



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin

October 2022 – NEWSLETTER



What Time Is It?

You'd think it would be easy to transition from Governor of the Optimist SWIS District to a term as President of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club, especially since I served two terms as President in recent history. The plaques on the wall say 2018-19 and 2019-20, but you'd be wrong. And so would I. This is a time of re-assessment and re-discovery. A lot of it.

All our lives have changed in the last few years and the idea, as it has always been, is how to maintain and develop Sauk Trails Optimist Club as a contributing factor in our own lives and consequently in the lives of others. Habit and ritual are convenient. We use them all the time, like repeating the address where you live, but an address doesn't begin to define the life within or the activities without. That takes creative effort and determination. It takes Optimism.

So, for instance, in the last few weeks I've made an effort to create stanchions for our flags and banners. You'll see them displayed at the front of each meeting over which I preside. The American flag front and center, slightly higher than the other two, our own Sauk Trails banner covered with achievement patches with room for more, and the Optimist Creed, not that we couldn't all say it from memory.

Emblems and symbols are important. They help define our image. We see ourselves in them like looking in a mirror and others see us in them as well. When the Flag and Banners go up at Vintage Brewing where we meet, anyone dining there who looks through those double doors before we close them for our meeting will see there is a group of Optimists meeting for lunch and that in three words is Good Public Relations. We go to a lot of trouble to meet. Why deny it? Those who see us should know we're something special. Maybe they'd like to be special too.

Also, we eagerly anticipate a whole year's worth of programs to enjoy when we meet. Typically, and quite often, our altruism our willingness to give of ourselves both in time and money are in evidence by programs which highlight non-profit and charitable organizations. That will continue to be the case. Yet the world of commerce and education, business and government, culture and entertainment open up innumerable opportunities to simply sit back and learn what we never knew before. Careers, hobbies, special interests, music, drama, collections and eccentricities. You name it. I intend to pursue these Optimistic programs as your 2022-23 Sauk Trails President.

And speaking of mirrors. Have you looked outside recently? Do it now and realize what a vibrant, brilliant image it reflects of our own club and the time at hand. We've all been twenty-one a long time. It isn't Spring any more. Even Summer is gone. But Autumn is exciting. Autumn is alive with dazzling contrast and since Winter is next, it's time to make use of each and every day as mature Optimists (if there is such a thing) and put zest where it belongs, right in our own Sauk Trails Optimist lives.

John Fons, Sauk Trails Optimist Club President

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Madison Optimist Club is one of 54 clubs in Southern Wisconsin. We are part of the SWIS – Southern Wisconsin District. Sauk Trails Optimists support and are supported by SWIS and Optimist International. Following are some of supports by STOC – Optimists.



Kathie Newman, Sauk Trails Distinguished President 2020-21 was installed as Lieutenant Governor of Zone 6 for 2021-2022 and will be continuing in 2022-2023. She has contacts with: Sauk Trails, Cross Plains, Middleton, Verona, Mazomanie-Wisconsin Heights and Fitchburg. (Kathy was a Distinguished Club President in 19-20).



John Fons, current Sauk Trails Optimist President and Lieutenant Governor, was 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 were the Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) District Essay Co-Chairs. They assisted in coordinated by the STOC and District Essay Contests.



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 Lt. Governor Kathie Newman, Supporting Zone 6 Clubs in 2022-2023 year.



Wisconsin Mazomanie - Heights Club Installation of Club Officers at Noon Lunch.

Cross Plains Morning Honoring of Student of the Month.



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

October Birthdays

Rick Thomas 21

Ted See 28



Newsletter Editor:

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SWIS 2nd Quarter Conference

2022-2023

Fri/Sat, Feb. 14-15, 2023

Madison, WI

Conference Saturday, 9:00am-3pm

Sign-up for obtaining future speakers or speaking yourself is being continued in 2022 – 2023.

Some meetings will be recorded for later viewing.

NOVEMBER Scheduled LUNCH Get-Togethers

November 2: Teri Venker - Indian Mounds and History

November 9: Logan's Hearts and Smiles - Grant Presentation

November 16: Bill Schulz - Miracle League - Grant Presentation

November 23: No Meeting - Thanksgiving

November 30: Club Fundraiser and Event Planning

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!!

FUNDCRAZR Fundraiser TICKETS

We ended up bringing in \$780 this year with 65 tickets sold.

Thanks to Rick for organizing this year's Football CRAZR Fundraiser. Our best year since 2019.

Mustard Day, August 6, 2022

THANKS to all who joined us in Downtown Middleton on Saturday, August 6th for our annual tribute to Mustard Day. More information on what happened that day are available at

<https://mustardmuseum.org/mustard-day/>

Patti Levenson (Mrs. Mustard)

Sauk Trails Optimists normally meet every Wednesday at 11:45 am at Vintage Brewing located at Whitney Way and Odana Road.

Watch for e-mail announcements of upcoming meetings and any special guest speakers.

Reservations should be emailed back to club president John Fons by noon on Tuesday to allow for lunch preparations.

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Sauk Trails annual banquet was planned for the evening of Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at Imperial Gardens, 2039 Allen Blvd., Middleton, with silent auction and raffle at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:30pm and installation of club officers that were present. Enjoyable evening with over 20 Optimists.



Pictures of the Optimists present enjoying other optimists and a great Chinese dinner.

That was followed by a program and Installation of 22-23 club Officers by Governor Designate, Jo'El Pearlman.

Certificate and thank-you Awards were given to Optimists for their service in 21-22 year.

GREAT TIME WAS HELD BY ALL.



FALL Festival Fundraiser, Sept. 21st Horizon High School Recovery Program

What: Horizon High School provides students in recovery a safe and supportive community in an academic and therapeutic environment. HHS fosters an ethic of honesty and mutual respect, promoting accountability to oneself and to the community. HHS prepares students for higher education and employment and to become productive members of our community.

When: Horizon High School is having a Fall Festival Fundraiser and celebration of our 18th Anniversary on Wednesday, September 21st at Goodman Community Center.



Club President, John Fons presents awards at an Optimist Lunch Meeting to Traci Goll Horizon High School with support from Megan Muhs, Counselor.



Andy Day, Writer Presents on Wednesday, October 19th

Optimists, Patti and Barry Levenson invited a friend and business acquaintance to share about his various roles in life. Andy Davis was very interesting and shared about 'Your Pathway to Remagiment' and the various stages of life, in his book 'Building a Fulfilling Aging Plan'. He talked about the stages of: Community, Family, and Jobs and how we think about spending our time, energy, and money in each of these areas and how it changes with life situations.



John Fons, Club President 22-23 Presents October 26th

John Fons, with the 3 flags he's mounted to be displayed at Sauk Trails Lunch meetings. John presented his vast historian knowledge using 'The Spirit of America', essentially a love letter to American by Angelo Patri, his adopted country. He read and shared excerpts from that volume and we talked about what inspires us about this nation in which we live and how we take inspiration. It was a very informative meeting for those present.

Bucky Book 2022

STOC is once again selling Bucky Books to help raise funds for our foundation. Each book sells for \$35 with \$15 of that coming back to the club in profit. There are hundreds of buy one get one free coupons for things such as restaurants, golf, and entertainment. Use a couple of coupons and you easily get your money back while supporting a great cause.

Our Bucky Book sales campaign is winding down. We currently have 53 books out to members with cash received for 35. I turned in what was left of our original supply of 60 yesterday and received 6 free books where we will make \$35 profit per book. Those came from two members selling 10 Bucky Books and two others selling 5 Bucky Books - Our top 6 sellers have sold 40 books! Great Job! Unfortunately, that means our other 32 members have sold a grand total of 13 books! 😞

Please help us out!!!! There are 6 Bucky Books we still have to sell and we can always get more at the usual \$15 per book profit. Please let me know if i can get Bucky Books to you or can stop by to pick up any cash you still owe for this campaign. **We would like to finish the sales by the end of October.** Optimistically yours, Bob

You can get your books at a luncheon or contact Bob Wortinger at: rwortinger55@gmail.com .



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

**Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2022;
MINUTES**

PRESENT: John Fons, Carole Klopp, Bob Wortinger, Kathy Johnson, Rick Thomas, Mary Wykle, Jane Meyer, Rick Conne, Steve Bailey, and Ted See

ABSENT: Mark Kraemer

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:03pm.

1. Welcome/ Agenda Additions (Steve Bailey was on time)
2. September Board Meeting Minutes: Steve moves to approve, Bob seconds, motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report – End of September 2022
 - a. Balance Sheet: Checking operating cash balance is \$3029 with cash equivalents of \$4,222.95 Foundation cash equivalents came in at \$11,514.39.
 - b. Income Statement – we ended the fiscal year with a net operating profit of \$90.48. All grants from the Foundation were paid out in September. NOTES: we spent about \$25/week for speakers. SWIS district expenses exceeded the budget, but we received a donation to offset the overage. Vanguard earnings were negative with Football Crazz fundraiser coming in above projection at \$12 per 65 tickets sold. Finally, we lost a net of 6 members during the 2021-22 fiscal year and are starting the new year with 38 members.
Carole moves to accept the final 2021-22 statements, Kathy seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- c. Fundraising: Bucky Books update – original order of 60 – handed out 52, cash in for 32 – so cash for 20 books is still outstanding. We should have 6 free books coming in. It was agreed by consensus for members to turn in any leftover books and cash collected soon. The goal is to be done with this fundraiser by the end of October. We should clear a profit of about \$1000.
4. 2022-2023 Budget: proposed budget has a negative balance of **-\$1100**. The loss of 6 members (6x40x4 = \$950) represents most of our loss for this year. Losing one member equals a \$160 loss. Lunches should be a wash as we are billing \$15 and being charged \$14.50. Projected revenues are down \$300. OI annual dues went up \$15 per member as of 10.1.2022 and are now \$21 per member annually. Carole asks if we shouldn't raise our dues \$3.75 per member per quarter. Bob said we are already one of the highest in our district. In response to Kathy's question, Bob replied that dues can be increased at any time. We would be talking going to \$44 or \$45. John suggested that we use this opportunity during the first quarter to introduce a possible increase in dues to the membership and give them time to digest it. Carole moves to increase the quarterly dues to \$45 effective with the second quarter dues billing. Rick C seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Bob suggested tabling the budget to the November meeting to give Bob and John time to rework the budget taking into account the dues increase. John tabled the budget by consensus.
5. Sauk Trails Newsletter: Bonnie has agreed to remain the Newsletter Editor and send out the next one on October 29th.
6. General Meeting Frequency: Discussed moving to every other week. Is the budget impact pertinent to this discussion? Bob said it would be tough to predict speaker meals and member attendance. We only had 15 guest lunches last year. John would like to wait on making a decision on this right now. Rick C. felt we might have more people at the meetings going to every other week. Bob said that we did have more people this summer when we went to every other week (starting in June – 14, 11, 10, 11; July 16, 11; August 15, 9; Sept 10, 9, 9, 7). First October meeting was 14. John feels we should leave things right now and will put it on the agenda in future. We need to connect with the restaurant to see if they have a required minimum number of attendees. Discussion tabled.
7. New Business: Some goals: we would like to seek out other club activities, have more guests and members at meetings, and possibly create a club within a club at Oakwood Village (we would need to invite some of the Oakwood residents to our meetings). Jane works at Oakwood PT and indicated there is interest. John will discuss with Oakwood staff. Breeze Stevens concerts – Kathy would like to pursue this and be in charge. Carole will email Steve Britt, president of the Middleton Club, to get more information as to how this happened.
8. Adjournment: Kathy moves to adjourn to November 15, 2022 at 5pm, Steve seconds, motion passes unanimously.
We stand adjourned to Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5pm on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carole Klopp, Secretary

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Southern Wisconsin – SWIS 1st Quarter Conference was held on October 14-15



SWIS Executive Meeting, Immediate Past Governor John Fons presented.



SWIS Main Meeting, Immediate Past Governor John Fons presented PG Shirt.



SWIS Optimist Attendees of Southern WI Clubs.



STOC Lt. Governor ZONE 6, Kathie Newman with other Lt. Gov's and Youth 'Power Rangers'

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. You will be receiving more information on the handling of this during November in preparation for the November 30th, lunch meeting.

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 bobbers - 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

SAUK TRAILS – Madison Club WEBSITE www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org

Current and previous STOC Newsletters are available as PDF's on the website.

To acquire the newsletter, CLICK on the 'PDF Download' of CHOICE.

If you have any problems acquiring the Newsletter or are NOT receiving the monthly message, please contact me.

Optimistically, **Bonnie Spindler** blspindler@charter.net 338-7244 (cell), Sauk Trails Website Coordinator



HAVE a WONDERFUL FALL ENJOYING the BEAUTIFUL SCENERY FOLLOWED BY RAKING LEAVES in PREPARATION FOR WINTER.

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.