another as valued partners in Optimism.

In this year's selection process, applicants were asked to answer two queries in order to help advisors determine financial need in addition to considerations involving academic achievement and community involvement. Those questions were:

**In 500 words or less tell us about the most meaningful experience you have had as a member of Spartan Youth Service;**

**In 500 words or less tell us about your post high school plans and what this money would mean to you.**

The answers the students gave are important and provided here anonymously in part and in no particular order to admire and support as Friends of Youth.

Thank you to all who gave time and consideration to this year's scholarship awards which will be announced at the Memorial High School Honor Convocation May 15. It is hoped in the future Sauk Trails Youth & Community Foundation will be enabled to give much more to many more as we seek to strengthen our ties with the community we serve.

**John Fons, Sauk Trails Optimist Club President**

<p><b>STUDENT A: Meaningful Experiences as JOI Member</b></p> <p>The most meaningful experience has been being on the senior board this year.. It feels nostalgic to return to the committee that I have grown up with my entire time at VPM. Watching the committee and club ebb and flow through difficulties and changes, quite beautifully I must say, has brought my fondest memories of making friends in green team events freshman year come back once again. In a committee that is very freshman-heavy, it is overwhelmingly exciting to set these bright and energetic students on the same path that my co-chairs did for me. Seeing them show up time after time to our events with a deepening love for community service is the most rewarding experience I've had in this club. A few of my committee members have spoken to me about running for board after I encouraged them to and it makes my heart secure to know SYS will be in safe hands by students that were just as fascinated and passionate as I was when I started. Looking at the big picture, I find my greatest triumphs in the way I am able to carry on my love for this club through the underclassmen I've had the honor to work with.</p>	<p><b>STUDENT A: Plans for Future with Scholarship</b></p> <p>My dream is to go to Boston University for Data Science and double major in Physics. I plan on a Phd program in Medical Physics after undergraduate and am excited to continue my schooling ideally in Boston. Currently, the cost of schooling in Boston may not allow me to go there and this money would mean the world to be able to explore in another city and be at the campus that is perfect for me. As soon as I stepped foot in Boston, I knew it was the city for me. Somehow, the concept of being in a historical city bestows an even stronger responsibility to my community and the people that will come after me, likely because I can feel and see how long the East Coast as prevailed. The beautiful and 2022-finished computing and data sciences building feels like home already and I am incredibly excited to have the chance to conduct research there if I get the chance. This scholarship is the first step to gaining the support to reach my greatest ambitions of giving back to the community through innovation in healthcare. I deeply appreciate Sauk Trails Optimist Club for considering my application and am ecstatic to share my dreams with you all. Thank you so much for your time!</p>
<p><b>STUDENT B: Meaningful Experiences as JOI Member</b></p> <p>One experience that has been the most meaningful to me as a member of Spartan Youth Service has been taking on the responsibility of co-secretary. At Vel Phillips Memorial High School, SYS has over 150 students who are involved, making it the largest organization at our school. This wonderful organization has given me the privilege of having amazing access to service events around the city of Madison, which truly give me a sense of community and belonging. With SYS, I have volunteered for over 125 hours. Although I have volunteered in countless events throughout my past 4 years with this organization, becoming secretary has allowed me to possess leadership and organization skills that will be crucial for my life onwards. Whether it's logging hours from hundreds of events that SYS has participated in, or registering students into the club and welcoming them to their respective committee within the organization, I've always found joy in the club. I've made some of the best friendships and it's been with those who share a passion of giving back to the community alongside me. In fact, joining this club as a freshman in high school has taught me many things about myself, but most importantly, how much I truly care about my community. While volunteering at a school fair (which was a SYS event), towards the end of my sophomore year, I had connected with one of the teachers there who had told me about an organization to further create an impact in my community.</p> <p>This organization, PATCH—Providers and Teens Communicating for Health—is a program that I am now deeply involved in. This program consists of 3 statewide youth fellowships: general health and wellness, sexual and reproductive health and social emotional health. As a general health and wellness youth advocate in the Madison area, I find myself working with issues regarding mental health and the COVID-19 pandemic, along with issues consisting of drug use and addiction. Although these are some of the many important issues we focus on, making sure that all individuals have access</p>	<p><b>STUDENT B: Plans for Future with Scholarship</b></p> <p>After high school, I am planning on attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I will be studying global health with a minor in biology on the pre-med track, with the hopes to pursue a career as a physician in family medicine. I have always wanted to study abroad, and doing so will allow me to receive my global health certificate during undergrad. Although my career path will demand many things for me, one value that I will never forget is how important culture is to my life. I've known the importance of learning languages from a young age. Bengali is my first language, because my parents didn't want language to be a barrier between creating beautiful connections. As I began going to school, I became fluent in English at 5 years old. Ever since I was 2, my mom would have tutoring lessons at our house, since she has a PhD in Hindi language and culture. As her daughter, I felt as if I owed learning the language to her. However, I soon noticed that her other students had a true passion for learning languages, and I realized I wanted to be like them. I no longer had to learn the language—I wanted to. Suddenly, my immersion in the language took on new meaning: I heard my parents speak Hindi to their friends, traveled back to India, and watched Hindi movies, finding a connection through my fluency that reshaped my identity as an Indian American.</p> <p>As I got older, and learned more, I was able to fully capture the beauty of my own culture, such as our celebrations, food, clothing and art. Now, learning languages has much more depth to me. I was excited to begin learning Spanish in school, and while my fluency continues to grow, I am appreciative of the beauty I've found through that experience. I am now deeply rooted within my culture, and would like to continue learning about other cultures in the intimate fashion that only a language can provide. I would use this scholarship to help pay for a portion of my travel abroad fees, and use my language skills to do community work in underprivileged communities, while receiving my global health certificate. I would like to volunteer in</p>

<p>to affordable healthcare within my community, with a focus on finding the right mental health resources for teens, is something which I value strongly. This school year, I have been talking to policymakers through consultation sessions regarding significant healthcare decisions being made within my community. Through this project, I hope to make a difference in the lives of many, but especially the most vulnerable members of my community. Organizations like Spartan Youth Service have allowed me to meet such wonderful individuals, especially those who also want to create change. This gives me hope for the future, and although these are just a few moments out of many that have been immensely impactful to me, I know that SYS will have a wonderful impact on many incoming students. I am also certain that this organization will open doors for others, just like it did for me.</p>	<p>a clinic/hospital, and ensure that individuals are getting the proper care they need, regardless of their economic situations.</p> <p>After completing the Certified Nursing Assistant course with Madison college amidst the pandemic, I've learned how vital compassion is. I've known that I wanted to go into medicine from a young age, but this experience proved that medicine encompasses more than a field of study. It's how one can be compassionate, understanding, and impactful. By receiving the privilege to study abroad, the passion for language, medicine and community service that is deeply rooted in my body will unravel itself, never fully satisfied, but now put in service of a better future for all of us.</p>
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<p><b>STUDENT C: Meaningful Experiences as JOI Member</b></p> <p>One experience that has been the most meaningful to me as a member of Spartan Youth Service has been taking on the responsibility of co-secretary. At Vel Phillips Memorial High School, SYS has over 150 students who are involved, making it the largest organization at our school. This wonderful organization has given me the privilege of having amazing access to service events around the city of Madison, which truly give me a sense of community and belonging. With SYS, I have volunteered for over 125 hours. Although I have volunteered in countless events throughout my past 4 years with this organization, becoming secretary has allowed me to possess leadership and organization skills that will be crucial for my life onwards. Whether it's logging hours from hundreds of events that SYS has participated in, or registering students into the club and welcoming them to their respective committee within the organization, I've always found joy in the club. I've made some of the best friendships and it's been with those who share a passion of giving back to the community alongside me. In fact, joining this club as a freshman in high school has taught me many things about myself, but most importantly, how much I truly care about my community. While volunteering at a school fair (which was a SYS event), towards the end of my sophomore year, I had connected with one of the teachers there who had told me about an organization to further create an impact in my community. This organization, PATCH—Providers and Teens Communicating for Health—is a program that I am now deeply involved in. This program consists of 3 statewide youth fellowships: general health and wellness, sexual and reproductive health and social emotional health. As a general health and wellness youth advocate in the Madison area, I find myself working with issues regarding mental health and the COVID-19 pandemic, along with issues consisting of drug use and addiction. Although these are some of the many important issues we focus on, making sure that all</p>	<p><b>STUDENT C Plans for Future with Scholarship</b></p> <p>Ever since elementary school, I have struggled with my body weight. As a kid, my main worry should've been about whether I would be home in time to watch my favorite Disney show. Being in an environment surrounded by physicians, who solely judged my character based on the numbers, scared me. Regardless of background, perspectives, and income, all people should receive good quality, affordable, and suitable healthcare. As a woman of color, I know how underrepresented we are in medicine, and I want to use my influence to change such ideologies that have plagued practices for centuries. Starting this fall, I will be attending UW-Madison as a pre-nursing major. I chose to pursue a career in this industry due to my interest in medicine and healthcare. Growing up with two nurses as parents, I have experienced the life of a nurse secondhand. After earning my BSN, I plan to further my education and become a nurse practitioner. I've known that I would enter the nursing profession ever since my parents would tell me stories after their strenuous day at work. I would sit in awe and imagine myself as a healthcare professional in the future. Venipuncture, taking out stitches, taking vital signs, and connecting on another level with my future patients. Although my older sister would squirm at the thought of a needle, I'd intently listen and follow my parents around, asking endless questions. Receiving this scholarship will act as another push of support into my future. Like most people during the pandemic, I felt lost. When paired with being a sophomore in high school and fearing the vast future of university, I believed there was no path ahead of me. Although my future is yet to be determined, I want to reciprocate the care received from my parents to future patients. As I will be the second person in my family to attend a four-year university, I want to continue my parents' legacy and pursue the dreams they paused to move their lives and start anew. With the helping hands I've received from my family, friends and hopefully, this</p>
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Sauk Trails Optimist Club “Pathways” Mar / Apr 2023

<p>individuals have access to affordable healthcare within my community, with a focus on finding the right mental health resources for teens, is something which I value strongly. This school year, I have been talking to policymakers through consultation sessions regarding significant healthcare decisions being made within my community. Through this project, I hope to make a difference in the lives of many, but especially the most vulnerable members of my community.</p> <p>Organizations like Spartan Youth Service have allowed me to meet such wonderful individuals, especially those who also want to create change. This gives me hope for the future, and although these are just a few moments out of many that have been immensely impactful to me, I know that SYS will have a wonderful impact on many incoming students. I am also certain that this organization will open doors for others, just like it did for me</p>	<p>scholarship, I will pursue the life that 15-year-old me once saw as unachievable.</p> <div data-bbox="964 443 1247 680" data-label="Image"> </div>
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<p><b>STUDENT D Meaningful Experiences as JOI Member</b></p> <p>I was advised to join clubs as soon as I entered high school in order to make friends. When I asked my tennis captain for suggestions, she encouraged me to join Spartan Youth Service, the volunteering club she was Co-President of. I walked into the first meeting expecting maybe 20 or so students to be talking about helping out at food pantries; instead, I was greeted with over 150 students eating Goldfish and discussing a festival they would be volunteering at. This seemed to be the core of SYS: passion for community service in all forms. I quickly found myself warmly welcomed by the club and excited to get involved in volunteering events every weekend. Even if this experience didn't impact the community in a huge way or raise a lot of money, it has been the only time I've ever felt truly welcomed by such a large group of strangers, and that energy and excitement to do good in our community has stuck with me ever since. My entire high school experience can be divided up into chapters by whatever service project I was working on at the time. During the winter of my sophomore year, when I was a board member for the club, it was a holiday benefit concert that raised over \$900 for Fetch WI, a local nonprofit pet rescue. Amidst peak AP exam season during my junior year as Co-Vice President, it was Spirit Day, an event that promoted service and volunteer work around the school and</p>	<p><b>STUDENT D: Plans for Future with Scholarship</b></p> <p>After high school, I will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering. As a woman of color and member of the LGBTQ+ community, I find the lack of representation of people who look like me and have the same experiences as me in the engineering field really disheartening, and I hope to be able to make an impact in that career field. Although I am unsure of whether I will stay in academia after receiving a bachelor's degree, I hope to further my knowledge in astrophysics and heliophysics specifically to learn more about our universe. The money from this scholarship would help pay for my textbook and housing expenses at Georgia Tech.</p> <div data-bbox="984 1556 1266 1793" data-label="Image"> </div>
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<p>involved over 50 students during an entire afternoon. Now, as a senior, I have become an expert in emailing, creating spreadsheets, and wrangling clueless freshmen. As Co-President of SYS, I now get to help others discover how they can each give back to our community in their own unique way the same way the Co-President did for me three years ago. My passion for service and volunteerism is something that I know will carry on through college and beyond, especially as I move to a new state and discover a new community.</p>	
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<p><b>STUDENT E Meaningful Experiences as JOI Member</b></p> <p>I am no stranger to adaptation. My experience as an immigrant to this country, and dealing with culture shock taught me to be flexible, and at times, permissive. Over the years, I had to adapt to new social norms and slowly understand the discrimination behind other’s microaggression.</p> <p>My years in Spartan Youth Service have been filled with joy, many thank-you, and hundreds of smiles from children and members in our community. Each volunteering event I have organized or attended has positively impacted the course of my life and been meaningful in every way, yet, the most meaningful experience of them all, continues to be my familiarization with empowerment and standing up for what is right. Adaptation without compromise becomes manipulation. As I enter to my career and adulthood, I am no longer afraid to unite to reform and change the systems of oppressions that continue to teach our youth to blindly adapt. It is time to support and empower our youth to be optimists, but never be scared to speak out.</p>	<p><b>STUDENT E: Plans for Future with Scholarship</b></p> <p>I will be attending Columbia University in the fall. I will major in Sociology and Human Rights, with hopes to continue into Graduate School or potentially Law School. Furthermore, I see myself working in policy reform, especially in immigration or education. This money would help me feel more secure, given that Columbia does not offer merit scholarships or four-year scholarships. It depends from year to year, and after a certain amount of income my parents make, the financial aid is not as good. I am working two jobs to be able to save money for my costs of living and also for future tuition expenses. This amount of money, although small in comparison, could be very beneficial, and I will be extremely appreciative of receiving it.</p>
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<p><b>STUDENT F Meaningful Experiences as JOI Member</b></p> <p>As a member of SYS, I've not only discovered what it is that I wanted to work in, but I've also found community and a way to help give back. The most meaningful experience I had was volunteering at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches Garden. I had such an amazing time that I continued to go weekly with a friend every week, sometimes twice a week, for the rest of the summer.</p>	<p><b>STUDENT F: Plans for Future with Scholarship</b></p> <p>I plan to pursue an undergraduate at UC Berkeley in environmental engineering, continue my work in environmental justice, and connect with my community. Every year, I look forward to volunteering at community gardens, going on picnics, and immersing myself in nature. With a deep appreciation for nature instilled, I've always known I wanted to work to preserve the</p>
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<p>Gardening was a way I could be outdoors, relax and unwind from my usual chaotic life, catch up with my friends, and connect with my roots (pun intended!). My grandparents were all farmers, so growing up, my mom naturally loved gardening. I've been able to talk more with my mom about gardening, and I joined our school's Green Club since I really enjoyed my time outdoors, which has helped me find my passion- environmental activism. I now plan on pursuing a career in environmental engineering so I can revolutionize sustainable technologies for public health and create a future where people and nature can flourish together. SYS has provided me with opportunities to volunteer at different places where I've been able to meet wonderful people from all backgrounds, connect with my community, learn more about myself, and find fulfillment.</p>	<p>environment. Berkeley's student farms would grow on me with the wonderful opportunity to practice ecological agriculture while being able to give back to local food pantries. Beyond Berkeley, I aim to continue being involved with helping our local environment and people. I'd especially love to work with Indigenous environmental activists on wildlife protection and environmental conservation. Through volunteering at community gardens and advocating for sustainability initiatives, I'll give back to my community and form meaningful connections.</p> <p>This money would help me attend my dream school. After getting into UC Berkeley, it felt like the hard part was over— I finally got in! However, Berkeley doesn't offer need-based funding or merit scholarships for any out-of-state students, and since my siblings are still in college, we aren't sure if we would be able to pay the tuition. We have talked about selling our house and I have applied for a 4-year research opportunity that may provide stipends if I research, but I'm still looking for ways to lessen the burden.</p>
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### 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.**



## ***SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB***

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** John Fons, Carole Klopp, Jane Meyer, Mary Wykle, Mark Kraemer, and Steve Bailey

**ABSENT:** Rick Conne, Kathy Johnson, Ted See, Rick Thomas and Bob Wortinger

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

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions

2. **February Board Meeting Minutes:** Steve moves to approve, Mary seconds, motion passes unanimously.

3. **Financial Report** – End of February 2023

a. Balance Sheet: Checking operating cash balance is \$4251.72. There aren't any accounts receivables.

b. Income Statement: Reviewed with board by Carole.

c. January Cash Activity Report: No questions at this time.

Carole moves to accept the financial report as submitted, Mark seconds, motion passes unanimously

d. Accepting member resignation- Doris Van Houten: Carole moves to accept the resignation, Steve seconds, motion passes unanimously.

4. **Culver's Share Night: New Date- Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm**

John reported that the date is now June 20<sup>th</sup> from June 27<sup>th</sup>. John is still waiting to hear about future dates.

5. **Lunch Protocol**

The topic was discussed with regard to questions from members as to the actual start and ending time. Mark suggested that coming earlier and staying later would be fine, but the official meeting time is 11:45am to 12:45pm. Carole moves that the official meeting time is 11:45am to 12:45pm. Mark seconds, motion passes with 5 in favor and one opposed. President Fons indicated he would allow speakers to exceed the 12:45pm time and members were welcome to leave.

6. **Spartan Youth Service**

a. OI is informed of the names of our SYS members as we share them when we pay the JOI dues.

b. The names in the OI website for SYS is currently inaccurate. Carole noted that updated names were submitted annually to OI upon dues payment. John has a list of the current 140 JOI members. John posted those names omitting student contact information.

c. There is currently over \$8000 for scholarships and grants. John, Ted, and Bob met to discuss the awarding of scholarships to SYS members. They proposed that a \$1000 scholarship is appropriate and we could award 4, \$1000 scholarships this year. John reported that he wants to establish a procedure to include an application and interview process utilizing the following 3 categories in descending order: need for financial aid, grades, and community service. Carole indicated that there has been a process for the past 15 years which did include an application that the school uses. Also, the 3 categories identified above have always been used. John indicated 2 options for this year lacking a new process: 1. we can not award scholarships this year because we do not have a process in place; or 2. we can tell Annie Wilcox-Panzer that we have \$4000 for scholarships and ask her to give us 4 student recommendations. Mark asked if a pre-requisite is being a member of the JOI club. Carole indicated it has been. The discussion included a description of the process at Memorial. Additional discussion indicated the thought to award future scholarships to other students than our JOI club. As this is actually a Foundation issue, this topic is postponed to the Foundation meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> for a vote as to this year's process.

7. **Other Business:** No other business came before the board.

8. **Adjournment:** Jane moves to adjourn, Mary seconds, motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm.

**We stand adjourned to Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5pm on Zoom. A Foundation meeting will be held as well.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carole Klopp, Secretary



## ***SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB***

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** John Fons, Steve Bailey, Jane Meyer, Mark Kraemer, Ted See, and Bob Wortinger

**ABSENT:** Rick Conne, Kathy Johnson, Rick Thomas, and Mary Wykle

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Annie Wilcox Panzer (left @ 5:36), Patti Levenson, Trisha Lucas, Kathie Newman, Jacci See, Bonnie Spindler

**The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:02 pm.**

- 1. Welcome:** There were no agenda additions. John noted that this and future board meetings will be recorded.
- 2. Administration:** John noted that Carole Klopp submitted her resignation as STOC Board Secretary in March. Motion made by Ted and seconded by Steve to accept Carole's resignation with a thank you for her many contributions to the STOC Board. Motion passed. Motion made by Ted and seconded by Jane to approve Kathy as STOC Board Secretary (and continue as Vice-President) for the remainder of this fiscal year. Motion passed. John noted that Kathy was not able to attend this meeting, Bob will be taking minutes.
- 3. Discussion with Annie Wilcox Panzer, SYS/JOI advisor regarding our scholarship program:**

John noted that he and Annie have been meeting every other week during 2023 to discuss SYS/JOI and STOC activities and opportunities. Annie also works closely with Rick Thomas as SYS/JOI advisors. Annie noted that scholarship applicants were asked to provide essays of 500 words or less on two subjects – 1) Their most meaningful experience as a member of SYS/JOI, and 2) Their post high school plans and how a scholarship would help their careers. Following discussion with certain other Board members, John had discussed with Annie that STOC's scholarship criteria was 1) Need; 2) Grades; and 3) Activities/volunteer service.

Annie noted that six applications were received. Per her discussions with guidance counselors, they determined that one of the 6 applicants did not have financial need. Annie noted that we are late in the scholarship process and she met with the Chair of the High School's Scholarship Committee for guidance. She noted that our deadline for determining scholarships is early May. Annie has each applicant's application, volunteer hours and GPA. She also added that one of the applicants may be getting a large scholarship to an Ivy League school. The Board discussed issuing five \$1,000 scholarships this year. They also discussed the need to organize this process earlier next year and consider setting up a subcommittee to lead the STOC scholarship process. John suggested having a September social between STOC and SYS/JOI.

John noted that our scholarship winners are expected to attend a STOC meeting to give us an opportunity to meet and congratulate them.

Annie left the call at 5:36.
- 4. March Board Meeting Minutes and Financial Report:** Due to time constraints, the Board by consensus approved waiving these agenda items until the May Board meeting.
- 5. New Business:** Two funding requests related to the Foundation were noted. These were both tabled until the upcoming Foundation meeting.
- 6. Adjournment:** Motion made, seconded, and approved, to adjourn the STOC Foundation Board meeting. **We stand adjourned to Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5 pm on Zoom.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Wortinger, Treasurer



## ***SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB FOUNDATION***

### **Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2023 MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** John Fons, Steve Bailey, Jane Meyer, Mark Kraemer, Ted See, and Bob Wortinger

**ABSENT:** Rick Conne, Kathy Johnson, Rick Thomas, and Mary Wykle

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Patti Levenson, Trisha Lucas, Kathie Newman, Jacci See, Bonnie Spindler

**The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:41 pm.**

#### **1 New Business:**

Kathie Newman requested reimbursement for a \$30 honorarium for Oratorical judges from last Saturday's contest. Other participating Optimist clubs also contributed \$30. Motion made by Bob, seconded by Ted, and approved to reimburse Kathie \$30.

Rick Thomas asked the Foundation Board, in an e-mail prior to this meeting, to consider a \$250 funding request from SYS/JOI student Lavinia Vulpal to attend this summer's Optimist International Convention in Virginia. She is currently serving as SWIS JOI Lt. Governor and hopes to attend with SWIS JOI Governor Ruby Sheaffer from the Monroe JOI club. Following an extensive discussion, John agreed to bring this up at the May SWIS convention to determine if there would be any financial support available for Lavinia through the SWIS budget. The decision on funding this request for Lavinia was tabled until the May Board meeting.

- 2 Discussion of 2022-2023 STOC Foundation Scholarships:** The Foundation Board continued the discussion held during the regular board meeting. Bob provided an update on the Foundation's anticipated financial position for the year. Currently he is estimating that approximately \$8,650 will be available for grants and scholarships while still allowing us to maintain a year-end Foundation Cash/Investment balance of \$10,000 or more. Two years ago, the Foundation provided 4 \$1,000 scholarships while last year we approved four scholarships, but only three candidates were approved so three were provided at \$1,000. Prior to that we were normally spending about \$2,000 - \$3,000 per year on scholarships at either \$500 or \$1,000. In recent years, we have spent about \$6,000 on grants and thanks to funds raised in prior years by Rick Conne as well as restricted funds of \$500 each provided by Kathie and Bonnie, we have already covered the Lussier Christmas party. Normally the Foundation provides around \$1,500 to Lussier so we have about \$4,500 remaining for grants. That leaves about \$4,000 for scholarships this year. Following additional discussion, a motion was made by Bob and seconded by Jane to provide four \$1,000 scholarships to members of the SYS/JOI club at Val Phillips Memorial High School at the discretion of Annie Wilcox Panzer and Rick Thomas. Motion approved.

- 3 Sauk Trails annual contribution to the Optimist International Foundation:** Bob noted that in recent years we have been providing a \$500 grant to the OI Foundation. Normally this is approved in September along with other year-end grants. It would be better to pay this in either April or July with our quarterly OI dues to get OI recognition in the same fiscal year. Tabled until July Board meeting.

- 4 Other matters:** Jacci brought up the importance of adding new members to the club in addition to the Board trying to add additional fundraising opportunities. Discussion included enhancing lunch meetings to engage members as well as visitors/potential members and providing more opportunities to work on community and youth events. Following discussion, it was agreed that the April 26 lunch meeting will be held at the National Mustard Museum. Attendees will be billed later based on their share of meal expenses.

- 5 Adjournment:** Motion made by Jane, seconded by Ted, and approved, to adjourn the STOC Foundation Board meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm. Respectfully Submitted, Bob Wortinger, Treasurer