

Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



January / February / March 2022 – QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Spring is an easier time to be an Optimist. The snow is melting, birds are returning to their Northern homes and it stays lighter later into the evening. I am optimistic that I will be able to get out and ride my new bike. I am optimistic that we will have a better turnout for our Oratorical contest and Special Olympics track meet and that people will feel more comfortable coming to in person meetings. I am also optimistic about what we can do to help youth in our community.

I want to challenge everyone to really think about what they are optimistic about and do what you can to make your optimism come true. There will be challenges, and not everything will go as planned, but if we stay optimistic we can accomplish great things. Great things and advancements are rarely made by those that concentrate on the negative. Think about the things you have done to make yourself and your friends feel that there is something in them and talk health, happiness and prosperity to everyone you meet. I hope to see you soon at one of our meetings or events. Concentrate on the positive.

Rick Thomas; rlthomas5914@gmail.com



Rick Thomas
Club President 21-22



SWIS Optimists:

There's a joke I often tell.

It goes like this.

"What's the difference between an Optimist and a pessimist?"

You'll notice I spell 'pessimist' with a lower case 'p'.

The answer usually comes back, "I don't know."

That's my cue.

"A pessimist says, 'Things can't get any worse.'"

Then comes the punch line.

"The Optimist says, 'Oh yes they can!'"

Did you get that?

Would you like me to repeat it?

Don't mind if I do.

"What's the difference between an Optimist and a pessimist? A pessimist says, 'Things can't get any worse. An Optimist says, 'Oh yes they can!'"

Serve it up any way you want. It's an easy recipe.

Kind of like your Grandmother's oatmeal cookies.

When you think about it, that's another form of Optimism. After all, what could be more mundane or unremarkable than oatmeal dumped in a bowl? Your Grandmother (note the capital 'G') had a way of making the best of whatever came along, including your Grandfather.

You can do the same.

We're doing it right now in the Optimist SWIS District. Pay attention. The ingredients are at hand.

In February we enjoyed a full-course 2nd Quarter Conference at the Comfort Inn & Suites / North Star Conference Center in DeForest. We mixed in JOI Clubs from Lake Mills and Monroe; added Quilts from the Brodhead Club Quilt Project; spiced it up with the WaunaStrummer Ukulele Band from Waunakee and topped it off with Special Guest Speaker Rebecca Butler-Mona, Optimist International President 2018-2019 and currently International JOI Club Chair. Rebecca knows three times as much as anyone else when it comes to JOI Club formation, outreach and activities.

What's cooking for the 3rd Quarter Conference May 13-14, again at the Comfort Inn & Suites / North Star Conference Center in DeForest?

Hope you're hungry.

We're serving up your favorites.

There will be Oratorical Contest competition throughout Saturday morning, May 14, by Oratorical finalists and hopefully for the first time in years, participation by students in our Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Luncheon at the 3rd Quarter Conference will include a unique musical experience with a performance by virtuoso accordion artist Sergei Belkin. Born and raised in Ukraine, Sergei will astonish with his symphonic skill upon this most complicated of musical instruments. As a boy, Sergei says he put his accordion case in the snow at home and slid downhill to his music school in Ukraine.

Another virtuoso, this time in the most complicated realm of competitive business and service to the public is Craig Culver, owner and originator of Culver's Restaurants. Welcome the creator of Delicious to our 3rd Quarter Conference as Craig Culver has graciously consented to attend and present awards to our contest and scholarship winners.

That's the Main Menu.

Save room for desert.

Friday evening, May 13, the SWIS District Executive Committee will duly consider whether or not and if so how to distribute tens of thousands of dollars in District funds and review District activities to date. And as a man once said standing in the midst of a three-ring circus, "It's only the beginning, folks. It's only the beginning."

The Main Attraction in our SWIS District must not merely be the few days of our Quarterly Conferences, but the entire year and every day of every year.

Craig Culver says, "Welcome to Delicious."

We must say, "Welcome to Optimism."

Sergei Belkin plays beautiful music in a war-torn world.

We must harmonize our efforts as Optimists throughout our local clubs and communities.

Every student who stands before us to present a speech or essay puts their fear and anxiety aside to communicate the very Optimism we Promise Ourselves we believe.

We must Prove It to these students, Prove we hear what they say and we will do it.

Those are the ingredients. That's what we're cooking up for the 3rd Quarter SWIS District Conference in DeForest, Wisconsin, May 13-14.

"The pessimist says, 'It can't get any better.'"

The Optimist says, "Oh yes it can!"

John Fons, Governor 2021-2022

STOC Bulletin Board

Kathie Newman, Sauk Trails Distinguished President 2020-21 has been installed as Lieutenant Governor of Zone 6 for 2021-2022. She has contacts with: Sauk Trails, Cross Plains, Middleton, Verona, Mazomanie-Wisconsin Heights and Fitchburg.



John Fons, former Sauk Trails Optimist President and Lieutenant Governor, has been installed as Governor 2021-2022 of the fifty-one clubs, approximate 1,450 Optimists of Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) Optimist District.



Jacci See accepted the position of Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) Leadership Development Chair to coordinate with John Fons in his Governor 21-22 year.



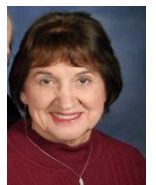
Diana and Paul Johnson have accepted the position of Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) District Essay Co-Chairs. Besides coordinating the SWIS Essayists they are also assisting Mike Grasmick for the STOC Club. (All essays were due by February 28, 2022).



Jane Meyer accepted the position of Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) Conference Chair to help John Fons in his year as Governor 2021-2022.



Bonnie Spindler continued in her position as Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) Webmaster. She has coordinated inputs and yearly transition of officers for over 5 years. She is a previous twice STOC Club Distinguished president & SWIS Distinguished Governor 2011-2012.



SWIS Conferences Scheduled in 2022:

May 13-14, 2022: 3rd Quarter Conference will be honoring Oratorical, Essay, and Communication Heard of Hearing Students.

August 13-14, 2022: 4th Quarter Convention to get-together with optimists from other clubs and installs SWIS 2022-2023 District Officers.

SUPPORT JOHN FONTS, as GOVERNOR 2021-2022

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2021-2022

President: Rick Thomas

Vice President: Kathy Johnson

Secretary: Carole Klopp

Treasurer: Bob Wortinger

Past President: Kathie Newman

Board of Directors

Steve Bailey
Rick Conne
Jane Meyer
Ted See
Mark Kraemer

JANUARY Birthdays

Kathy Johnson 2
Frank Rath 2

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Mike Grasmick 4
Diana Johnson 6
Bonnie Spindler 11
Jane Meyer 20

MARCH Birthdays

Todd Geltemeyer 9
Doris Van Houten 9
Diane Hoebel 10
Brinda Thompson 10



Newsletter Editor:
John Fons
jefons@aol.com &

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

"Prove It."

SWIS 3rd Quarter Conference

2021-2022

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Deforest, WI

Conference Saturday, 9:00am-3pm

Sauk Trails Optimists meet every Wednesday at 11:45am at Vintage Brewing located at Whitney Way and Odana Road. Reservations should be emailed to club president Rick Thomas each Monday beforehand to allow lunch preparations. Watch for email announcements of special guest speakers. Meetings are recorded for later viewing.

Sign-up for obtaining future speakers or speaking yourself is being implemented in 2022.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2022 will be held at Oregon High School on May 15th, 2022.

MORE INFORMATION will be coming soon.

Subject: Brat Fest 2022 - Willow Island - Friday May 27 to Sunday May 29

Good news! Bratfest is back! It will be held Friday May 27 through Sunday May 29. In the past Sauk Trail Optimist members have volunteered Friday evening wrapping brats and some members have grilled Saturday and/or Sunday. I haven't been provided exact jobs and shifts yet. However, the site is going live March 15 and this is the first opportunity to sign-up for the shifts we want. I would like to have you contact me **prior to March 15** if you are interested in volunteering. That will ensure we will get the shifts we want.

I know May is a couple of months away, but if you have any interest I will sign you up and I can always delete your name if something comes up. We will be paid \$8.00 an hour.

Please email me if you can volunteer.

Thanks! Diane Hoebel hoebels2618@yahoo.com 608 334-3112

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Essay Winner

JOHN BUSCHER

Picture with President Rick Thomas, John Buscher, and STOC Essay Coordinator – Mike Grasmick.

John Buscher's Essay was turned into the SWIS District, Coordinated by Paul and Diana Johnson, to be judged against other Essay's from Youth for a \$2500 scholarship to be shared and awarded at the May 14th Conference.



!Remember, Please!

Use Amazon Smile

When you go online to make a purchase.

It's safe and easy as club members will attest and

A percentage of each transaction goes to our

Sauk Trails Optimist Club

#

And when you're going Nuts,

Remember <https://sauktrailsoptimists.terri Lynn.com>

make your Terri Lynn Purchases any time of year!!

Remembering Sauk Trails Optimists:

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2021 a long time Optimist **Raymond Schmitz** passed away. He attending many of the lunches over the years and especially enjoyed the Christmas Gift Exchange, and other activities.

On February 3rd, 2022 **Eugene Spindler**, also a long time Optimist passed away. He was a Treasurer for over 8 years for the club and was also active in SWIS District activities, where he was honored with an 'Unsung Hero' Award.

The STOC Club gave money to the OI Foundation in Memory of both of these fine Optimists.

They will both be missed.

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.

In the ABOUT area, click on this link: [CLUB Photo Gallery to view pictures.](#)

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 338-7244 (cell)

Sauk Trails Website Coordinator

**Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Board of Directors Meeting
February 15, 2022
MINUTES**



PRESENT: Rick Thomas, Carole Klopp, Ted See, Kathie Newman, Jane Meyer, & Steve Bailey

ABSENT: Rick Conne, Bob Wortinger Mark Kraemer, Diane Hoebel, & Kathy Johnson
The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:05pm.

1. Welcome / No Agenda Additions

2. Board Meeting Minutes: January 18, 2022 minutes – Kathie moves to approve with name correction, Carole seconds, motion passes unanimously.

3. Financial Reports – Tabled to March 2022

4. Meeting Speakers

Mary will re-schedule to April. Rick indicated there are 3 in a row that are good and would like to do the meetings hybrid (Children’s Museum, Therapy/Assistance Dogs, Vitense Golfland) so more folk can participate. Board felt it was a good idea and agreed. We have speakers through April 20th.

5. Memorial Donations for Gene and Ray

What we have done for people in the past was to make a donation (\$100) to OI and receive a patch. Discussion ensued regarding how much should be donated in honor of Ray and Gene, but also noting that individuals could give to the club foundation as well. Jane moves to donate \$100 to OI Foundation in honor of Gene Spindler, Ted seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Kathie moves to give \$100 in honor of Ray Schmitz, Carole seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

6. In-Person Meetings

There has been low attendance, but for the next 3 weeks we will be hybrid. People should be comfortable.

7. Committees and Activities

- a. Fundraising: Brat Fest – Rick will follow-up with this . Diane dropped off paperwork in December.
- b. Communications and Newsletter: John is doing the newsletter. Rick might recruit his wife to be our website manager which needs to be updated. Carole suggested that perhaps we get the JOI students to help.
- c. Essay Contest: Mike Grasmick is helping. We have one submission.
- d. Oratorical Contest: Steve Bailey is working with Rick on this. We might hold our club contest at Good Shepherd. Rick will look into it. It was suggested to do it on a Wednesday early evening and have pizza. Steve and Rick are co-chairs. March 23rd is our possible date. Also host the Zone competition April 6th or 13th – Wednesday. Verona/Cross Plains/ STOC. Kathie reported that February 16th is the training for running the contest.
- e. JOI Club Update: 2 new secretaries / 158 kids and over 1000 hours of service.

8 ADJOURNMENT: Kathie moves to adjourn, Ted seconds, motion carries unanimously.

Adjourned at 5:31pm to Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary



**Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Board of Directors Meeting
March 15, 2022
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Rick Thomas, Carole Klopp, Bob Wortinger, Diane Hoebel, Kathie Newman, Rick Conne, and Jane Meyer

ABSENT: Mark Kraemer, Kathy Johnson, Ted See and Steve Bailey

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:06pm.

1. Welcome / No Agenda Additions

2. Board Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2022 minutes – Kathie moves to approve, Bob seconds, motion passes unanimously.

2. Financial Reports –

a. STOC Financials: Bob reviewed the February Balance sheet noting that we started the year with \$4000 in operating checking. Current AR includes 7 people owing dues totaling \$840. (Two are 2 quarters behind. Will wait until next quarter to contact.) The February Income Statement showed that the net proceeds were the best we've ever had. Bob also noted that the SWIS District conference line is at \$465 and having been budgeted at \$700, we will probably see a shortfall of \$300. This will, in all likelihood, be offset by the decrease in the lunch guests budget line of about \$200.

b. Foundation Financials: The Foundation currently has assets of \$16,200. Vanguard has been good in the long term. Gene Spindler memorials came in at \$1,030. The Foundation Board will approve what Bonnie suggests for use. Gene and Ray banner patches have been ordered as approved at last board meeting. Should be here in 6 to 8 weeks. Final NOTE: we already paid out \$2000 for Lussier toys. We expect to have approximately \$7700 available currently for local grants and student scholarships.

c. Membership: We are currently at 42 members after starting the year at 44. Carole moves to accept the financial report, Jane seconds, passes unanimously.

3. Meeting Speakers:

Tomorrow will be a Trivia St. Patrick's Day Trivia contest. The following Wednesday, we'll have the Oratorical Contest at 5:30pm at Good Shepherd which will take the place of our noon meeting. The following weeks: Sean Spindler, then Rebecca Spindler, then Paul Johnson followed by Mary Schwartz.

4. In-Person Meetings

There has been low attendance, but for the next 3 weeks we will remain hybrid. People should be comfortable.

5. Committees and Activities

a. Fundraising: Brat Fest: Diane reported Kathie signed us up for Friday evening 5-9:30pm for 5 or 6 members. Rick Thomas is doing Saturday and Sunday grilling from 9 to noon. This year people can sign up themselves as well and can check working for a charity. We will tell the JOI Club.

b. Social: Vitense Golf: We would get a free golf suite, but would have to buy any food. Would do an evening meeting for this. Rick will work with Diane on this for possibly the end of April or May.

c. Essay Contest: Winner will attend the March 30th luncheon. (There was only one contestant.) Bob asked about gift cards for Judges - \$10 gift card. Discussion followed on how much for Gift card for the students participating in both the Essay & Oratorical contests. Carole moves \$10 gift card for essay judges and \$20 for 1st & 2nd students. Bob seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

d. Oratorical Contest will be March 23rd at Good Shepherd at 5:30pm with pizza served for dinner.

e. 2022 Special Olympics: May 15th is the Special Olympics at Oregon HS.

f. JOI Club Update: Advisers are back in the building. Currently have 168 members and over 1400 hours of service.

6. AJOURNMENT: Kathie moves to adjourn, Diane seconds, motion carries unanimously.

We adjourned at 5:31pm to Tuesday, April 19th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carole Klopp, Secretary



**Sauk Trails Optimist
Youth & Community Foundation Board Meeting
March 15, 2022**

MINUTES

Present: Rick Thomas, Bob Wortinger, Carole Klopp, Diane Hoebel, Kathie Newman, Jane Meyer, and Rick Conne

ABSENT: Mark Kraemer, Kathy Johnson, Ted See and Steve Bailey
Meeting called to order at 5:37pm on Zoom.

1. Welcome/ Agenda Additions – none.
2. Bob moves to approve minutes of the September 2021 Foundation meeting. Diane seconds, motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Bob reviewed all the financials and indicated we currently expect to have \$7700 available for grants and scholarships (which includes dollars to be brought in the rest of the year). He indicated revenues are down \$2000 due to less received in Happy Dollars and \$1500 due to Vanguard. He also noted that the \$2000 expensed for the Lussier Christmas Party also impacted the fund. Rick Conne noted that he has spoken with the Walmart manager who asked that our grant request be submitted quickly and that we should ask for \$5000. Rick will work on that now. Rick is also looking into fundraising at Culvers. Bob noted that we normally decide grants in September, but need to set the scholarship amounts now, even though we don't know exactly what our financial position will be in September.
4. Scholarships: Bob suggested \$1000 per student scholarship. Carole agrees with Bob. Diane asked what we granted last year. Bob said it was a total of \$6000 plus \$4000 in scholarships. However – if we can do some fundraisers and get the amount up, we would have more to give. Right now, however, we would have \$3300 for non-profits in September minus the scholarship money. Carole moves to award \$1000 scholarships to seniors totaling no more than up to 4 scholarships for a total of \$4000. Kathie seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Kathie will be donating \$1000 to foundation for scholarships. Carole indicated she will also be giving money towards scholarships. Motion passed unanimously.
5. There being no further business, Jane moves to adjourn, Kathie seconds, motion passes unanimously. We stand adjourned until the call of the chair.

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Klopp

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.



ENJOY the WONDERFUL SPRING and SUMMER WEATHER. The Sauk Trails Newsletter will be published quarterly. The next one will be for the April, May, and June Time Frame. If you would have any articles / pictures you would like included please get them to Bonnie Spindler during the quarter. Thanks.