

# Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club  
Madison, Wisconsin



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## April/May/June 2022 – QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

May was a very busy month for our club with the Special Olympics Track and Field event along with Respect for Law. Both events make me proud to be an Optimist. It is always inspiring to see the Special Olympics athletes competing. It inspires me to work for the best and to expect only the best.

The Respect for Law event also makes me proud, but in a different way. The police officers we honored have also worked tirelessly to be their best even when dealing with people who aren't always doing the same. It is often a thankless job that they do, and it warms my heart to see the pride these officers and their families have in the work they do. We can learn a lot from the Special Olympics athletes and from our police officers.

Remember to always think only of the best, work only for the best and to expect only the best in everything that you do.

Rick Thomas; [rlthomas5914@gmail.com](mailto:rlthomas5914@gmail.com)



**Rick Thomas**  
**Club President 21-22**



# STOC Bulletin Board

**Kathie Newman, Sauk Trails Distinguished President 2020-21 has been installed as Lieutenant Governor of Zone 6 for 2021-2022. She has contacts with: Sauk Trails, Cross Plains, Middleton, Verona, Mazomanie-Wisconsin Heights and Fitchburg.**



**John Fons, former Sauk Trails Optimist President and Lieutenant Governor, has been installed as 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.**



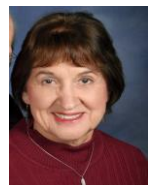
**Diana and Paul Johnson have accepted the position of Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) District Essay Co-Chairs. Besides coordinating the SWIS Essayists they are also assisting Mike Grasmick for the STOC Club. (All essays were due by February 28, 2022).**



**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 Conferences Scheduled in 2022:**  
**August 12-13, 2022:** 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention to get-together with optimists from other clubs and installs SWIS 2022-2023 District Officers.

**SUPPORT JOHN FON'S, as GOVERNOR 2021-2022**

**Famous Last Words: ORATORICAL, CCDHH, & ESSAY CONTESTS.**

“We’ve never done it like that before.”

Those words are in direct contradiction to the Optimist Creed.

Yet Optimists use them.

“We’ve never done it like that before,” implies the status quo.

Things are just dandy the way they are, the way they’ve always been.

They also imply a change has been suggested, perhaps only mentioned.

Yet that mere possibility of an alteration is placed immediately in contradiction to the past and found wanting.

“We’ve never done it like that before,” evokes a bygone majority called forth in absentia to influence the present and conform the future.

“We’ve never done it like that before,” is safe, cozy, boring, relaxed and that’s why we didn’t do it that way during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter SWIS District Optimist Conference.

The District Oratorical Contest is typically conducted by placing participating students in a separate room before judges who make their deliberation and once three winners are determined, present those winners to the entire conference audience.

Yet all of our Oratorical participants are winners and this year we had eleven of them. I, for one, needed every word of Optimism any one of them had to offer. There are thousands of eligible students in Southern Wisconsin, hundreds of JOI Club members. Through their various Zone competitions, we had the honor of hosting eleven brave youth willing to declare the importance of “Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times.”

That made each and every one of the eleven a Special Guest Speaker. Members of the audience, including some who previously expressed doubt about the format, beamed declaring how much they enjoyed the outcome.

And the students?

Despite concerns the youth might experience undo stress by standing before over one hundred attentive Optimists, friends and family members, instead of three steely eyed judges in a barren room, the students who had the nerve to enter the contest knew in the first place what every performer knows when it comes to an audience.

Bigger is better.

That goes as well for our two Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants. We did not have enough for an official contest, but the two young women who stood and spoke gave it everything and we got everything they had to give. Who felt anything less than inspired? *(Thanks to Jane Meyer for CCDHH contacting and coordinating).*

Given the choice between, “We’ve never done it like that before,” and “Think only of the best, work only for the best and expect only the best,” we might consider none of the Oratorical, Essay or CCDHH participants ever did anything like that before either. *(Thanks to Paul & Diana Johnson for Essay SWIS Chair coordination)*

Look what they accomplished. Oratorical: First Place Winner: Kenosha; Second Place Winner: Cross Plains; Third Place Winner: Menomonee Falls. Plus 8 other honorary mention participants.

Each one of these students helped make our Optimism come true.

**JOHN FONS, SWIS Governor 2021-2022**

## STOC Bulletin Board

### Sauk Trails Club Officers 2021-2022

**President:** Rick Thomas

**Vice President:** Kathy Johnson

**Secretary:** Carole Klopp

**Treasurer:** Bob Wortinger

**Past President:** Kathie Newman

#### **Board of Directors**

Steve Bailey  
Rick Conne  
Jane Meyer  
Ted See  
Mark Kraemer

#### **April Birthdays**

Doug Poole 11  
Jeff Kuchenbecker 12  
Dan Bergs 20  
Pete Graven 25  
Liv Sandberg 25

#### **May Birthdays**

Mary Poole 17

#### **June Birthdays**

Mary Schwartz 2  
Steve Bailey 5



#### **Newsletter Editor:**

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

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

### SWIS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention 2021-2022

**Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022**

**Deforest, WI**

Conference Saturday, 9:00am-3pm

**Sauk Trails Optimists NORMALLY meet every Wednesday at 11:45am at Vintage Brewing located at Whitney Way and Odana Road. Reservations should be emailed to club president Rick Thomas each Monday beforehand to allow lunch preparations. Watch for email announcements of special guest speakers. Meetings are recorded for later viewing.**

**Sign-up for obtaining future speakers or speaking yourself is being implemented in 2022.**

The Board has made the decision to have the Sauk Trails Optimist lunches at Vintage Brewing the following dates, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month:

**July 13, 2022**

**July 27, 2022**

**August 10, 2022**

**August 24, 2022**

The regular schedule will go back to every Wednesday starting in September 2022.

**!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**

The FundCrazr football raffle tickets are available for you to sell. Let me know how many you would like, and I can get them to you at a club meeting or other method of delivery if you can't make it to a meeting. These tickets are a great fundraiser for the club and are pretty easy to sell. Rick Thomas

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2022 was held at Oregon High School on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

May was a very busy month for our club with the Special Olympics Track and Field event held on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all the optimists who volunteered to help with this annual event. This event always makes us proud to be an Optimist and very inspiring to see the Special Olympics athletes competing.

**Subject: Brat Fest 2022 - Willow Island - Friday May 27 to Sunday May 29**

Bratfest is back and was held Friday May 27 through Sunday May 29. THANKS to the Sauk Trail Optimist members who volunteered Friday evening wrapping brats and who grilled Saturday and/or Sunday. Thanks to Diane Hoebel who provided exact jobs and shifts and coordinated this annual fund raiser event.



**Sauk Trails Optimist Club Essay Winner**

**JOHN BUSCHER**

Picture with President Rick Thomas, John Buscher, and STOC Essay Coordinator – Mike Grasmick.

John Buscher's Essay was turned into the SWIS District, Coordinated by Paul and Diana Johnson, to be judged against other Essay's from Youth for a \$2500 scholarship to be shared and awarded at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Conference.



**Optimists Enjoy Golf & Lunch, May 18, 2022**

Optimists joined for lunch at Vitense Golfland and hit golf balls starting at 11:45. Nice Time at Lunch with OPTIMISTS.

Essay co-Chairs, Paul & Diana Johnson presented the winning Essay at the SWIS 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Conference. Joined by Greg Culver and Joanne Ganske, President of Essay Club Winner, WI Heights/Mazo.



**SAUK TRAILS – Madison Club WEBSITE**

[www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org](http://www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org)

Current and previous STOC Newsletters are available as PDF's on the [www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org](http://www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org) website. To acquire the newsletter, CLICK on the 'PDF Download' of CHOICE.

In the ABOUT area, click on this link: [CLUB Photo Gallery to view pictures.](#)

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](mailto:blspindler@charter.net) 338-7244 (cell)  
Sauk Trails Website Coordinator

Sauk Trails Optimist Club "Pathways" April, May, June 2022

RESPECT for LAW, May 25<sup>th</sup> , 2022



Thanks to Optimist Steve Bailey for his annual coordination of the Respect for Law program again on May 25, 2022.

Respect for Law Awards given by Club President, Rick Thomas to:

**Detective Denise Armstrong**

**Officer Mario Gonzalez,**



**VOLUNTEERING AT NATIONAL MUSTARD DAY  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022**

Please join us in Downtown Middleton on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> for our annual tribute to Mustard, the G.O.A.T. of condiments. National Mustard Day is the biggest fundraising event of the year for the nonprofit National Mustard Museum and it takes a village to make it a success. As well as raising funds for the Mustard Museum, a portion of the proceeds from the mustard games, activities and hot dog stand will be shared with the Sauk Trails Optimist Club who support area youth with scholarships and more.

If you haven't been to our event in the past, here's the link to the National Mustard Day event page on our web site to give you an idea of what all will be happening that day:

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

We're filling positions now and need to know exactly what hours you could work and if you have any limitations like needing to sit or be in the shade, etc, or any particular expertise, like grilling hot dogs, serving food, supervising kids at games and activities.

Since National Mustard Day is a street festival, most of us will be working outside in different tents, running games for a few dollars each, selling tickets for food & drinks, grilling and serving hot dogs & brats, pushing a cart around to supply drinks and snacks to workers at each booth, plus setting up very early in the morning alongside the Event Essentials pros, and then helping to break down all the tents from 4:00 to 5:30pm. It's all fun but still some work. Volunteers get a free Mustard Day t-shirt at check-in, which we hope you'll wear at the event, and will be entitled to a free hot dog and cold drinks at the event.

National Mustard Day is open to the public from 10am until 4pm, but OUR day really starts right after we close the street at 6am and goes through clean-up, usually around 5:30pm. We especially appreciate volunteers who can stay all day, but know that doesn't work for everyone so we've divided the day into shifts. For repeat volunteers, let me know if you want to do the same "job" as last year. Students will receive community service hours for their time.

**6:30am - 10:00am**

Set-up which requires hauling and heavy lifting, popping up tents, covering tables with plastic cloths, hanging banners and signage, bringing supplies to all the game booths and setting them up.

**9:30am - 1:30pm**

Work a tent at the event ...games, food service, ticket sales, runner, floating sub, mascot and guide

**12:30pm - 4:30pm**

Same as morning shift....games, food prep and grilling at hot dog tent, ticket sales, runner, floating sub, Mascot and guide

**3:45pm - 5:30pm**

Breakdown - we have to take down the tents, fold up the tables and put away all the supplies until next year, plus make sure the streets are clear of all trash!

I hope each of you can contact me as soon as possible to confirm your time availability and to discuss Mustard Day activities in more detail to determine where best to utilize your skills. You can also sign up for a shift online at <https://mustardmuseum.org/mustard-day/#volunteer> and I'll get back to you. I can be reached any time on my cell phone at [608-444-5280](tel:608-444-5280) or you can email me or leave a message for me at the Mustard Museum at [608-831-2222](tel:608-831-2222) and I'll return the call.

Condi mentally yours,

**Patti Levenson (Mrs. Mustard)**

**National Mustard Museum 7477 Hubbard Avenue**

**Middleton, WI 53562**



**Sauk Trails Optimist Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 10, 2022  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Rick Thomas, Carole Klopp, Bob Wortinger, Kathy Johnson, Ted See, & Steve Bailey

**ABSENT:** Kathie Newman, Diane Hoebel, Rick Conne, Mark Kramer, Jane Meyer

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:10pm.

**1. Welcome /Agenda Addition** - International Mustard Day – August 6<sup>th</sup>

**2. Board Meeting Minutes:** April 19, 2022 minutes – Carole moves approval, Steve seconds, motion passes unanimously.

**3. Financial Reports – April STOC Financials:**

- a. Collected \$1800 in AR (overdue dues) so far. Adjusted Cash balance is \$5,040.
- b. Member AR – only one left. Carole will follow up.
- c. Lost \$600 in the Vanguard account– any loss impacts how much we can give out in grants. Hoping we are able to get it back.
- d. Bob still has Barnes & Noble gift cards to sell.
- e. Income Statement: NET is \$983.26. SWIS conference – Bob has check for those attending – will have spent \$795. Bob thinks we will go over budget. Speakers and plaques will also probably exceed the budget. We are still waiting on the memorial patches for Gene and Ray
- f. Membership: We are currently at 42 members after starting the year at 44.

Carole moves to accept the financial report, Kathy seconds, passes unanimously.

**4. Meeting Speakers:**

We have Liz Boyd coming May 11. May 18<sup>th</sup> is the social at Vitense. Carole moves that the club underwrite the total lunch cost at Vitense to the tune of \$50, Bob seconds, motion passes unanimously. May 25<sup>th</sup> is Respect for Law. Lt. Richardson is our contact and he has everything organized since they are the entire program. Rick suggested the Steve invite up to 10 others. The Chief and others are all invited. Steve moves to take up to \$400 from the Foundation for this event, Kathy seconds, passes unanimously. June 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – Paul Johnson and Bob have 2 speakers lined up – one from the Sun Prairie YMCA and the second is a person speaking about Indian Mounds in the Madison area.

**5. Lunch Attendance & Meals –**

Have had inconsistent attendance - 10,14,9, and 13. We will continue with in-person as attendance has been going up.

**6. Committees and Activities**

- a. Fundraising: Brat Fest: Diane reported Kathie signed us up for Friday evening 5-9:30pm - 10 members. Rick Thomas is doing Saturday and Sunday grilling from 9 to noon. Diane will send out a reminder.
- b. Social: Vitense Golf: May 18<sup>th</sup> – lunch time has been confirmed.
- c. 2022 Special Olympics: May 15<sup>th</sup> is the Special Olympics at Oregon HS. Start between 10:30 and runs until about 3pm. Rick is in charge of blue staging. Quite a few signed-up. We're good for volunteers.
- d. Respect For Law – see above -will confirm for May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- e. International Mustard Day – August 6<sup>th</sup> – Looking for at least 20 volunteers. There will be a FULL day of events.
- f. Silent Auction – need to start recruiting for the September Banquet. Steve will speak with Metcalfe's. It cannot be the last week of September, so we are planning to have it on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**7. May Elections: Nominating Committee** – Rick and Kathy are seeking members to run. We will need a president.

Need to find out deadline for submission (was May 20<sup>th</sup>).

**8. SWIS Conference:** Rick will not be attending. Since the vote for the new Governor will be held, Rick designated Steve Bailey to vote as his Proxy at the SWIS Conference May 14<sup>th</sup>. (Wednesday. Verona/Cross Plains/ STOC. Kathie reported that February 16<sup>th</sup> is the training for running the contest.

e. JOI Club Update: 2 new secretaries / 158 kids and over 1000 hours of service.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** Kathie moves to adjourn, Ted seconds, motion carries unanimously.

**We adjourned at 5:49pm to Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carole Klopp, 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.**

**ENJOY the WONDERFUL SPRING and SUMMER WEATHER.**

**The Sauk Trails Newsletter will be published quarterly. The next one will be for the July, August, September Time Frame. If you would have any articles / pictures you would like included please get them to Bonnie Spindler during the fourth quarter.**