



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



February / March, 2021

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

This has been an unusual year that has caused us to work a little harder to stay Optimistic.

Thank you for staying engaged and maintaining our friendships and fun social times. Through Zoom, we have been able to have people join our meetings who would otherwise not be able to join us. That is the good news!

We have had good conversations and good speakers.

In lieu of our Progressive Dinner, we will have conversations, fun and games on **March 28, 3:30-5:00**, led by Mary and Carole.

Thank you to the board members and others who have contributed valuable time with kids, fundraising, and other things.

Although we have not been able to do our usual fundraising, we have had success with the nuts, Bucky Books, and Happy Dollars.

This year we will have kids participating in the Oratorical Contest and Essay Contest. Thank you to Steve and to Mike for managing these events!

We are looking forward to securing a Student of the Month in the near future and to give out our scholarships this spring.

Hopefully, some of our fundraising events this summer will take place, but we need to wait and see if COVID and its strains are under control.

If you would like to serve on the board or work on our newsletter, please let me know.

Optimistically,

Kathie Newman, President
Kat1new21@gmail.com

Adventures In Optimism

"Oh my gosh!"

The sounds of surprise and wonder came from another room.

It happens like that sometimes. We kind of know what's happening, but we don't really know. Jane sounded delighted.

The mail had come.

"What is it?" I asked, turning from my computer screen toward the doorway to make sure. She came walking into the office from the kitchen holding an envelope.

This is a build up, but you'll appreciate the fact sometimes good things do come in small packages. Letters from friends, not too often anymore in our digital world; cards occasionally; discount coupons if you've already spent a bundle at the store; tax refunds and invitations; mostly fliers and bulk mail advertisements you feel sorry for the mailman in weather like this. None of it seemed to fit Jane's elation.

She held a fuzzy little white thing.

"It's my mitten!" she announced, truly excited.

Now a lot of strange things happen in our house. Four cats, two of them with three legs each due to various nefarious circumstance, six parakeets the number subject to change and one of the cats now receiving insulin injections twice daily administered by yours truly for feline diabetes not to mention being interrupted repeatedly at my computer, but no way that mitten if it was a mitten in Jane's hand could fit Jane no way.

Maybe one of the cats.

The story began to unfold.

It seems sixty years ago Jane's mother Margaret knitted a pair of angora wool mittens for Jane and as would happen, one mitten got lost.

Sixty years ago.

Jane's sister Sharon lives outside Mauston on a farm, a widowed farm wife with lots of stuff from the old home place where she and Jane lived with their parents here in Madison on Midvale Boulevard.

Get the idea where this story is going?

So in sorting through some boxes transported from Madison to the farm in Mauston from the estate and left unopened since mother Margaret passed away years ago, Sharon found a mitten,

a match she realized to the one Jane has kept all these years, a testament to the fact Jane never really intended to lose her mitten and cherished the hope all these years her lost mitten might someday be found.

True Optimism.

Also true sisterhood since Sharon never told Jane she found the mitten when she found it or told Jane she put the mitten in the mail when she mailed it to maximize the surprise otherwise known in the language of sisterhood as shock.

So the two mittens are now back together.

At long last.

A happy ending.

Well, sort of.

Because Jane isn't quite sure where she put the first mitten, the one she kept for sixty years, so as soon as we find the first mitten the second mitten and the first mitten will be one.

Like I said, a lot of strange things happen in our house.

Unless of course one of our three legged cats mistakes one mitten or the other mitten for a toy mouse with five legs, but we won't go there.

We're Optimistic.

JEF

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

February Birthdays

Mike Grasmick	4
Diana Johnson	6
Bonnie Spindler	11
Jane Meyer	20

March Birthdays

Todd Geltemeyer	9
Diane Hoebel	10
Gene Spindler	31

April Birthdays

Dan Bergs	20
Jeff Kuckenbecker	12
Doug Poole	11
Liv Sandberg	25

SWIS 2nd Quarter Conference 2020-2021

Virtual Meeting ONLY, Saturday, Feb 13th

Exec Mtg: Thur,02-11,7PM, PG Mtg:
Fri,02-12,7 PM, Conf: Sat.,02-13,
8:30AM

[Conf Details](#)

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 will be 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!



!Remember, Please!

To 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

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And when you're going Nuts,

Remember <https://sauktrailsoptimists.terri Lynn.com>

To make your Terri Lynn Purchases!

SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

MINUTES

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

Absent: Rick C.

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Addition: The retired Madison police Captain, Joseph Balles, was going to speak at the January 20 meeting about their Foundation, but due to Inauguration day concerns, officers are assigned elsewhere. The program will be postponed until February. The meeting for January 20 has been canceled.

2. Approval of 12/8/20 Minutes: Motion by Bob W., seconded by Rick T., Passed unanimously.

3. November Financial Report: Moved to accept the financial report by Steve and seconded by John Fons. So far, 2 of 8 STOC shirts have been delivered, but 4 have been paid for.

4. Committees and Activities

a. Ornament Sharing – members enjoyed sharing special memories

b. Oratorical Contest - Steve reported that it could be canceled due to complications of Zoom meeting competition. Can the speeches be recorded, or must they be live? Steve will check. Possible option to do the speeches live, too. Steve will advise the status by end of January.

c. Essay Contest – Mike Grasmick emailed Kathie and John that he provided contest rules to STOC JOOI volunteers on January 8 so they can bring it to the attention to the students who must submit by February 18 so Mike can submit to judges by February 19. Judges submit scores to Mike by February 27.

d. Howl-idays Concert – STOC donated \$100 and it was awesome. It raised nearly \$900.

e. Thoughts for Future Activities: Mary suggested Club Game Night to replace the Progressive Dinner and then continue it regularly. Ken suggested 1) offering a picnic with sub sandwiches to kids, and 2) a tour of his relative's house which has a collection of antique trains.

5. Adjourn to February 9, 2021, motioned by Kathy J; seconded by Ken. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Johnson, Secretary

**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom**

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Rick C.

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m.

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions

2. Approval of Foundation Minutes from September 8, 2020: John moved to approve, and Ted seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. Fundraising

- a. Rick T.-Terri Lynn/Koeze Wrap Up: Both final payments are outstanding. Profit should be \$838. Just for Aegis and Koeze. Hopefully more profits should be coming from Terry Lynn.
- b. Bob - Bucky Book: online ordering still available through this week.
- c. Any New Ideas for Fundraising: None.

4. 2020-21 Cash Flow Projection: Bob reported that he projected the Foundation income statement. COVID complicates the forecast. He conservatively estimated revenues of \$7600. \$10,443 could be available to spend with \$4000 available for scholarships and other money for grants. With the \$3000 cushion we carried forward from last year, \$10,400 should be available for grants and scholarships. Bob suggested that the Board consider raising scholarships from \$500 to \$1000, and a total of \$2,000 to \$3000 to 4-\$100 scholarships as we better support youth. Based on projections, we should be able to keep grants pretty close to last year's levels. The Board tabled the topic of splitting monies between scholarships and grants until March.

5. Scholarship and Grants to Non-Profit Organizations:

a. John discussed the financial need at Meals on Wheels. He suggested that since Club members already deliver meals, individual members might be encouraged to donate on their own to support this program.

b. John discussed the January 6 Zoom conference regarding Optimist International Foundation and grant guidelines for 2021-22. OI is granting money in amounts from \$250 to \$1000 as matching funds to Clubs for New Programs that benefit youth and particularly disadvantaged or disabled youth. Clubs must have 501©(3) status or if not may 'pass through' OI Foundation funds to such partnering organizations that do have that non-profit tax status. Our Foundation is a 501(c)(3).

6. Adjourn to March10, 2021 Motioned to adjourn by Rick T and seconded and seconded by Ted at 6:00 p.m.. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Johnson, Secretary

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 2018-2019 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

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.