



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
November/December 2022 News

<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



. That Keeps on Giving

Those fortunate enough to attend the Sauk Trails Optimist Club meeting yesterday at Vintage Brewing received an unexpected gift. Let's keep that surprise wrapped for the moment and open it slowly for the benefit of those who wonder what we got.

First, fifteen were in attendance, a goodly number on a cold, windy, rainy day with snow in the forecast and plenty of reasons to stay warm elsewhere, yet Optimism prevailed as we greeted one another and sat down to enjoy lunch.

We welcomed two guests: Nicole Meadowcroft and Leann Vick of Custom Canines Service Dog Academy who received a \$750 grant from our Sauk Trails Foundation, accompanied by Trooper, a gorgeous Golden Labrador service dog newly acquired from its puppy foster family.

Our newest member, Trish Lucas, received the unanimous vote of our board members in attendance and the rest of the club as we welcomed her to Sauk Trails Optimists. Announcements followed to include the news we will return to Culver's restaurant on Mineral Point Road early next year to resume our fundraiser of carrying meals to customers during Culver's Tuesday Share Nights. Dates will be announced.

How wonderful to unwrap Christmas presents. You really don't know what to expect. So let's continue to open yesterday's meeting. After we put our napkins from lunch back on the table and pushed back a few inches, Bob Wortinger donned his Santa hat and conducted the ornament exchange, Christmas decorations from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Jokes and jibes followed in quick succession to the conclusion of our meeting when we stood to recite the Optimist Creed and gather for a group photo. Members who lingered caught up on personal news and views as they put on their coats and wished each other well in parting, until we gather again December 21 to hear master accordion artist Sergie Belkin from Ukraine play the most complicated instrument in the world to perfection.

That's one meeting of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club. I detail it here as a perfect example of what we enjoy and why we meet as a club. There's something good in it, like every Christmas present. Something valuable. Something heartfelt.

With your help it's those qualities I want to preserve and prosper in our club. We have all the ingredients. There's enthusiasm, good humor, fellowship, dedication and energy. We see first hand the benefits to ourselves and to other with whom we collaborate in the community.

If you missed the Sauk Trails meeting yesterday, you missed a good one, but be of good cheer. We missed you.

John Fons, Sauk Trails Optimist Club President

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2022/2023

President: John Fons

Vice President: Kathy Johnson

Secretary: Carole Klopp

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

November Birthdays

Karen Wortinger 25

December Birthdays

Dennis Norton 7

Barb Sheerhan Hill 20

Barry Levenson 30



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

Some meetings will be recorded for later viewing.

Newsletter Editor:

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

blspindler@charter.net

SWIS 2nd Quarter Conference

Hilton Garden Inn,
Sun Prairie, WI

Fri/Sat, Feb. 17-18, 2023

Conference Saturday, 9:00am-
3pm

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 #09083. And when you're going Nuts,

Remember <https://sauktrailsoptimists.terri Lynn.com>
make your Terri Lynn Purchases any time of year!!

Sauk Trails Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 17th, 5:00 PM

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

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

John Fons, President, Sauk Trails Optimists

STOC Speakers in Nov/Dec 2022

Logan's Hearts and Smiles, November 9, 2022

There are those who take hikes, scale steep inclines and traverse chasms for recreation and the challenge of adventure. And then there are those with physical disabilities for whom the world is full of such challenges. A curb can be a cliff. A flight of stairs a mountain. A bed a dangerous plateau. These barriers define the work and the mission of Logan's Hearts and Smiles, the organization that relies on volunteers and donations to construct access for the handicapped and disabled and special fixtures to make their world at home both safer and more accessible. We learned what has been done and what can be done to benefit those whose lives are all about overcoming obstacles. **Sauk Trails Optimists presented a grant to Logan's Hearts and Smiles from our Foundation with many optimists attending.**

Miracle League, November 16, 2022

Thanks, share Joy and demonstrate our community involvement than by awarding grants to deserving organizations. We continue that tradition this Wednesday by hosting the Miracle League and Bill Schulz whose commitment is providing support and facilities for children with mental and/or physical challenges to play baseball. **Our Sauk Trails Optimist Foundation grant was presented to Bill and the Miracle League.**



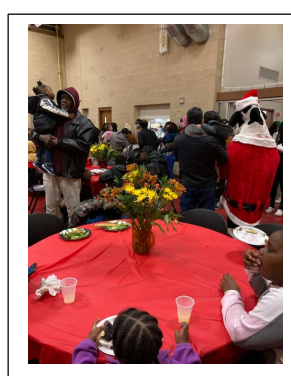
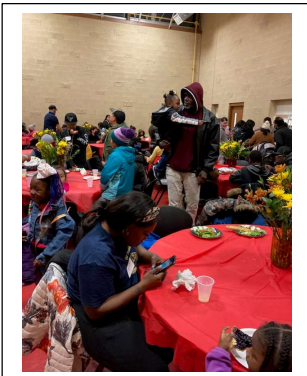
Optimists Wrapped Presents, Future Sharing, November 30, 2022

Our luncheon meeting Wednesday, **November 30**, will serve two important functions. We will wrap presents for our participation in a Christmas event at Lussier Center on Friday, **December 2**, in conjunction with their Community Dinner **and** we will enjoy discussing future plans and fundraisers for Sauk Trails Optimists.

Lussier Christmas Party, December 2, 2022

Our Lussier Christmas Party was held on December 2. It was held with their Community Dinner. As always we had over 100 kids between the ages of 5 and 13 This was far greater than expected. There was face painting, cookie decorating, a photographer, and of course dinner. Oh I forgot Santa, who was cheerfully played by Rick Thomas. Thanks to my partner Frank, and all of our club members, who were very helpful. Also a big thanks to Chick Filet, who supplied additional gift cards to their original donations. Also thanks to Stellas Bakery for the cookies and frosting and lastly, thanks to the Lussier Center and all of their volunteers. See you all again next year.

Rick Connie and Frank Rath, co-Coordiators





Dr. Ian Cook, MD traveled to the Dominican Republic earlier this year to assist a medical mission team in performance of fifty surgical procedures in one week. He dressed in surgical scrubs and delivered a compelling program to the Sauk Trails Optimists on **December 7** at Vintage Brewing. Dr. Cook, 89, has made nineteen medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic and hopes to make the twentieth humanitarian effort next year. Under severe and often harrowing circumstances, these surgeons performed fifty operations during the course of ten days.

Dr. Cook is a resident of Oakwood Retirement Village and comes to us through the invitation of Jane Meyer. In this this inspirational meeting we learned the heartwarming story of those who risk themselves to share the gift of healing and goodwill

Custom Canines Service Academy, December 14, 2022

Nicole Meadowcroft accepted a donation to the Canine Service Academy along with LeAnn Vick and the dog 'Trooper', who shared at the December 14th lunch before the Ornament Exchange by the Optimists present.



Ornament Exchange – December 14, 2022

Ho Ho Ho its Ornament Exchange time at the Vintage Christmas workshop of Sauk Trails Optimist Club. There will be chance to give and to get and to find that perfect ornament for yourself or for another, if you can keep it in the spirit of Holiday Cheer. Here are some guidelines which may prove helpful, especially as you brave the stores and intricacies of on line shopping to complete your Christmas list.

Ornament Exchange Does and Don'ts:

- No Rolex watches
- No Blue Tiffany boxes
- No candy canes longer than three feet
- No gift cards to Bonwit Teller, Lord & Taylor or Saks Fifth Avenue.
- Remember, this is an ornament exchange, not a gift exchange.
- Therefore, no ornaments depicting political Elves, government Grinches, or Reindeer activists.
- All stockings hung by the chimney with care must be freshly laundered.
- No ornament previously acquired or involved in any Rotary, Lions or Kiwanis

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- exchange will be admitted. Proof of ornament authenticity and origin may be required.
- Optimists dressed as Santa or Missus Claus and not otherwise immediately recognizable as members of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club may be asked for identification at the door.
- No artificial antlers exceeding sixteen inches from furthest point to point will be permitted.
- Happy Dollars will not be considered eligible for the ornament exchange.

In addition, Sauk Trails Optimists are admonished to invoke Paragraph Eight (8) of the Optimist Creed as they enter and Vintage Brewing this Wednesday and "Give Every Living Creature You Meet a Smile" by greeting Vintage Brewing patrons with "Merry Christmas," "Happy New Year" and "Have a Wonderful Holiday Season" on the way in or out of our meeting December 14 at 11:30am and above all, make your reservation by noon Tuesday to insure adequate meal and seating preparation. Your presence requested whether you've been naughty or nice.

John Fons, President, Sauk Trails Optimist Club



Ukrainian Accordion Player, Sergei Belkin, December 21, 2022

This Wednesday we gathered for the last time in 2022. Let hearts be glad as we greet Ukrainian accordion artist Sergei Belkin who will entertain us and bring amazement with his musical artistry. It's been quite a year and we all have reason to be glad and Optimistic.

There was a lot of sharing of many Optimists who had piano accordion experiences when they were younger and how it impacted their musical abilities for different instruments in their current lives. There were also some guests that attended, including John Fon's sister Lisa and Optimist International Past President, Jim Kondrasuk, besides some others.



UPDATE on 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.

There will be more information coming in early 2023 about the relationship with the JOI organization.

John Fons, Club President



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

**Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2022
MINUTES**

PRESENT: John Fons, Carole Klopp, Bob Wortinger, Kathy Johnson, Rick Thomas, Mary Wykle, Jane Meyer, Mark Kraemer and Ted See **GUEST:** Frank Rath

ABSENT: Steve Bailey and Rick Conne

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

1. Welcome/ Agenda Additions
- 2.
2. September Board Meeting Minutes: Ted moves to approve, Bob seconds, motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report – End of October 2022
 - a. Balance Sheet: Checking operating cash balance is \$2272. Will need to watch this. Foundation cash equivalents came in at \$12,192. Lussier Xmas fund has \$402.41. (Further discussion below.)
 - b. Income Statement – Not too much to report. A lot came in in November for Bucky Books. Vanguard went up.
The annual fee for the Website was paid in October.
 - c. Audit committee: Frank volunteered to serve with his daughter Laura who is an accountant. Carole moves to accept the financial report, Kathy seconds, motion passes unanimously.
4. 2022-2023 Budget: We didn't address the family spouse dues. The intent would be to increase those dues from \$25 to \$30. Bob moves that, in addition to increasing regular dues from \$40 to \$45 due to the \$4/quarter OI dues increase, we increase family/spouse dues from \$25 to \$30 effective January 1, 2023, Mark seconds the motion, motion passes unanimously. We now show a loss of \$500 in the budget. Everything else is the same as last time. The beginning cash balance of \$4200 should cover the budget loss. Bob moves to accept the 2022-23 budget, Mary seconds, motion passes unanimously.
5. Christmas Party: John asked Frank to report. Frank reviewed some of the history of the event: Been doing this for about 15 years; we serve the families on Tree Lane at Lussier Center; our last year to run the full event was 2019 when we had 200 children with a variety of entertainments and food; and in 2021 we only distributed 150 presents for children. The Lussier Center has had almost 100% turnover of staff. As a result, we were only able to connect with the new people recently. Per their suggestion, we will hold the event in conjunction with their monthly Community Dinner on December 2nd. They have a chef who does meal planning. We will do a

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bare bones version of the event, presents and some entertainment, from 5-7:30pm on the 2nd for about 75 children. We will not have to pay for the food. The Walmart grant will not be available this year to cover the estimated Budget of approximately \$2000. With the \$400 leftover from last year, we will have to make up \$1600. Bob indicated that Bonnie and Kathie approved the use of \$500 from each of their restricted funds meaning we now have to find an additional \$600. Jane asked how much we spend per gift. Frank said he budgets about \$20 per gift and feels he can get the gifts in time. John suggested that we use the November 30th meeting to wrap presents in addition to the specified agenda item. Carole moves to utilize the \$400 in the Xmas party fund and to accept the \$500 donations from the restricted funds per Bonnie Spindler and Kathie Newman, fund owners, Kathy seconds, motion passes unanimously. John will seek additional donations from members to cover the remaining \$600 in anticipated expenses.

6. Fundraising: John mentioned the fundraising survey and plans to use the survey for our planning meeting on November 30th. Bob asked if we should send to John ahead of time. John would like that.
7. Weekly Meetings: John is inclined to keep the weekly meeting schedule right now. He doesn't feel compelled to have a guest speaker every week. You don't have to come, but it's there to meet. Carole mentioned we can play games as we have done previously.
8. Report on Community Contacts: John has been meeting with some of the community groups. He was at the MPD last week and met with various folk. Was in Verona and did installation of officers. Would like to do a youth day camp next summer involving the MPD and Verona police officers and the Verona Optimist Club. He will keep us updated on this.
9. Midtown MPD Snacks Via Sunset Garden Club: Since 2020 the Sunset Garden Club has provided treats on a monthly basis to the Midtown MPD, with over 80 staff, on Mineral Pt Road as a thank you for their service. The Garden Club has 2 members every month who donate 25 gifts each (grab and go) and has asked if STOC would be willing to help. Carole suggested that we discuss this at the November 30th meeting. Agreed.
10. Past Presidents Lunch: Bob mentioned that a few years ago we did this. Mary Schwartz organized. John Scherer suggested we have an alumni event. John will put this on the November 30th think tank planning meeting.

Adjournment: Mark moves to adjourn to December 13, 2022 at 5pm, Rick seconds, motion passes unanimously.

We stand adjourned to Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 5pm on Zoom. NOTE DATE CHANGE!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Carole Klopp, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 14, 2022
SHORT MINUTES

PRESENT: John Fons, Carole Klopp, Bob Wortinger, Rick Thomas, Jane Meyer, Steve Bailey Ted See

ABSENT: Rick Conne, Kathy Johnson, Mark Kraemer and Mary Wykle

The meeting was called to order at the Vintage at 11:55am.

The only order of business was the approval of Trish Lucas' membership request. Carole Klopp moved to approve the membership application of Trish Lucas in the Sauk Trails Optimist Club, Bob Wortinger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with the board members present.

Happy Holidays! **We stand adjourned to Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5pm on Zoom.**

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary

FUTURE ACTIVITY: Share Night Fundraiser at Culver’s

Sauk Trails Optimists will have the opportunity to raise money for our Foundation and serve the public on Tuesday, January 31, when we return to the Culver’s Madison West Restaurant, 7206 Mineral Point Road, Madison WI 53717 to greet restaurant patrons and distribute meals. Arrangements have been made with Crew Chief Claire Brown by Sauk Trails President John Fons.

On the day of Share Night, Culver’s requests we provide a minimum of four adult volunteers per hour for the period 4-8pm. This time may be divided into two shifts: 4-6pm and 6-8pm with the same four volunteers for each two hour shift. This arrangement has worked well in the past.

Culver’s will donate 10% of net sales to Sauk Trails for the evening volunteer effort. Please mark your calendar and notify John (jefons@aol.com) or phone 608-236-0844 no later than January 17 if you are able to participate.

SURVEY for FUTURE PLANNING of YOUTH CLUB & DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

We would like each Optimist of the Sauk Trails Madison Optimist Club provide input on the ‘sample’ of this Survey to help determine where the club optimists have interest in the future planning of Youth Activities and Club Events. Any Updates are also being requested.

The January 11th Lunch Meeting is being planned for this discussion on the direction of what each Optimist is interested in and what will be planned for Youth and Club activities.

SWIS District & Youth CLUB Activities	SURVEY INTEREST		GENERAL INFORMATION
	(Place 'X' if interested)		
	Planner Coordinate	Optimist Participant	
ORATORICAL CONTEST			Scholarship Contest: https://optimist.org/member/scholarships4.cfm
ESSAY CONTEST			Scholarship Contest: https://optimist.org/member/scholarships3.cfm
COMMUNICATION DEAF & HARD OF HEARING			Scholarship Contest: https://optimist.org/member/scholarships2.cfm
TRI-STAR BASKETBALL			https://swisdistrict.org/client/client_images/uploads/files/TriStar_Basketball_2022-23.pdf (Date of April 23, 2023 is planned)
JUNIOR GOLF			https://optimist.org/golf/golfmenu.cfm
CREATIVE ART & Photography			https://swisdistrict.org/youth_programs/programs_details.asp?ypid=69
BIKE RODEO			Several options: riding, repairing bikes
KIDS FISHING DERBY			Several clubs do cops and bobbys - police show kids how to fish, catch and release. Take pictures.
Holiday Programs, Lussier Xmas Party, Toys for Tots			OTHER PROGRAMS

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STOC Club Activities	SURVEY INTEREST		GENERAL INFORMATION
	(Place 'X' if interested)		
	Planner Coordinate	Optimist Participant	
Booth at community event			Have a booth at a public event to let people know about our club. Could even have a booth at Alzheimer's walks, church festivals, community events, art fair
Work at events at Breese Stevens Field			https://www.breesestevensfield.com/ 917 East Mifflin, Madison. Middleton Club cleared \$4100 for 3 concerts. I will get more details.
50/50 RAFFLES at community events			
Brat Frys with Cheese Curds			Some clubs have several of these over the summer. One club does cheese curds with root beer floats. Outside of grocery stores.
Pig Roast			Fundraiser
TAKE ORDERS FOR SPECIALTY COFFEE, TEA, CHOCOLATE, etc			We share lists of different coffee flavors and hot chocolate with businesses and churches. We order the items online and sell for more. A Milwaukee club had charged \$15 for a bag of coffee that they bought for \$8.
PIZZA PARTY for business with raffle tickets - make it a NOW event			Good fundraising and opportunity to attract new members
WORK AT CULVERS			Culvers is currently allowing clubs to work for a % of profit
Ronald McDONALD HOUSE - activity, brunch, cookies			
HAMBURGER STAND coordinated with city event			
BOWLING with OPTIMISTS			
SELLING NUTS, BUCKY BOOKS, or other			Suggestions?
Arbor Day Tree Planting			Work with JOI Club
Special Event at Christmas			Decorate a tree or wall for school, senior community or other
Halloween Event			Hand out treats or decorations out of a trunk or back of SUV
Trivia night with JOI Club			
Work at Habitat for Humanity			
Find ways to assist at The River Food Pantry or other			
4th of July Parade with kids from JOI, JOI siblings, middle and elementary schools			
Raking Leaves for Seniors			
Create an Optimist club at a Senior Community			MANY OTHERS

Warning: Contents Under Pressure

The membership and guests of Sauk Trails Optimists are hereby warned club President John Fons received six (count 'em) Ole and Lena joke books for Christmas. Santa must have been hitting the egg nog pretty hard before he came down the chimney and John is more than a little upset. He thought he'd been reasonably good and John tried to argue Santa into taking the books back up the chimney or burning them in the fireplace right then and there, but Santa refused. Santa said he couldn't go back up the chimney if they started a fire, plus John hadn't been all that good and further more John has Norwegian heritage on his mother's side and no one else wanted the books. John was his last stop.

So John will be telling Ole and Lena jokes throughout 2023, despite obvious risks to Sauk Trails attendance and membership. Jokes will be limited to one per meeting. Honest.

John Fons, STOC Club President 22-23

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.