



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



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



December 2013

Sauk Trails Optimists:

What a thankful tradition we just had, **Thanksgiving**. Hope you all had a great day as we came to the end of November. December and the many holiday traditions are coming soon as we move into the snowy winter months. Remember to: **Promise Yourself: To make all your friends feel that there is something in them**, to enlighten yourself and others in this 'colder' season.

In November, we started the month with a SWIS – Southern Wisconsin and WINUM – Wisconsin Northern District Combined Conference. With about 150 optimists attending from all over Wisconsin, there was training, sharing, guest speakers, and planning for the 2013-14 year. Some of the goals of SWIS Governor, George Bredon include: Club members growing personally; emphasis on youth, especially JOOI Clubs; and reflection on the Optimist Creed.

At the Sauk Trails November lunches, we enjoyed hearing about the Alliant Energy Center, how 'medications can deplete vitamins', and interesting information about 'Animal Communication'. Our board met to continue December and early 2014 planning, the Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team continued with their planning and activities including the Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Optimist volunteers helped at Reach-A-Child putting books in back-packs for distribution to first responders. A lot of planning has been done for the Lussier Xmas Party, scheduled for Saturday, December 14th. The Koeze Nuts first order date was met with a second order date December 11th. Thanks to everyone who gave of their time and talent, provided speakers and/or helped in coordinating these and future scheduled events.

December speakers will include presentations given by the 'Students of the Month' from Memorial High School being honored in this quarter. We will also be 'addressing holiday cards' and wrapping gifts to make the holidays special for troops and/or local veterans and the kids attending the Lussier Xmas Party. Salvation Army Bell Ringing with JOOI kids will be starting Nov. 30th – mid December. We'll finish the 2013 year with our annual 'Ornament Exchange' with a special holiday lunch scheduled. (See the schedule of events and other articles).

Moving into 2014, we have planned our annual Progressive Dinner scheduled for Sunday, February 9th. (There will be 3 houses scheduled, first for appetizers, second for main entre, and third for desserts.) There are many opportunities for speakers, look at the schedule to see when you can volunteer to bring in your interesting speaker. The Essay Contest will be continuing, with an end of February date required by Optimist International. (See the various articles in this newsletter with coordinator contacts and more information).

Thanks to everyone who is coordinating and/or volunteering for these various events.

At the January 8th, first lunch meeting in 2014, we will be sharing about our 'holiday traditions'.

Have a Happy Holiday Season with your families. (No lunch meetings Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st).

Optimistically,

Bonnie Spindler

blspindler@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

December Birthdays

Mike Gustafson – 5th
Barb Sheeran-Hill – 20th



Newsletter Editor:
Mary Schwartz
schwartzmry@aol.com

Mark Your Calendar!

Join us for our **Annual Ornament Exchange** at our December 18th lunch meeting. Bring a wrapped ornament valued at around \$5.00. Guaranteed to get you into the holiday spirit!



Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team News

The year is moving along quickly. The 6 committees have been busy coordinating a wide variety of service projects – from onsite projects (cards for the vets and coloring lunch bags for Meals On Wheels) to helping at elementary schools to volunteering for a variety of run/walks. Service Begins At Home (our 2nd grade teaching program when the JOOI students teach 2nd graders about service and volunteering) training has been completed for our presentations on December 5th and December 12th at John Muir elementary school. We currently have 175 members. *Memorial teens continue to care!*

Special thanks to all of our advisers - Mrs. Klopp, Mr. Conne, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Schroder, Ms. Cabrera and Mr. O'Shea.

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

Annual STOC Progressive Dinner

February 9, 2014

Watch for more details!

Koeze Nuts

Koeze Nuts and candies are some of the most delicious treats you will ever taste! They make great holiday or hostess gifts. Heck, just buy some for yourself!

Order by December 11th
for delivery by Christmas.



Contact Rick Thomas for more information.
jathoma2@wisc.edu

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
04-Dec-13	Bob Wortinger & Bonnie Spindler	Greg Armstrong, Holy Wisdom Monastery History/Future	Cheeseburger served with chips OR Chicken Caesar Salad
11-Dec-13	Rick Conne	SYS-Student of Months Honored, Xmas volunteer activities.	Taco Salad Served buffet Style
14-Dec-13 (Sat. 11-3)	Rick Conne, Frank Rath	Annual Lussier X-Mas Party for Youth	-----
16-Dec-13		Reach-A-Child , CANCELLED for December	-----
17-Dec-13	Board Meeting	Agenda Items, Anyone can attend. 5:00 PM Tuesday at Basie's	-----
18-Dec-13	Optimists	Annual ORNAMENT Exchange	Special Holiday Lunch: Sliced Turkey Breast served with local cranberry sauce and garlic mashed potatoes OR Chef Salad
25-Dec-13	No Lunch Meeting	MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS	All Kinds of GREAT Home Food, ENJOY.
1-Jan-14	No Lunch Meeting	HAPPY NEW YEAR	
1-8-14	Optimists	Sharing Family Holiday Traditions	TBD
1-15-14	Diane Hoebel	Speaker TBD	TBD
1-20-14	Optimists	Reach-A-Child, Continue Book Activity, Middleton Ware House	<i>(3rd Monday of Month)</i>
1-21-14	Board Meeting	Agenda Items, Anyone can attend. 7:45 AM Tuesday at Wegner CPA's, Luann Drive	
1-22-14	Rick Thomas	Sheryl Erickson, Misconceptions about the Black Bear	TBD
1-29-14	???		TBD
2-5-14	Kathy Johnson	Ray Yingling, Laser Therapy	TBD
2-9-14	Optimists	Annual Sunday Progressive Dinner, later afternoon, more information coming.	

Shaded green = Wednesday Lunch Meeting

December 2013 Reflection:

Promise Yourself: To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

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.

Sauk Trails Optimist Board of Directors Meeting

The STOC Board of Directors meeting on Tues., Nov. 19, 2013, was called to order by President Bonnie Spindler at 7:45 a.m.

Secretary/Treasurer's Reports: The minutes from the last meeting were approved. Treasurer Bob Wortinger reported that as of October 31, 2013 the Vanguard account is positive & donations have been received for the foundation. We've been notified that UW-Whitewater is postponing their trip to Africa. Carole moves to wait to pay the check until next year, Liv seconds, passes unanimously. Bob noted the \$75 MASCC lunch fee for our Veterans was not anticipated and that he would add in the Christmas party expense.

Membership Report: Diane moves to reverse the write-off of the delinquent member dues as the money was received, Mike second, passes unanimously. Because of OI policy, Kathy Newman will remain a FOO as the move to membership can only be made on ~~the next~~ Anniversary Date. Kathy Johnson is back to being a regular member. Bob moves to have the club pay the \$15 OI fee for her, Diane seconds. Passes unanimously.

Old Business: Six members attended the Nov. REACH-a-Child activity. It was decided to forego the Dec. activity. R-a-C will continue to be the 3rd Monday of the month for 2014. Four STOC members attended the SWIS conference. Bonnie & Carole will work on the Foundation donation letter to be sent out before the end of Nov. 69 Bucky Books have been sold (out of 88). Free BBs will be dealt with on a case by case basis ~~instead of reverting to the club.~~ Pass

New Business: It was decided not to do the MOM Sharing Christmas program this year. Mike Grasmick has agreed to coordinate the Essay Contest this year. We will only do the Oratorical Contest if a member agrees to chair the event. Carole will run the Dec. 4th lunch mtg. for Bonnie. We will do the Red Cross Project at the Dec. 11th mtg. Bonnie will ask members to bring in cards to sign.

Committee Reports/Board Assignments: Social/Membership – The Progressive Dinner on Feb. 9th will be coordinated by Dan & Liv. Service/Volunteer – Rick Conne reports everything is falling into place for the Lussier Children's Xmas Party; Members should sign up for Salvation Army Bell Ringing; Xmas tree takedown at Rosewood Villas set for Jan. 4th. Finance/Fundraising – Rick Thomas is investigating an additional fundraiser doing concessions at the Alliant Energy Center.

Other: **Discussion ensued regarding** doing Tri-Star B-Ball again. General opinion was not to do. Diane moves to not do Tri-Star B-Ball, Pete seconds, passes unanimously.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013. It was agreed to do at the Radisson at 5 p.m. for Holiday Cheer and Board Meeting – in Basie's.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

Lussier Children's Christmas Party

Preparations are underway for the Lussier Children's Christmas Party which will be held on December 14th, from 12 - 3 p.m., at the Lussier Community Education Center.

Entertainment will be provided by Wayne the Wizard and Santa & Mrs. Claus will pass out gifts to all the children.

STOC members will set up for the event; prepare & serve lunch; and assist Santa.

Thanks to Rick Conne's hard work, food costs will be totally covered by Copps and gift certificates will go toward presents for the children. We are also in line for a \$1,000 grant from Sam's Club and will apply for a \$500 grant from OI.

We will wrap the gifts after the lunch meeting on December 11th.



Happy Holidays!

**November
Speakers**

**Photos by
Steve Bailey**



Asia Voight works to help animals and people all over the world through communication, and is committed to helping all beings achieve an incredible connection of support, understanding, and love.



Ray Yingling explains How Medications Deplete Vitamins from our Body. Very Interesting! Ray will be back in February.



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.