



Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club Madison, Wisconsin



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



February 2014

Sauk Trails Optimists:

WINTER is really here. We're all really thank-full for the ability to heat our homes this time of year and the expectation of those warmer days coming soon.

The 5th tenet of the creed is: Promise yourself: To think of only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best. A quote from the author in the 'Power of Creed' book is: *'What I think, I will do; what I believe in, I will pursue; and what I value, I will protect. I am the sum of my life's experiences, so I choose to utilize to the best of my ability those experiences and expect only the best.'*

We had a great time at the UW Women's Basketball program on Sunday, January 26th. Thanks so much to **Liv Sandberg** for organizing the event. Our annual Progressive Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, February 9th. The **Wortinger's** will be hosting the Appetizers, the **See's** the Main Dinner, and the **Conne's** the Desserts. Thanks in advance to all these hosts for volunteering their homes. (See article in this newsletter for information and contacts).

All optimists have received a cover letter and application for the Essay Contest from **Mike Grasmick**. (Due date is February 7th for our Sauk Trails Contest.) Thanks to Mike for coordinating and for those optimists who will be judging the submitted essays. The essay winners will be recognized by the Sauk Trails Club at a lunch and/or social. The winning essay will be submitted to a SWIS District Chair to be judged against essays from other clubs. The SWIS winner's essay and the \$2500 scholarship will be given at the SWIS 3rd Quarter conference on April 26th in Lake Geneva.

The Southern Wisconsin Conference – SWIS will be attended by 4 Sauk Trails Optimists on Saturday, February 8th. Our own, **Mary Schwartz** will be receiving an Honor Club Award for her year as club president in 2012-13. **CONGRATULATIONS MARY.**

As the SWIS co-Membership Chair, I'll be presenting a '**Thank-You**' to ALL optimists for being 'an Optimist' which I also extend to ALL the Sauk Trails-Madison Optimists. There are also plans to have a Social 'New Optimists Welcomed' – NOW get-together, on March 26th early evening. Remember for every optimist, on the average there are 35 kids served nationwide. **That's what we're all about, serving the kids and enhancing our personal lives as we do it.** Think about that friend, relative, neighbor, business associate who you could invite to attend and share in our fun times and upcoming events.

Be sure and put May 10th on your calendar for the annual Special Olympics Track meet. Thanks to **John Scherer** for coordinating. There will be a need for many volunteers for this one day event.

We're always looking for input from optimists on ways to be able to enhance the club activities and in turn the kids that are served. As the year progresses, if there is an idea or event you have for the club to participate in, please be sure and share that with me and/or any member of the board or better yet attend a board meeting to share your idea.

Optimistically,
Bonnie Spindler

bspindler@charter.net 833-7244 (H) 338-7244 (cell)

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2013-2014

President: Bonnie Spindler

Vice President: Dan Bergs

Secretary: Carole Klopp

Treasurer: Bob Wortinger

Past President: Mary Schwartz

Board of Directors

Rick Conne
 Mike Grasmick
 Pete Graven
 Nancy Hach
 Diane Hoebel
 Liv Sandberg

February Birthdays

Mike Grasmick Feb. 4th

Bonnie Spindler Feb 11th



Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team

Now that mid-terms are done, SYSJT continues to serve their school and community.

Mark Your Calendar – May 1, 2014 – SPIRIT DAY.
 Chaperones will be needed as the students perform volunteer activities in the community.
 More details coming soon!

2014 Optimist International Essay Contest

Interested students can write an essay about "How Dreams Lead to Success" to have a chance at winning a \$2,500 college scholarship! The essay contest is open to all youth under the age of 19, who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent.

Essays should be submitted to Mike Grasmick, 6317 Masthead Drive, Madison, WI 53705, before February 7th. Essays will be read and scored by a panel of three judges. The top-ranked essay will move forward to the Optimist District-level competition on February 28.

An application form is attached to this newsletter. Please pass this information along to students that you feel may be interested in participating. If you have questions, please contact Mike at megrasm@gmail.com.



Special Olympics Track Meet

Saturday, May 10

More Details Soon

We still have a few **Bucky Books** available – **The PERFECT Valentine's Day gift!**



2014 SWIS Conference Dates

February 8 Chalet Landhaus, New Glarus
 April 25 - 26 The Abbey, Lake Geneva
 August 9 - 10 The Sheraton, Brookfield

2014 Optimist International Dates

May 17 OI Summit, Madison
 July 9 - 12 OI International Convention, Las Vegas, NV

Newsletter Editor:
 Mary Schwartz
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Sauk Trails Optimists Club Meetings and Other Scheduled Events

| Date | Optimist Assigned | Speaker and Topic <i>(Lunch, 11:45 AM at Radisson unless indicated)</i> | Lunch Choices |
|---------|--------------------|--|---|
| 2-5-14 | Kathy Johnson | Ray Yingling, Laser Therapy | Beef Stroganoff or Chicken Caesar Salad |
| 2-9-14 | Optimists | Annual <u>Sunday Progressive Dinner</u> . | (See Article in Newsletter) |
| 2-11-14 | STOC Board Meeting | 7:30 a.m. at Wegner CPA's on LuAnn Lane. All members welcome. | |
| 2-12-14 | Jacci See | Jacci See, 2014 Real Estate Trends | Baked Chicken with mashed potatoes-Gravy/Corn or Chicken Mandarin Salad |
| 2-19-14 | Kathy Johnson | Tim O'Brien, 'Road to Health, with Healthy Intestines' | Cheeseburger with chips or Chef Salad |
| 2-26-14 | TBA | | Beef Taco Salad or Chicken Caesar Salad |
| 3-5-14 | Steve Bailey | TBA | Beef Stew with biscuit or Chicken Mandarin Salad |
| 3-12-14 | Rick Conne | Students of the Month (moved from 2-26-14) | Lasagna Salad Buffet with Caesar Salad and garlic bread |
| 3-19-14 | Claudia Cabrera | Peru | Glazed ham with red potatoes / green beans or chef salad |
| 3-26-14 | Social Team | Evening 'NOW' – New Optimists Welcomed get-together, 5:30/6:00 | TBD by Social Team |

Shaded Pink = Wednesday Lunch Meeting

Sauk Trails Optimist Board of Directors Meeting January 21, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Bonnie. The minutes from the last meeting and the financials were approved. The financial report included a report on the Bucky Book and Koeze Nut fundraisers. It was noted that there will be a Foundation meeting in February to discuss the 2014 scholarships. Tracey Ziegler has resigned from the club due to other commitments. West Madison Police will no longer be FOO's.

Old Business: REACH-a- Child on January 21 was cancelled due to cold weather; Liv will head up the social outing at the UW Women's Basketball game on Sunday, January 26; 12 more club shirts were ordered; and we will assist members who may need transportation to club meetings. Mike Grasmick gave a report on the Essay Contest. We will order a set of medallions to be awarded to the winners.

New Business: John Scherer has once again agreed to coordinate the Special Olympics Track Meet on May 10th. Bob and Dan will assist. The SWIS conference is February 8th. Bonnie, Steve, Carole, and Mary will attend. Mary will receive the Honor Club Award. We will have a Happy Hour meeting in March, Liv & Jacci will organize.

Committee Reports:

Social: Progressive Dinner on February 9th – the theme is being decided

JOOI/Volunteer: JMM SPIRIT Day will be May 1st and chaperones will be needed.

Finance/Fundraising – Rick Thomas is still waiting to hear from the person in charge of concessions at the Alliant Center.

The meeting was adjourned. The next STOC Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11th, at 7:30 a.m. at Wegner CPA's. A Foundation Board meeting will be held following the regular board meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

(If you would like to have the official minutes of the board meeting, please contact Carole Klopp, Club Secretary, at klopp@chorus.net.)

Progressive Dinner – Sunday, February 9, 2014

Join us on Sunday, February 9th for our Annual Sauk Trails Progressive Dinner – one of the best social events of the season! Optimists, spouses and significant others are welcome.

Please sign-up to participate and to bring a dish to pass at one of the 3 houses. RSVP with a type of dish (appetizer, main course, or dessert) to Dan (dan.bergs@wegnercpas.com) or Jacci (seej@firstweber.com) or sign-up at a lunch meeting.



Appetizers from 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

at The Wortinger's - 3926 Caribou Road, Verona, WI 53593

Directions: From Madison, go west on Mineral Point Road and take a right on Caribou (4th right after the Kwik Trip). Proceed 0.7 miles, their house is on the right after the 2nd stop sign.

Main Course from 5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

at The See's - 6326 Stonefield Road, Middleton, WI 53562

Directions: From Wortingers, Go South on Caribou and take the 1st left onto Summerfield Dr. Turn Left onto Goth Road, Turn Right onto W. Old Sauk Road and go 4.3 miles. Turn Left onto N. Gammon Rd. and go 0.4 miles. Turn Right onto Stonefield Rd. and go 0.5 miles. The house will be on your left.

Dessert from 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

at The Conne's - 5 Oxwood Circle, Madison, WI 53717

Directions: From See's, Go southwest on Stonefield Road to N. Gammon Rd. and turn Right onto Old Sauk Rd. Take the first Left onto N. Westfield Rd. Take the 3rd Left onto Oxwood Circle. The house will be on the right.



February 2014 Reflection:

Promise yourself: To think of only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

Each of us has experiences in our lives and can 'reflect' on how this line of the creed has helped us in our interaction with others. If there is a situation you would like to share briefly as part of the 'Happy Dollar' program during December, your input will enhance this promise to yourself and others.

January in Photos
By Steve Bailey



Surprise Guest SWIS Governor-Elect, Jeff Kuchenbecker. STOC members in the know had the chance to win Godiva Chocolates during Optimist Trivia.

Scott Mast from Burkhalter Travel shares travel ideas.



Alexis & Laura from The Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project. How tutoring helps achievement in local schools.



Cheering on the UW Women's BB Team as they take on Michigan.



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.**