



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
May / June 2023 News



<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



The Honey of Optimism

This writing comes with a picture and the picture will add a thousand words to the writing.

Our bees have given us a gift and what you cannot fully appreciate by either these words or the picture is the exquisite nature of the gift.

The bees gave us honey.

Lots and lots of honey.

Half pints to pints and pints to quarts, even gallons of honey from the hive we keep off the southwest corner of our home.

We started harvesting in the early spring as I opened the hive and discovered each of the four boxes each containing ten frames and each frame weighing up to eight pounds filled with honeycomb and honey.

The bees did their job.

Ranging as far as three miles from home, the bees gathered pollen from every variety of blooming plant and flower: roses, creeping Charlie, dandelions, cone flowers, honeysuckle, goldenrod, zinnias and apple blossoms, then returned to the hive which is and of itself a work of art.

They built beautifully constructed six-sided hexagonal cells in which to store their treasure and if you go to the store and price honey, if that's the way you calculate treasure, the bees produced tens and hundreds perhaps even a thousand dollars' worth of honey that now sits as you see pictured golden and tempting on our kitchen cupboard.

Honey.

Sweet, thick, luscious, nutritious, healthful honey, full of mysterious beneficial qualities that make every bite, every taste, gooey slurp or swallow a delight.

The bees gave their lives doing this.

They're gone now.

The hive is empty.

Some have died. Some have simply disappeared. All they left is the honey, the evidence of where they've been and that brings us to ourselves and our role in Optimism.

We have our queens and our workers; our drones and scouts and we gather together to produce what we may never fully appreciate or utilize for ourselves. Ours is the honey of the community. The sweet cooperation with one another to nurture and benefit the world in which we live.

Friends of Youth.

Friends of One Another.

Friends of Those We Have Yet to Meet.

So, let's learn from the magnificent example set for us by our fellow Optimists the bees. Those industrious, extraordinarily productive colleagues in this extravagantly beautiful world.

We may never see the results, the sweet results of our labor, but for everyone's sake and certainly for our own, we must never stop working.

John Fons, Sauk Trails Optimist Club



. NEWSLETTER BULLETIN: BOARD MEETINGS RECORDED, & Future ZOOM Link

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. recording link may be requested from club President John Fons or found here in the newsletter:

May 16th , 2023 Board Meeting 'Recording' LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Ue4jF2eeq7gKv4KuQBT8rtjJnnc6X18DcMgmztHUaleWPgffuvVo9ozlz0y90nvC.KxFxjRlBj2FyK4f1> Passcode: 1p%A3cEz

JULY 17th (Monday) Board Meeting Link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88390002578>

Meeting ID: 883 9000 2578

Passcode: 782666

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

Board Members (3)

Terms begins October 1, 2023.

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. **After 13 years as STOC Club Treasurer, Bob is retiring from that position. Please consider taking that position, Bob will provide some training and initial coordination.**

Smile at Bob the next time you see him and tell him how much you appreciate his work. He's the messenger.

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

May Birthdays

Mary Poole 17

June Birthdays

Mary Schwartz 2

Amber Bormann 3

Rick Conne 5



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

Newsletter Editor:

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

blspindler@charter.net

SWIS 4th Quarter Convention

Milwaukee

Hotel Location

**Fri/Sat, Aug 25- 26,
2023**

Conference Saturday,

9:00am-3pm

UPDATE 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



Mary's Birthday

Sauk Trails Board Meeting

Mon, July 17, 2023 5:00 PM

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

**Beautiful
Flowers from
John and
Jane's Yard.**



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#

Kathie Newman, Lt. Governor Zone 6

| SCHEDULE of MEETINGS, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, July 5, 2023 | VINTAGE Guest speaker: Virginia Gittens Escudero, Executive Director of Unidos of Madison, accompanied by newly acquired Associate Director. Unidos helps Latinx survivors of domestic violence access social services. |
| Monday, July 17, 2023 | ZOOM BOARD Meeting, 5:00 PM |
| Tuesday, July 18, 2023 | Culver's Volunteering, 4 – 6, 6 – 8 PM |
| Wednesday July 19, 2023 | Vintage, Scholarship Winners Awarded at Lunch, 11:45 |
| Wednesday, August 2, 2023 | VINTAGE SPEAKER: Rob Zaleski. former columnist for the Capital Times and author of "David Couper Beyond the Badge: Reflections of an Ex-Cop." Couper is the former police chief in Madison who retired in 1993 to become an Episcopal priest. Rob also has published a book about Ed Garvey, first executive director of the NFL players' union and colorful activist and politician in Wisconsin. Rob also has published a novel. |
| Saturday, August 5, 2023 | Mustard Museum Volunteering, 9 – 4 PM |
| Tuesday, August 15, 2023 | ZOOM BOARD Meeting, 5:00 PM |
| Wednesday, August 16, 2023 | Vintage, Scholarship Winners Awarded at Lunch, 11:45 |
| Saturday, August 26, 2023 | SWIS 4th Qtr Convention 22-23, Milwaukee Area |
| Wednesday, August 30, 2023 | VINTAGE SPEAKER: Pat Zeitlow Miller , children's book author. Her first book, "Sophie's Squash," is one of Paul Johnson's favorites. Pat is a true optimist. Her extraordinary persistence and determination got her past numerous early rejections and she is now able to pursue her dream of writing children's books full time. |
| Wednesday, September 6, 2023 | SPEAKER To-Be-Scheduled |
| Wednesday, September 13, 2023 | SPEAKER To-Be-Scheduled |
| Tuesday, September 19, 2023 | ZOOM BOARD Meeting, 5:00 PM |
| Wednesday, September 20, 2023 | SPEAKER To-Be-Scheduled |
| Wednesday, September 27, 2023 | POTENTIAL SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB BANQUET -TBD |
| Saturday, October 7, 2023 | SWIS 1st Quarter Conference, 23-24 Year, Sun Prairie |

Dear Sauk Trails Optimists:

There is a folder on my desk containing the names of those Optimists currently serving as officers or board members in our Sauk Trails Optimist Club. The list is not accurate, since two officers have resigned in recent weeks and another has indicated recently an intention to leave the club September 30 at the end of our organizational year.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club must have officers and board members to exist and function as an energetic and committed group, dedicated to activities and programs that benefit the youth of our community and the community as a whole.

Positions for the 2023-2024 year are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Board of Directors - Three Seats Available

As President of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club, I am now entering the final weeks of my third term in that office, consecutive with my responsibilities last year as SWIS District Governor. At this time I call for volunteers to fill each of the positions listed above, those volunteers to then be considered as candidates for the respective offices for which they have volunteered and subsequently voted upon by the Sauk Trails membership. In the case of more than one person volunteering as a candidate for any particular office, the vote count determines the outcome by simple majority. Unfilled offices will remain unfilled until filled by a subsequent volunteer, all to be duly approved by the board of directors in accordance with our by-laws.

This process encourages, I hope, the Optimism and devotion to Optimism within each and every member of Sauk Trails Optimists, rather than a process of persuasion and cajoling to obtain officers and board members which often results in the same people performing the same tasks for the same reason and others to abide the result or observe the outcome.

If you have never served as an Officer or Board Member in Sauk Trails Optimists, now is your chance by your own initiative and determination to do so. If you have served and are more than willing to do so again, please make that commitment to continue the good work this club has accomplished. Again, here are the Sauk Trails Offices 2023-2024 to be filled:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors - 3 Seats

As you 'Reply All' in the Sauk Trails Newsletter, the date of **July 12** will be given as the deadline for this process of candidacy. The Sauk Trails Board of Directors will then give due deliberation to the finalization of officers and board members for 2023-2024 at the July Board meeting.

John Fons, President, Sauk Trails Optimist Club

Wednesday, June 7, at Vintage Brewing,

Guest speaker was Paul Johnson's friend Ron Geason who presented his experiences as a Peace Corp volunteer in Uganda. Thanks to Paul for bringing this informative and insightful guest and knowledge to our meeting. It was a very interesting meeting about what life is like in Uganda, which is a lot different then our life in Wisconsin. It included about the children and women walking long distances, with containers, in the early morning to acquire water for the day. Children going to school for distances for just a few years and then working with their families in the fields and other areas.



Respect for Law, March 17, 2023

Steve Bailey has coordinated annually with West Madison Police Station for the presentations of officers during May. The commander of the precinct Captain Kelly Beckett, and the Lieutenant Lt. Richardson Patrol Commander and families were present to honor 2 officers: Kraig Hohf, 4 year officer and Dana Cummings, 20 years officer. The West Madison Captain and Lieutenant presented about the goals of the police station and introduced their selected 2 officers who, accepted a personal award and also a police station plaque with their names being added.



**Kraig Hohf,
4 year officer**

**Dana Cummings,
20 year officer**

**BOTH HONORED with
FAMILY Present.**



Special Track Olympics, May 6, 2023

The annual Special Olympics Track Meet was held at the Oregon track again on May 6th. There was a need to have volunteers help with coordinating and helping that day for this continuing event. **Thanks to any who helped with this Annual activity for the Youth..**

Spirit Day, May 18, 2023

On Thursday, May 18, members of Spartan Youth Service participated 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. Thanks to any optimist members who helped by volunteering for this special annual day.

BRATFEST 2023 - \$530.86

Our club worked 53.86 hours at Bratfest, so we should be receiving a check for \$530.86 soon. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to work together to raise funds for our club. Thank you to the following enthusiastic Optimist members and friends: Barb Sheeran-Hill, Bonnie Spindler, Diane Hoebel, Kathie Newman, Mary Breunig, Nancy Hach, Patti Levenson Rick Tomas, Paul Johnson, Marion Simon, Theresa Reinke and John Olson in addition to Jonathan Wolenec, a Spartan Youth Services member who received a scholarship from us in 2017. Thanks to Diane for Coordinating.

Diane Hoebel, Bratfest Coordinator



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 Optimists who volunteered in January 2023. The next date planned for Culver's is **Tuesday, July 18th**, from 4-8 pm with sign-up currently. Culver's donates a percentage of their receipts that night to our charitable Sauk Trails Foundation. **Future dates for Culver's will be coming.**

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 Wiriyan

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.

The students, with a parent, will be attending either July 19th or August 16th to share and present their future plans, and accept the scholarships. Thanks for Rick Thomas for coordinating dates.

John Fons, Sauk Trails Optimist Club President

Dear Sauk Trails Optimists,

Finding a little hard to get in touch with your club President these days? No wonder. Jane Meyer and I traveled to Washington Island June 16

to rescue two starving Bernese Mountain Dogs left unattended in a hog wire kennel without food or water. "It's amazing they're still alive, said our vet and now, well, it's amazing how wonderfully they respond to plenty of love, food and water.

We named them **Ole and Lena**. They have not met our cats. That will be next for the family.

John Fons, President, Sauk Trails Optimists



National Mustard Day
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023

Please mark your calendars for National Mustard Day on Saturday, August 5 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. **Each year on the first Saturday in August, we paint the town yellow.**

Since the very first mustard day celebration in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, back in 1991, the Mustard Museum has hosted this golden annual event. And, we truly have come a long, long way. That first event occupied about three parking stalls in front of the original museum.

Now, we close streets in Downtown Middleton where thousands gather every year for this engaging street festival. Schedule of Events & Activities below:

SIGN UP for This EVENT with: Patti Levenson at: plevenson@mustardmuseum.com .

FRENCH'S MUSIC STAGE

- **10:00** The Mustard Day Overture with The Blue Accordion
- **10:30** Opening Ceremony with Dr. Mustard, Dean of Poupon U
- **11:00** John Masino Band
- **1:00 to 4:00** Frank Martin Busch and the Names (*pictured above*)
- **4:00** The BIG Mustard Day 50/50 Raffle Drawing.

MUSTARD MUSEUM FAMILY TENT

- **11:30, 1:15, 2:45** Kids Are People Too! (*three interactive family shows*)
- Hubbard Avenue Diner Pie Walk (*between Kids Are People Too! shows*)

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD (and Drinks)

- Razzle Dazzle Mustard Ice Cream from Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream
- Usinger's Bratwursts and All-Beef Hot Dogs
- "Holy Cow" Grilled Cheese Sandwiches (*sponsored by Cabot Cheese*)
- Cleveland Kitchen Kraut, Kimchi and Pickle Chip samples
- Hot Soft Pretzels (with mustard)
- Ice cold beverages

ACTIVITIES

MEET THE MUSTARD MAKER

- Plochman's Mustard
- Kelley's Gourmet Mustard
- Stormin' Gorman Thomas and his mustard sauce

— FUN —

- Meet the French's Mustard Mascot
- Balloon Twisting by Pop Art Entertainment
- Face Painting

— GAMES —

- French's Mustard Ring Toss
- Plochman's Spinning Wheel of Mustard Fortune
- Mustard Bowling
- Lucky Mustard Dice
- Fishing for Mustard
- Feed the Curator

— INSIDE THE MUSTARD MUSEUM —

- See the World's Largest Collection of Mustard and Mustard Memorabilia
- Enjoy Mustard Piece Theater
- Browse the Museum Gift Shop & Store

— ABOUT THE MUSTARD MAKERS & MARKETPLACE —

Meet the Mustard Makers! All three who will be here on Mustard Day (Plochman's, Kelley's, Gorman Thomas) are recent medal winners of the 2023 World-Wide Mustard Competition. Sample some of their most popular flavors, as well as some of our Gift Shop's best selling mustards and gourmet goodies.

SEE MORE INFORMATION and Pictures at:
WWW.MUSTARDMUSEUM.ORG





SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Fons, Bob Wortinger, Kathy Johnson, Mary Wykle, Jane Meyer, Mark Kraemer

ABSENT: Steve Bailey, Rick Conne, Ted S., Rick T.

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

1. Welcome/ Agenda Additions

2. March (carried over); April Board Meeting Minutes: Kathy moved to approve March, Mark seconded, motion passed unanimously. Mark moved to approve April, seconded by Jane Meyer, motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Report-March and April 2023

STOC's cash balance as of 4/30/23 was \$3,223 with \$4,838 in cash equivalents. March and April finance activity was routine. Mark moved to accept the financial report, Mary seconded, and motion passed..

4. Refund Super Optimist Sibs Day funding re: Cap Times Kids Fund/ARC Dane County. Jane reported that she spoke to both organizations, thanking them for their financial support in the past and that the program has been cancelled for 2023 due to low attendance. The STOC Foundation will reimburse both the Capital Times Kids Fund (\$2,200) in May and Jane is still working with the ARC Dane County (\$250).

5. SWIS District Executive Committee Meeting -Report

Reinstatement by SWIS District for JOI Funding to International Convention-at the recent meeting, John proposed to reinstate that policy and it was reinstated in the amount of \$1,200 which will subsidize costs for attendance by the JOI District Gov, JOI Lt Gov, and a JOI advisor at the international convention. To help cover transportation costs for the JOI Lt. Governor who is also a SYS student, Lavinia Vulpul, to reach the July convention in Arlington VA., the STOC Foundation has been asked to contribute \$200. This was tabled for the Foundation meeting to follow.

6. Sauk Trails Scholarship Recipients: congratulations and instructions

John sent congratulatory letters to recipients, including instructions on how to receive the scholarship.

7. Respect for Law-May 17: currently, 28 attendees are reserved. Steve Bailey coordinates the program and communications.

8. Bratfest-May 25 & 26: Diane Hoebel coordinates Club participation

9. Football Crazz Tickets: Bob has offered to handle the selling of tickets. We earn \$10-\$12 per ticket we sell which is normally about 50-60 tickets sold.

10. Further Business: none

11. Adjournment: Bob moves to adjourn to at 5:49pm, Mark seconded, motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Johnson, Secretary



**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, MINUTES

PRESENT: John, Mary W., Kathy J., Bob, Jane, Mark

ABSENT: Rick C., Ted S., Steve B., Rick T

The meeting was called to order at 5:49 p.m.

- 1. Welcome/Agenda Additions**
- 2. Approval of Foundation Minutes from April 18, 2023:** Bob motioned to approve; Kathy seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 3.** At the request of John and the Monroe Optimist Club, SWIS reinstated a \$1,200 budget item for JOI District officers to attend the OI annual convention. SWIS JOI governor, Ruby Sheaffer, from the Monroe Club along with the Monroe Club JOI advisor will be driving with Lavinia Vulpul. John proposed donations to subsidize Optimist convention expenses in Arlington, VA for SYS student & SWIS JOI Lt. Governor, Lavinia Vulpul.

Motion by Mark, seconded by Jane to pay \$200 to the Monroe Jr. Optimist Club for Lavinia's expenses (provided she attends). Passed unanimously.
- 4. Two \$100 honorariums for Respect for Law May 17, 2023,** for police officers, Dana Cummings and Kraig Hohf being honored, as well as lunch costs for the officers and their guests and other officers. Mary motioned to approve and Mark seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 5.** Motion to adjourn by Bob; seconded by Mark. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Johnson, 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.