



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



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



June 2020

PRESIDENTS NOTE

Recently club members discussed and tentatively planned an 'in person' meeting on Wednesday as an evening gathering at The Pink at 417 S. Midvale Blvd., but those immediate plans have been dismissed because of the continued and now elevated occurrence of Covid-19 in Dane County. So our virtual meetings will continued with renewed effort to obtain guest speakers and, of course, guests to attend our Happy Gatherings.

It is noteworthy that since the beginning of our virtual meetings, 26 of our 41 club members have contributed **over \$1,100 in Happy Dollars** which bolsters our Foundation's ability to contribute scholarships and charitable organizations. However, it's simple math to calculate if all 41 members were equally Optimistic with regard Happy Dollars, our total would 'virtually' double which would Optimistically inspire our first 26 to redouble their efforts and so forth. Simple, but effective, especially if you expect only the best.

And speaking of effective, Sauk Trails Optimist members owe a big thanks to Tim Metcalfe and the organizers of Brat Fest for making a \$247.73 donation to our Foundation by virtue of their "Virtual Brat Fest" campaign. Sauk Trails also thanks member Diane Hoebel for being liaison in this determined effort to keep donations flowing in the face of event cancellation.

So please plan to attend our Wednesday Zoom meetings and invite someone you know to attend by sharing the link and password. Think of it as ordering Optimism on line.

Or think of it as a vaccine against the Covid-19 Blues.

Optimism is just a click away.

John Fons

MAKING IT BETTER

Four years ago I began a project that nears completion this summer, the complete reconstruction of a farm wagon that once served the Meyer Family Orchards near Milwaukee. The wagon dates from around 1900 and fell to complete ruin over the decades it sat unprotected, first in the orchards and then over the last fifty years at property here in Madison.

Once solid oak timbers could be crumbled like moldy paper mache. Iron fittings fell apart in rusted flakes like confetti. Yet enough of the wagon remained to measure and pattern and that's where I began four years ago, to remake the ruined relic of another age. An Amish wheelwright built the new wooden wagon wheels from the original rims and hub bands. A farmer cut and milled red oak timbers from his land near Fond du Lac. A family owned machine shop in Ixonia fabricated fittings after the disintegrated originals. This week I am constructing the box of the wagon, a full twelve feet long and over three feet wide and as close to the original as I can make it.

Today something happened I didn't expect.

Today I made it better.

The old wagon represents so many values I cherish I could spend a long time trying to describe them. I've spent the last four years doing just that with every pull of a draw knife or push of a carpenter's plane along the length of a board. Carving the axle timbers or tightening massive bolts, I've considered what it took for men to work without anything but the few dollars they took home to feed themselves and their families and produce something so simple, so rugged and yet so ingenious a century could only add to the mystique.

And yet today as I looked at it, the wagon became better, because I saw a couple ways I could improve it. Drilling a hole in a brace, adding a longer carriage bolt, using a handful of lock washers where none had been used before. It took me a little while to come to that realization, that I had a right, an obligation, to make it more than a replica, more than a copy, more than a repetition of what other men had done. I had the opportunity and duty to make it real, to make it my own.

So the wagon is a real wagon. It can do the work of a real wagon, the same as it could when it came off the assembly line in some shop probably in Milwaukee, probably before anything we know today came into being. All this has something to do with being an Optimist, because in order to be an Optimist you must make things better, not just think well of things as you find them, because quite often things as you find them are in ruin. Or headed that way.

So whatever you find to work on, whatever you find to apply your talents to do or to fix, do it with the eye of an improver, the attitude of an Optimist. You can do it. You can fix it, but you can also make it better and that is Optimism personified.

John



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

June Birthdays

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Mary Schwartz | 2 |
| Steve Bailey | 5 |
| Ray Schmitz | 27 |

July Birthdays

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Julie Thomas | 5 |
| John Scherer | 6 |
| John Fons | 12 |
| Kathie Newman | 22 |



SWIS 4th Quarter Convention

2019-2020

**VIRTUAL Meeting, Times
TBA**

Executive, Business, Agenda VIRTUAL,
Saturday, Aug 22nd
[Conf Details](#)

Newsletter Editor:
Liv Sandberg
jlivsandberg@gmail.com

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|------|---------|-------|
| | | |

Speakers for Zoom lunch calls are currently being organized.

Please watch for detail notices from president John Fons.

STOC Save the Date: future events

| Date | Event |
|-----------|---|
| July | Culvers fund raiser Cancelled |
| August 1 | Mustard Days (Virtual) |
| August 17 | Culvers fund raiser Tentative date |

FOOT BALL CRAZR TICKET INFORMATION

Here's a quote from Optimist Fred Dorn who has SWIS District administration of the Football Tickets we sell for cash prizes. The concern this year has been, 'What if I buy tickets and games don't get played?' Here's Fred's response:

"This year of 2020 with the Coronavirus on the horizon, we have made arrangements with our ticket supplier and back office that we will guarantee a regular season of winner payouts just like any other regular NFL season of games.

The difference this year will be made as stated above if there is a disruption in the amount of games actually played or no games played at all.

If the NFL season is not a regular season of games, our new software comes into place. Disregarding what happens during the NFL season this year, we will pay out the original 11 to 15 wins each week by using the winning teams from last year for each winning spot this year. Those teams will be the same as the respective teams that won last year in each of the payout spots for that particular week.

That guarantees that there will be 17 weeks of NFL payouts this year, just like prior years. A total of \$17,000.00 will be paid out just like past years."

So it appears statistics from previous season(s) will be used to determine 'virtual' winners to facilitate payouts to winning ticket holders.

Tickets are \$20 apiece and I have the supply of them for sale.

John

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** bspindler@charter.net 850-9561 (H)
Sauk Trails Website Coordinator

Congratulations to SWIS Governor Elect – John Fons

John Fons will serve as Southern Wisconsin – SWIS Governor starting October 1, 2021 – 2022. In preparation for his year as SWIS Governor he will serve as Governor Elect during the 2020-2021 year.

John Fons has been a member of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club of Madison (STOC) since March 2016. He initially visited the club as a speaker, sharing his vast historical knowledge through an interpretation of President Abraham Lincoln. While at the Club, he was inspired by the Optimist Creed, the optimists, club activities, and the interaction with the youth in the community. He became very involved with the various youth activities and fund raisers, and continued sharing more of his 'stories'. As a gifted 'writer' and instructor on writing, he has shared articles for the Optimist International Newsletter and our monthly STOC Newsletter.

John has served as a club president for the 2018-2019 year, obtaining SWIS District Honor Club Status and recognition for \$20 / member donation to the OI Foundation. Under his leadership, the club also received a SWIS Distinguished Honor Club status in 2018-2019, which included certificates and club banner patches. John accepted a second year as Club President in 2019-20 in conjunction with being the SWIS District Zone 7 Lt. Governor during the same year. He has been instrumental in providing contacting for clubs in his zone and continued communication. Recently, he's needed to make decisions on the impact of the coronavirus to optimists in the club and the youth being served.

To support John in his new position as Governor Elect, there is a need for a Past Club President to come forward to continue as SWIS Lt. Governor for 2 years to support the following clubs: Middleton; Verona; Mt. Horeb; Cross Plains; Mazomanie-WIHeights; and Fitchburg, besides Sauk Trails-Madison. This would involve contacting and visiting each club during the year, assisting with Inductions of officers at the beginning of the year, based on schedules, sharing information about clubs at SWIS quarterly conferences, coordinating with other clubs on the spring Oratorical contest, and other general communication support that John will need in his new position. There will be training available for this position.

John will provide more information to anyone who is interested in this very 'fun' and 'meaningful' position. As a Past SWIS Governor 2011-12 and SWIS Lt. Governor for 2 years prior to that, I'm willing to also provide support and help for any Optimist who could support John as Governor Elect and Governor.

Contact either John at 236-0844 or Bonnie Spindler at 850-9561 for more information.

Optimistically,

Bonnie Spindler, SWIS Past Governor 2011-12

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

MINUTES

PRESENT: John, Rick T, Rick C., Kathie N., Liv, Kathy J., Steve, Ted S, Nancy, Bob W.**Note:** No April 14, 2020 meeting was held due to COVID 19 Virus.

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

1. **Additions to Agenda:**
 - a. **Rick C. reported 1) Culver's Volunteering: it will be open, and Rick has scheduled us for July**
 - 2) **Christmas Party: the food and a good amount of money has been donated.**
 - b. **John reported that scholarships: \$2200 will be issued to 4 JOII/Memorial High School students per Board approval**
 - d. **Bob reported that Kwik Trip Scrips Program responded, and he will research it and advise**
 - e. **Scheduling of Events: (please note that these may be cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19)**
 1. **Respect for Law: Steve will call the Captain about putting the event on hold**
 2. **Firefighter/EMT Recognition: John will contact fire department about putting the event on hold**
2. **Approval of Board Minutes from 3/10/2020:** Bob W. moved to approve the minutes, Nancy seconded, Passed unanimously.
3. **Acceptance of Financial Reports:**

Joe Herr will be removed in April. Balance Sheet: cash status is exceptionally good. Investments are up 11% over past 2 years despite recent downturn. In budget, \$683 left for Christmas Program and \$250 for Super Sibs program. Polo shirts are still available. Net Income Statement \$1,282 due to 3rd quarter billings with limited expenses. New category under expenses: Radisson Lunches due to inconsistent billings from the Radisson. Bob's QuickBooks subscription is ending, Kathy J offered to donate a 2018 version to the Club. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Rick Conne and seconded by Steve Bailey. Passed unanimously.
4. **Roundtable Review:** John asked for suggestions or opinions on the status of the Club
 - Zoom meetings are working great
 - Happy Dollars help to keep us connected
 - Speakers and lunch programs on ZOOM? Rotary has been doing it so John will explore that
 - Suggestion to make a one-time larger Happy Dollar donation per member (Bob reported we may not be having the following fundraisers: Football Craze, Bratfest, Mustard Days totaling \$2700)
5. **Happy Dollar Update** – Coronavirus totals at \$624 and counting. 2019/20 financials are currently at nearly \$1000 of Happy Dollars for first 7 months of the fiscal year.
6. **SWIS District Executive Comm Report** – 5/1/20 via Zoom. John will become the Governor Elect of the SWIS District on 10/1/20 and the Governor on 10/1/2021.
7. **Super Optimists Sibs Day 9/26/20** – Donations received: Capital times Kids Fund Grant \$2,200, STOC \$500, ARC of Dane County \$250.
8. **Wednesday Meetings** via Zoom – working well
9. **Adjourn to June 9, 2020 at 5:00pm via Zoom.** Ted moved to adjourn, Steve seconded, passed unanimously at 5:49p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Johnson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

MINUTES**PRESENT:** John, Rick T, Rick C., Kathie N., Liv, Kathy J., Steve, Ted S, Nancy, Bob W.

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of Board Minutes from 4/14/2020:** Bob W. moved to approve the minutes, Passed unanimously.
2. **Financial Reports:** Bob noted there were only five transactions in May due to no lunches and very little is activity going on. Three of the five transactions related to Happy Dollars. We have raised nearly \$1,000 in pledged Happy Dollars since mid-March. Outstanding happy dollar amounts will be billed with the July 1 billing. Noted that we have about \$5,000 in a Vanguard money market account earning .3% currently. Bob was asked to check with Dan Chart to see if longer term CD's might be an option. \$2,200 was received from the Capital Times Kids Fund for the next Super Siblings Program. STOC membership remains at 41 - we started the fiscal year with 40 members. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made and seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. **Club Lunches:** The Board agreed by consensus on continuing to waive pre-billed lunches on the July 1 billing since we are still not sure on our Radisson lunch meeting schedule. John indicated that he would be contacting the Radisson to see what their schedule is for lunch availability
4. **Football CRZR Fundraiser:** John noted that he has received the Football CRZR information from Fred Dorn. In the event that some or all NFL games are cancelled they will use a virtual simulation mode for each game and still have the contest. This is about an \$800 fundraiser for STOC. John will get the word out and work with Bob on this. Checks are made out directly to Football CRZR (John will send out the exact payee) and not to STOC.
5. **Respect for Law:** John reported on his efforts to get a police officer to a STOC meeting so we can hold our annual Respect for Law event. Vic Wahl, the current Madison police chief, was actually a FOO with our club for a couple of years from 2011 to 2013! John has been working with his staff to schedule something, but obviously he has been extremely busy. Steve volunteered to contact the Madison west office to try to get them to attend since that is normally where are selected officers work.
6. **BratFest Update:** John received a thank you letter for our participating and John responded with a note of appreciation to the Sentry Foods website. We are awaiting a check for our earnings.
7. **Scholarship Update:** Bob noted that four scholarships were awarded to Memorial students for \$500 each for a total of \$2,000 - they are attending Northeastern University in Boston, University of California @ Berkeley, Luther College, and the UW-Madison School of Engineering. Beatrice, who was selected for a \$1,000 scholarship last year but took the year off, will be attending a University in Spain. She is checking to see how we might handle that.
8. **Kwik Trip Scrips:** Bob reported that he and Kathy are working on it and need more information.
9. **20-21 STOC President:** Rick Thomas, who had previously indicated an interest, has had his job duties changed so that he is relinquishing the position. Kathie Newman has indicated that she will be President.
10. **Culvers Update:** Rick C. reported that he is working with management for a July 18 opportunity.
11. **Adjourn to July 14, 2020 at 5:00pm via Zoom.** passed unanimously at 5:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Johnson, Secretary

Join a virtual lunch meeting and share time with fellow Optimists. Watch for announcements and details from President John Fons.



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.

