

Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



April / May, 2021

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear STOC Optimist Friends,

Spring is finally here and we have beautiful flowering shrubs and trees! How refreshing to see the earth awaken! I hope our hearts and minds are awakening too. We spent the past year looking for special moments in the midst of the challenges presented by COVID. We followed our Creed "to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind."

Sadly, we lost our friend, member and board member. Ken Adi-Ring died on March 19.

I am thankful that we were able to have a zoom get together on March 7th to visit with him. Sally, his wife, shared that he enjoyed our friendship and liked participating. He met his death with grace and thankfulness. We miss him. The family will have a celebration of life this summer. That information will be shared when we become aware of the date and time.

We hope to meet at least twice a month in person by June. The Radisson and other hotels are not in a position to have us meet in a conference room and serve us lunch. I am exploring options.

We held our first in person fundraiser last Saturday, April 17th, at the brat stand in front of the Verona Festival Food Store. Verona Optimists joined us. It was nice to get to know some of the Verona members and to have in person socializing with all. Thank you to all those who worked at the brat stand and who came to buy a brat. A special thank you to Rick Thomas for organizing, scheduling, and grilling brats, hot dogs, and hamburgers from 10:30 to 5:30.

Special Olympics is having their track meet at the Edgerton High School on May 9, 2021.

If you are interested in volunteering at the meet, please contact Bob Wortinger or John Scherer.

The JOI Club that we sponsor at Memorial High School will have their Facebook musical event, Sound of the Spartans, on May 1, 2021. Donations will be given to Angels Wish and the Memorial High School Music Department. Please attend. The last one was awesome and I really enjoyed it!

Please "look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true!"

Optimistically, Kathie Newman

kat1new21@gmail.com 608-395-1253

Adventures In Optimism: Ken Adi-Ring

On December 13, 2018 eccentricity joined the Sauk Trails Optimist Club.

Eccentricity had a name.

Ken Adi-Ring.

The name will endure, although on March 19, 2021, the man passed away.



What does it mean, that word, 'eccentricity'? Altogether it means 'departure from customary conduct.'

In the case of Ken it meant a man who nonplused the Sauk Trails membership by identifying himself as a massage practitioner and hypnotherapist, a man conversant with Easter religion, enamored of both Jesus Christ and Buddha, a man for whom words like wellness and meditation were commonplace and devoutly practiced; a man who wore oddly mismatched clothing that always appeared supremely comfortable; a man who sought gentle aspects of life because he had himself been tremendously injured.

An eccentric man.

Born May 17, 1946 and raised in Mazomanie with five brothers, Ken suffered critical burns at the age of nineteen in an automobile accident involving the ruptured fuel tanks of a semi-trailer truck. That's one of the reasons why Ken took particular interest when Sauk Trails Optimists became supporters of the Wisconsin Professional Fire Fighters Association Burn Camp for children

suffering life altering burns and that's why Ken traveled with other Sauk Trails members to the camp near East Troy to view firsthand the children and the benefits of the camp. Ken knew what the children had been through and like the children, he faced the truth fearlessly.

Ken also suffered breast cancer. That's one of the reasons he showed up wearing an outlandish wig with synthetic hair standing straight up nearly a foot over his head the day Sauk Trails Optimists held our noon luncheon at Holy Wisdom Monastery. Ken sought donations for the Susan G. Komen Foundation and handed out information cards.

He never took off the wig.

Another terrible traffic accident left Ken critically injured last year. Numerous broken bones including vertebrae and a punctured lung did not keep Ken from attending Sauk Trails Optimist meetings on line, until the day he requested permission to address the club after doctors treating his traumatic injuries and the worst pain of his life discovered a condition for which no treatment was available or advised.

"I've only got a few weeks to live," Ken stated.

He spoke to his fellow Optimists with calm and composure, an eccentric man facing the end of his life with conformity to his own God given sense of dignity and grace.

The Optimists of Sauk Trails gave him a polo shirt, a certificate and an orchid, delivered to his home. They also gave him what he valued most, Participation; a chance to do good with and for others and join in acts of service to youth.

"He had a real soft spot for kids," said his wife Sally. "He hated to miss a single meeting. He enjoyed it so much."

The place where Ken sat at home is vacant now. Sally had an orange tabby cat before she and Ken married thirty-five years ago. She has another one now. Ken encouraged her to adopt it and the cat is getting used to the dog who sleeps amid images of Buddha and Christ and emblems of tranquility and peace and pictures of natural wonders all around the home.

The Ring Home is quietly eccentric.

There are inspirational images and messages on the calendars Ken had printed for his business, Tri-Unity Wellife Associates. The message for the month of April is 'Confidence' and the image is one of growth and spring time as tender plants push up from fertile soil with the quote, "Have confidence if you have done a little thing well, you can do a bigger thing well too," by English playwright David Storey.

There are over two hundred and fifty days left in this year 2021. The man who had the calendars printed is gone, yet the calendars remain available while supplies last.* Ken would have wanted everyone at Sauk Trails Optimists to have one with His blessing:

"Namaste"

That is not eccentric.

It is the way Ken often greeted us with his hands folded and a slight bow.

It means "Hello".

*To obtain a copy of Ken’s 2021 calendar contact John Fons at jefons@aol.com

Editor’s Note: On March 7, following the noon Sauk Trails meeting, a visit was made to the home of Ken Adi-Ring where he was presented with a Sauk Trails polo shirt, a living orchid and a framed certificate of recognition for his service as a Sauk Trails Optimist, singed by Optimist International president Mark Weinsoff. Memorial observance for Ken will be held Saturday, July 17 from 1pm to 5pm at Unity of Madison, 601 Tompkins Drive, Madison WI 53716.

STOC Bulletin Board

**Sauk Trails
Club Officers
2019-2020**

President: Kathie Newman

Vice President: Rick Thomas

Secretary: Kathy Johnson

Treasurer: Bob Wortinger

Past President: John Fons

Board of Directors

Steve Bailey
Rick Conne
Nancy Hach
Ken Adi-Ring
Ted See
Mary Schwartz

April Birthdays

Liv Sandberg 25

May Birthdays


Mary Poole 17

June Birthdays

Mary Schwartz 2
Rick Conne 5
Ray Schmitz 27

July Birthdays

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



**SWIS 3rd Quarter Conference
2020-2021
In Person Meeting,
Saturday, May 8th
Broske Center, Platteville, WI**

Exec Mtg: Virtual Fri,05-07, 7PM;
Conf: Sat,05-08, 8:45 Reg, 9:15-3PM
[Conf Details](#) | [Register](#)

Newsletter Editor:
John Fons
jefons@aol.com
“Don’t shoot
the messenger.”

Join an Optimistic Virtual Lunch.

*Remember: Sauk Trails Optimists meet 11:45am Wednesdays.
Watch for email announcements and special guest speakers.
Share your Zoom meeting link with others.*

*And here's a special development to enhance our meetings and community outreach.
Independent living residents of Oakwood Village are being invited to 'visit'
our weekly Sauk Trails meetings via Zoom, in cooperation with Oakwood's
Life Enrichment office.*

*So don't be surprised by new faces and curious Seniors, eager to share
our fellowship and special guest speakers.*

Don't just be surprised. Be friendly and be Optimistic!

!!! Special Olympics !!!

Need a lift? Feeling like Optimism is in short supply?

Look no further – Volunteer for the Special Olympics,

Sunday, May 9 at the Edgerton High School Track.

Volunteer Slots: 9am-11am; noon-2:30pm; 3pm-5pm.

Please refer to further details provided by John Scherer

In email to Sauk Trails Optimists April 21

john@trinfm.com

!!! On Your Marks / Get Set / Go!!!

#

JOI Club Facebook Musical Saturday, May 1 – Details Soon via Email!

!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>
To make your Terri Lynn Purchases any time of year!!

***Thanks to those who volunteered at the cooperative Brat Fest
conducted by Sauk Trails and Verona Optimists April 17.
Sauk Trails and Verona clubs raised \$161.63 each.***



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 2020-2021 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** blspindler@charter.net 850-9561 (H)
Sauk Trails Website Coordinator

SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kathie N, Ken, Kathy J, Nancy, Bob W., Ted, Rick T. John, Steve, Mary S.

ABSENT: Rick C.

1. **Welcome/Agenda Additions.** President Newman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. **Approval of 1-12-21 Minutes:** Motion by Nancy, seconded by Ken. Passed unanimously.
3. **January Financial Report:** Bob reported that operating net cash position is up about \$1000 from fiscal year start due to pandemic. Rick T. moved to accept the financial report; seconded by John.
4. **Committees and Activities:**
 - a. Progressive Dinner: The Dinner is to be replaced by a game event. Mary asked for feedback from the game day meeting recently. Feedback was positive. Mary suggested March 28 from 3:30-5:00.
 - b. John proposed inviting Oakwood Village residents to visit our meetings via Zoom. Staff at Oakwood is open to the idea; Board agrees. John will coordinate. We will see how many join our meetings and if they are potential members.
 - c. Oratorical Contest - Steve reported that he is working with Carole to engage JOOI Club members. Rick T. has a list of students for the Contest. The date for the Contest is March 24's regular meeting, pending Carole's schedule. Judges are Kathy J, Diane, and John. Zone 6 contest will be April 10. May 1 is the super/regional zone contest. STOC will award two medals. Gift cards will be discussed at March Board meeting.
 - d. Essay Contest- Mike Grasmick is looking for students from Memorial H.S., JOOI Club, churches, or other schools. Rick T. has a list of students for the Contest. Application was emailed on January 8th. February 18 is deadline for essay submissions. Judges submit scores to Mike by February 27, STOC will provide 3 medals and 6 Barnes & Noble gift cards for 3 students/3 judges for this event.
 - e. Brainstorm- Include JOOI Club members in our meetings or members to attend the JOOI Club Zoom call? Engage more often with the JOOI Club service or social activities. Rick T. asked about celebrating the Student of the Month (SOM) again and Kathie will check with Carole about Rick' C.s involvement with SOM. Rick T. will research Festival Foods brat stand in Verona. Kathie will check with Bonnie for the status of the Verona Club.
 - f. Volunteer & Community Activities- Mustard Days, Culver's, Bratfest, etc. All events appear doubtful.
 - g. Club of the Year Award- based on service projects, membership increase of 3, club growth and community awareness, increased volunteer, and new community efforts: how do we get there this year? The deadline for submission is September 30. Board members discussed this.
 - h. Member Development and Club Growth- Kathie shared member list so members could check in with other members to build friendships/encourage them to come to the meetings/bring their ideas.
 - i. OI Training recommends looking to the future & new officers for succession in place. OI suggests that President be changed annually. Rick T will consider becoming President next year, Kathy will not renew as Secretary, and Bob will serve one more year. John will be SWIS Governor next year, so we need for a STOC newsletter editor.
5. **Adjourn** to March 9, 2021, motioned by Kathy J; seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Johnson, Secretary

SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kathie N, Kathy J, Nancy, Bob W., Ted, Rick T., Mary S., Steve & John

ABSENT: Rick C., Ken

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions. President Newman called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Addition:

-Ken Adi-Ring: John delivered an orchid plant to Ken accompanied by a plaque and card.

-Bob reported that AmazonSmile pays quarterly and the minimum earnings for a check is \$5. We have not reached the minimum requirement yet.

-John reported that Gene Spindler's health is declining. Bonnie is having surgery. Kathie will get cards for both of them.

2. Approval of 2-9-21 Minutes: Motion by seconded by John and seconded by Mary. Passed unanimously.

3. February Financial Report: \$19.99 approved for the orchid purchase for Ken. Rick T. moved to accept the financial report; seconded by Kathy J. Passed unanimously.

4. Social Event to Replace Progressive Dinner-Game-A-Rama: March 28th, accessible from 3:30-5:00, Mary & Carole.

5. Contests:

Oratorical Contest – the timing did not work for the 4 students JOOI who intended to participate. Steve has church contacts that might be interested, and the contest would be held at the church.

Essay Contest: one participant: Jonathan Buscher. He will read his essay to us at the March 24 member meeting. Mike will give him a certificate, gold medal, and card.

6. Ken: 1st quarter dues paid. Waive 2nd quarter dues? Motioned by Bob and seconded by Rick T. Passed unanimously.

7. Committees and Activities:

Rick T. is coordinating members will work at the Verona Festival Foods grocery store brat stand on April 18 from 10-6. The Verona Club will also provide volunteers. Rick will ask Liv to prepare a STOC promotional piece.

8. Honor Club Award: criteria: based on service projects, member increase of 3, club growth and community awareness, increased volunteer efforts and new community efforts. OI requires all officers to complete the training by 3/31/21. John and Kathie have completed the training modules. OI considers Secretary/Treasurer to be one office so Bob has offered to complete the training. Rick T. will complete the V.P. module. Fiscal year 2020-2021 member count started at 41 on 10/1/20 and remains at 41.

Adjourn to April 14, 2021, motioned by Bob; seconded by Rick T. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Johnson, Secretary

SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom

Tuesday, April 13, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kathie N, Kathy J, Nancy, Bob W., Steve, Rick T, Mary, & John

ABSENT: Ted & Nancy

Addition: 1. **JOI:** Mary said that on May 1, JOI is having a talent competition called Sounds of the Spartan Music Competition, broadcast on Facebook Live to raise money for Angels Wish and the Memorial High School Music Department. Carole asked for a sponsorship donation. Rick motioned a sponsorship of \$100. Rick C. seconded. Passed unanimously.

1. **CrazR Football Tickets:** John will coordinate, and we will request 50 tickets.

2. **Welcome/Agenda Additions.** President Newman called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Addition: We also discussed where we meet in the future and Kathie would like feedback from the members. Steve and Rick C. will check with Denny's. Radisson is currently \$200-\$300 for room and catering in food would be required.

3. **Approval of 3-9-21 Minutes:** Motion by seconded by Bob and seconded by John. Passed unanimously.

4. **February Financial Report:** Bob reported: Operating cash is still strong at \$5436. March activity was routine. Motion to accept by Rick C. and seconded by Rick T.

5. **Memorial Patch for Ken-Adi Ring.** To get one, we need to send a \$100 OI Contribution and Request Form to the OI Foundation. The \$100 contribution counts toward our annual OI Foundation donation. The patch would arrive in about 6 weeks. Note: Shenita Taylor at OI said STOC is at \$9211--the benefactor level. At the \$10,000 level, we would be at the Eminent level of contributions. Mary motioned and John seconded. Approved unanimously.

9. **Board positions:**

We need the officers of the club, the immediate past president and **6 elected members.** By-Laws Article VI, Section 1 asks that an appointee serve the duration of Ken's term, Carole and Mary are working on filling Board positions for 2021-22. Rick C. and Steve continue for one more year, plus replacing Ken's position. Ted, Mary, Nancy's terms are expiring. Ted indicated he'd serve another term. Ken was in the first year of a two-year term which will end September 2022.

10. **STOC Student of the Year & Scholarship Update:** Antonio Wu for his outstanding service for the past 4 years for JOI and the community. Carole proposed a \$100 cash or gift certificate to accompany the award. She will advise names of scholarship winners soon. Motioned by Kathy J. and seconded by Steve; passed unanimously.

11. **Committees and Activities:**

a. Rick T. organized us & Verona Club members working on April 17, 2021 from 10:30 to 5:30 at the Brat Stand at the Verona Festival Foods store. One open volunteer slot from 10-1 remains.

b. **Special Olympics Track Meet** – Bob discussed. The track meet is May 9 at Edgerton H.S. Bob and John Scherer plan to volunteer for the day. Mike G. and Steve asked about it and may be interested in volunteering. Special Olympics also planned a golf outing on 9/12 at the Kestrel Ridge course in Columbus, and a Sun Run & Solar Plunge on June 19 at Schluter Beach in Monona.

12. **Build Your Own Brat Fest:** activity would be in lieu of the Madison Brat Fest at the Alliant Energy Center. The Board discussed and decided not to participate.

13. **Honor Club Award:** based on service projects, membership increased by 3, club growth and community awareness, increased volunteer efforts and new community efforts. Officers have completed the OI LMS training, required by be completed by 3/31/21.

Adjourn to May 11, 2021, motioned by Rick C.; seconded by Mary. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 5:59

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.