



# Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club  
Nov/Dec 2023 News



<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>

## Sauk Trails Optimists:

Since October 1st and the beginning of the new Optimist year, I've had the pleasure of seeing our members energized to plan on having more social events and fundraising, to be committee members, to work on the Lussier Christmas party, to make plans to work at Culvers, and to make plans to prepare a dinner at Ronald McDonald House. We had 3 members work on providing suggestions to update our Club Policies, with discussion and approval expected at the December 6th member meeting. I am seeing that we have fun at meetings and enjoy talking with each other about plans for our club as well as personal things. You've even put up with my questionable jokes at each meeting.

Our Club loves to make Christmas better for many youth by providing food and gifts to students at the Lussier Center. Patti and Frank have been hard at work to plan this Christmas Party. The Texas Roadhouse on Watts Road will donate all the food. Rick Thomas will donate "silverware" and plates and other. Rick Conne will get cookies from Stella's Bakery. Rick T will be Santa. We will need members to assist at the December 15th party.

We are expecting 150 kids up to the age of 13-14. Frank will buy gifts which we will wrap at our December 13th meeting. The Foundation will give \$2000 towards the gifts.

- Requests for donations from businesses are still in progress.
- Please consider a personal donation to this wonderful event for the kids.
- Checks can be written to The Foundation of STOC.

## Committee Chairs Needed:

- Steve will be our club Oratorical Chair. Please consider assisting Steve.
- Please consider being the chairperson for the Essay Contest.
- Rick Thomas will work with the Ronald McDonald House to set up a date for a group of 4 to prepare a dinner at the House. We will need volunteers to help make the meal.
- Mary Wykle will be the point person to set up times when we can work at Culver's Share Night. Mary will also ask for members to work a 2 hour or 4 hour shift from 4pm - 8pm.

**Next meeting is on November 29th** with speaker Katie Brietzman, community outreach and support specialist for NewBridge Madison. Katie will discuss NewBridge's mission and its varied volunteer opportunities.

What does December look like for the Sauk Trails Optimist Club?

12/6 meeting: We will discuss the suggested updates to the Club Policies and have a member vote to approve

- We will discuss and vote on the dues increase. Given the increase in OI and District dues and the low balance in our club checking account from which the OI and District dues are paid, we are proposing that the dues be increased by \$5 per quarter, effective Jan 1. The board has approved this increase but to make it final, the members also need to approve the increase. The member vote will be at the meeting on Dec 6th.
- We will review Lussier Center Christmas party and what is still needed

12/13 meeting - Wrap Gifts for the Lussier party on Dec 15th

12/15 Christmas Party at the Lussier Center

12/18 (Monday) - Board Meeting at 5PM

12/20 meeting - member Ornament Exchange

12/27 meeting - NO Meeting - Enjoy your family time!

We are a strong club with wonderful people who want to serve their community and kids. Without participation, we couldn't do all these things. I am so proud to see all the people who want to be and to stay involved to make this club thrive.

Please know that any of your ideas are welcomed. We are idea people.

We are energized to help our friends and neighbors and kids. Let's look for new fun ways to work together to do just that.

Promise Yourself!

**Kathie Newman**

President 2023-2024

Lt Governor Zone 6, 2021-2024

### Optimist International Dues Increase:

**Beginning January, 2024 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 2024. 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 treasurers Jeff Kuchenbecker and Rick Thomas.

**Happy Holidays 2023**



## STOC Bulletin Board

### Sauk Trails Club Officers 2023/2024

**President:** Kathie Newman

**Vice President:** Steve Bailey

**Secretary:** Bonnie Spindler

**Treasurer:** Jeff Kuchenbecker  
Rick Thomas

**Past President:** John Fons

#### **Board of Directors**

Pattu Levenson 23-25  
Rick Conne 20-23  
Jane Meyer 21-23  
Frank Rath 23-25  
Trisha Lucas 23-25  
Mary Wykle 22-24

### Dec Birthdays

Barb Sheerhan-Hill 20  
Barry Levenson 30



Thanks to Paul Johnson for coordinating speakers. If you have a speaker or would like to speak yourself, contact Paul for future 2024 scheduling.

**Newsletter Editor:**

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

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

### SWIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conference

**ZOOM**

**Saturday, Feb. 6, 2024**

Conference Saturday,

10 am – 1:30 pm

### Terri Lynn Fundraiser for STOC

One of our annual fundraisers is selling nuts/candies from Terri Lynn through our online store. In the past I have usually received orders in about 2 weeks, but to guarantee delivery it says orders must be placed by December 1st. This is a nice fundraiser because all you have to do is send someone the link or just order product which you can have shipped directly to the recipient. The link to place an order is here: <https://sauktrailsoptimists.terrilynn.com>

If you have any questions, please contact **Rick Thomas** at [rlthomas5914@gmail.com](mailto:rlthomas5914@gmail.com) or call 608-212-7582.

### Sauk Trails Board Meeting

Monday, Dec. 18, 2023

5:00 PM ZOOM

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

### 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 or the club! (Food and Beer/Wine Concessions)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dada72aa5fac34-2023#/>

**Kathie Newman**, Lt. Governor Zone 6

### Lussier Friday Party December 15<sup>th</sup>

3:30 - 4:00 PM  
Arrival of Optimists

7:00 PM  
Conclusion.



### October 18, 2023 Speaker.

Our speaker was our club president, Kathie Newman about her trip to Italy. Bonnie Spindler, who also went to Italy, contributed some general information about the trip. Great presentation.

### October 25, 2023 Speaker

Robert Enright, the forgiveness professor, is an educational psychology professor at UW Madison and is known as a pioneer of the scientific study of forgiveness. (Picture of Robert with Paul Johnson, Optimist who coordinated with him to speak.)



### November 1, 2023 Speaker

Clean Lake Alliance will be shared by Paul Deorland and Caitln McAlearey. This was very interesting and included information about the waters in the Madison area and what is doing to keep them safe and viable to the residents.,



### November 8, 2023 Speaker

Speaker, Sophia Melgar, shared about Volunteer Opportunities to the Ronald McDonald House. Plans to have 4 or so people get involved, with Rick Thomas doing some lead coordination.



### November 29, 2023

Speaker Katie Brietzman, community outreach and support specialist for NewBridge Madison, discussed NewBridge's mission and its varied volunteer opportunities. NewBridge was formed by the merger of four senior coalitions nearly five years ago. Very interesting information.



## ***S.AUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB***

### **Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom Tuesday, November 13, 2023, at 5:00 pm**

**1. Welcome** by Kathie Newman, Club President 23-24:

BOD Attendees: KathieN, BonnieS, JaneM, JohnF, JeffK, PattiL, TrishaL, MaryW, RickC,

Guest: CaroleK. Absent: SteveB, FrankR.

**2. October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Board Meeting Approval:** Motion by MaryW to approve the minutes and seconded by TrishaL. Passed by board members present.

**3. Financial Report:** Jeff K shared about the Park Bank Account. Operating Account has \$3,829. OI Foundation balance is \$12,699, some of which is in a Money Market fund. More discussion on the balances after a motion of acceptance of the financial report by JohnF and a second by JaneM. The financial report was **accepted** by those present. *(There was discussion about the Lussier Xmas needs, which will be discussed in the annual STOC Foundation Meeting, which will be held after this meeting).*

**4. Possible Club Dues Increase:** OI dues is increasing currently and SWIS dues will also increase in October 2024. After much discussion, the 'suggested' Club increase would be for \$5.00/quarter. The \$5 increase, quarterly dues going from \$40 to \$45, had a board motion by Rick Conne and second by PattiL and was accepted by those present. This will be incorporated with the proposed policy changes after being shared with the membership and voted on at the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 lunch meeting by those optimists present.

**5. Proposed Changes to Club Policies:** (Presented by RickT, CaroleK, and MaryS with input from other optimists earlier). Following is a summary of those changes in the following areas:

- **#3: Optimist Club Bylaws & policies:** ... reviewed by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, for the 'following Even Optimist Year'.
- **#4: President:** ...need to serve 2 years on the STOC Board.
- **#5: Vice President:** ...added... serve in support of President.
- **#9: Dues:** ...increase to \$45 per quarter or \$180/year. (Discussed earlier);
- **#10: Meal payment policy:** ... board will set amount, for cash/check, no pre-billing, invoiced at end of quarter.
- **#14: Convention/conference reimbursement:** ...for registration, which includes lunch, supported by invoices/on-line registration.

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- **#17: Speaker guidelines:** ...of giving small gift, usually creed plaque, besides lunch for presentations, invite to club membership..
- **Wearing pins / shirts:** ...to meetings, Deleted by Board.
- **#20: Fundraising activities:** need for lead coordinator chairperson for event/project.
- **#22: Newsletter guidelines:** Included for quarterly newsletter creation/distribution/saving of website -: [www.sauktrailsmadisoonoptimist.org](http://www.sauktrailsmadisoonoptimist.org)

A motion was made by TrishL and seconded by MaryW to 'tentatively' approve the updates to the Policies and passed by the board. These will be shared with the membership and voted on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the lunch meeting.

6. Meal Increase by Vintage to \$16/lunch. No approval needed of increase, either take it or leave the Vintage.
7. Meeting Schedule: Every week or twice a month starting in January. Board motion by Rick and seconded by Trisha to have a meeting every week. Member consensus at Nov 15th member lunch meeting.
8. Removing Optimists from Roster for Lack of Interest: SteveB children: William Bailey and Brenda Stratton. Motion made by RickC and seconded by JohnF, passed by those present.
9. Chairs for Oratorical – SteveB and Essay Chair – NEEDED.
10. Lussier Center Xmas Party, \$2000 approved Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. *(to be discussed at Foundation Meeting)*.
11. Adjourn at 5:46 pm, motion at RickC, seconded MaryW, passed.
12. Next meeting: Monday December 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm by ZOOM.

Respectfully Submitted: **Bonnie Spindler**, STOC Secretary 23-24



***SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB  
FOUNDATION***

**Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom  
Tuesday November 13, 2023 at 5:50 pm**

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions: Meeting called to order by Kathie Newman, Club President 23-24

BOD Attendees: KathieN, BonnieS, JaneM, JohnF, JeffK, PattiL, TrishaL, MaryW, RickC: Guest: CaroleK

2. **Foundation Meeting: May 16, 2023 Minutes:** Motion by PattiL and seconded by JaneM. Accepted by those present.
3. **Financial Report – October/November by Jeff Kuchenbecker, Club Treasurer:**
  - a. \$3,383 in checking; \$12,699 in Foundation Vanguard.
  - b. JeffK will provide detailed information at Dec 18th board meeting, including details of expense and revenue. The Board will need to **approve** the Budget no later than Dec 18th.
  - c. Motion by JohnF, seconded by TrishL, accepted by those present.
4. **Lussier Center – previous approval of transfer of \$2000 from Foundation to Checking for Lussier Party.**
  - a. Motion by RickC and seconded by Patti, accepted by Foundation Board present.
  - b. Understand ages 13-14 being added with goal of 150 youth present for gifts.
  - c. Check paid directly from Foundation to FrankR. (*check name verified by Frank.*)
5. **Future Dollars available: Fundraisers: Culver's volunteering in February 2024** (*MaryW in charge*), **sale of Texas Roadhouse gift cards, others to be decided.**
6. **Adjourn:** The foundation meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm with a motion by MaryW and a second by RickC. Passed by those present.

Respectfully Submitted: **Bonnie Spindler**, STOC Secretary 23-24

## **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.**