



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



Weekly Lunch Meetings
Wednesday's 11:45 - 12:45
The Radisson on Grand Canyon Drive



January 2020

PRESIDENTS NOTE

We have a tradition at our home this time of year. On December First I put a star in our yard and another star in the yard north, south, east and west all around our house every day of the month until Christmas Eve. Then the twenty-fourth star goes up accompanied by the grandest star of all, hundreds of multi-colored lights on a wooden framework hoisted high into a tree in front of our home. All the other stars of various heights are staked to the ground, each star twinkling with clear bright lights.

I use untold feet of wire and numerous junction boxes, all connected to one 30 amp circuit breaker in the garage. With one flip of the switch, I set our electric meter twirling merrily in anticipation of our monthly greeting from the power company. Each night we leave the stars burning all night. We sometimes leave the stars on throughout the day if the winter sun remains hidden or even better during snowstorms that add a special quiet luster.

Not everyone appreciates our stars. Some people stare down into a small screen as they walk by our home with ear buds nestled all snug in their ears or their heads bowed to pay homage to the small patch of pavement in front of their feet. They never look up. Yet others are quite effusive. They look far ahead. They began weeks ago asking if the stars would go up again this year. The answer we gratefully gave and they so graciously receive is Yes.

Our stars declare no creed or denomination. They are stars. They are constructed of primed lumber, pin lights bought on clearance and a few nuts and bolts. Their brilliance makes our street corner of the world a declaration of hope.

At this or any other season of the year, our stars are a celebration of optimism.

John Fons



STOC Bulletin Board

**Sauk Trails
Club Officers
2019-2020**

President: John Fons

Vice President: Rick Thomas

Secretary: Kathy Johnson

Treasurer: Bob Wortinger

Past President: John Fons

Board of Directors

- Steve Bailey
- Rick Conne
- Nancy Hach
- Kathie Newman
- Ted See
- Liv Sandberg



**SWIS Conference
February 22, 2020.
Broadhead, WI**

Conference details & information:
www.swisdistrict.org

January Birthdays

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Kathy Johnson | 2 |
| Frank Rath | 2 |

Newsletter Editor:
Liv Sandberg
jlivsandberg@gmail.com

STOC Schedule of Events

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1/1 | NO MEETING | HAPPY NEW YEAR |
| 1/8 | Rick Thomas | Coffee Brewing Made Easy |
| 1/14 | STOC Board Meeting 5:00 pm | Park Bank 2275 Deming Way, Middleton All members are welcome to attend |
| 1/15 | AB Orlick (Grant Recipient) | Lussier Community Education Center |
| 1/22 | OPEN | |
| 1/29 | OPEN | |

*Please let us know if you have someone who would like to speak at a lunch meeting.
Speaker Committee: Mary Schwartz, & Steve Bailey*

STOC Save the Date: future events

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| TBD March? | Progressive Dinner |
| April 28 | Culvers fund raiser |
| May 2 | Special Olympics regional track meet |
| August 1 | Mustard Days |

Lussier Christmas Party Report

On December 6th- The STOC held the annual Lussier Christmas for over 100 kids. A grand time was had by all, kids, parents, Santa, and all the elves that helped may the event such a wonderful time. Everyone was treated to a dinner and there were lots of activities for the kids to enjoy; cookie decorating, the balloon man, and received a presents from that famous dude wearing a red suit, big black boots, and carrying a sack of presents. Santa!

MANY MANY thanks go to both Rick Conne and Frank Rath for organizing the event! They did a fantastic job of gathering donations of food, getting all the presents, and planning the activities. Many thanks also go to all of the STOC elves that helped wrap presents Wednesday Dec 4th, and to both the STOC elves and JOOI youth who made the event run smoothly on Friday night. Santa would be happy to know all of his elves also had a fun time at the party.

Photos of wrapping event submitted by Mary Schwartz



**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
MINUTES

PRESENT: John, Rick T, Steve, Kathy N., Bob, Rick C., Nancy, Liv

Others Present:

Absent: Kathy J., Ted

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

1. **Addition to Agenda:**
2. **Approval of Board Minutes from 11/12/2019.** Bob moved to approve the minutes, Kathy N. seconded, Passed unanimously.
3. **Acceptance of Financial Reports:**
Bob discussed the recommendations of the audit committee. They will submit a report.
Rick C. moved that we accept the financials as presented, Liv seconded, Passed unanimously.
5. **Joe Herr Membership – Rick Thomas sponsor**
6. **Memorial Patch for Jeffrey D. Newman**
7. **Badger Optimist Club Update**
John attended their latest meeting. They have been active with numerous events over the last year. John recommends we continue sponsoring the club.
8. **Lussier Christmas Party "Wrap Up"**
Rick C. gave an update on how the event went. Donations were approximately \$300 greater than what we spent on the event. The event was a great success and well attended by students, members and guests.
9. **Reach – A – Child book bags outreach**
John is distributing bags to other Optimist clubs in the district in his travels as Lt. Governor.
10. **Adjourn to January 10th at 5:00pm, at Park Bank in Middleton** Bob moved to adjourn, Liv seconded, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Thomas, acting secretary

News Letter Funding Support Request

Dear Sauk Trails Optimist Members,

We're closing out the year and, I suppose, there are calendars and notes on everyone's desk or table. I have one here indicating the amount Sauk Trails spends to keep our excellent web site up and running and make connections with both the District and International sites.

If you would like to make a contribution toward our web site expenditure in the coming year I encourage you to do so. Sauk Trails will continue to budget and fully fund our annual web site presence. Any individual support by our membership will make it all the easier to do so.

You may contact either myself (John Fons) or Bob Wortinger in reply.

Student of the Month

STOC members helped honor two wonderful youth who received the Student of the Month award on Dec. 11th. They are Julia Zhou and Kevin Li. They are pictured below with Student advisors, Rick Conne, and Carole Klopp, students, STOC president John Fons, and proud parents.



SAUK TRAILS – Madison Club WEBSITE

www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org

Current and previous STOC Newsletters are available as PDF’s on the www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org website. To acquire the newsletter, CLICK on the ‘PDF Download’ of CHOICE.

Call for website sponsors.

If you are interested in also being a sponsor of the STOC Website for the 2018-2019 year, and have your business/name in the rotation on our website, please contact Bonnie Spindler. Thanks to the Park Bank of Madison for their continued sponsorship.

The Sauk Trails – Madison Website is constantly being updated with many pictures in addition to those in the newsletter. To become more familiar with the website and the pictures currently available, see below:

Sauk Trails – Madison Website Pictures

- In the **EVENTS** area, click on this link: [CLUB Program Pictures](#) (View ‘Photo Galleries’)
- In the **EVENTS** area, click on this link: [CLUB Accomplish Pictures](#) (‘Read More’, scroll description)
- In the **ABOUT** area, click on this link: [CLUB Photo Gallery](#)

If you have any problems acquiring the Newsletter or are NOT receiving the monthly message, please contact me so we can correct that situation. Optimistically, **Bonnie Spindler** blspindler@charter.net 850-9561 (H)
Sauk Trails Website Coordinator

STOC Ornament Exchange Luncheon

STOC members enjoyed some Holiday cheer and fellowship during the annual Ornament exchange luncheon. Gene Spindler was kept busy opening presents as he kept opening the ornament someone wanted to steal. The 'hot' ornament was a lovely bird and Mary Schwartz was the person who was able to make the final steal.



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.

