



Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Apr -May 2024 – SUMMER Schedule
<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



President's Message April 2024

April brought rain and sun and greener grass. Trees and shrubs are budding and leafing out. The trees are filled with beautiful flowers. It makes my soul happy!

April was a great month for the Optimist Clubs and the Zone contests to host their oratorical contests. The students who gave their talks at the Cross Plains and Verona were amazing! We had four students at the Zone 6 Oratorical Contest on April 13th. Two students sponsored by the Verona club will present at the District Oratorical Contest on May 11th at the District Conference. What a good event to help kids learn and grow and gain confidence.

In addition, essays were written by students with the top 3 winners reading their essays to us on March 27th.

* The nominating committee is meeting to obtain club officers for 2024-2025. Please help this club stay alive by donating your time to be an officer and continue to work toward our goals to help kids and make our community a better place to live.

* Rick Thomas has received 6 applications for scholarships and has shared the applications with the judges. The Scholarship Committee will review them and rank them by April 26th.

1. We had a wonderful service opportunity when we made about 40 meals at Ronald McDonald House on **April 8th**. I would like to see us do this again.
2. On **April 24th**, we were not able to have the room at the Vintage so Paul set up a tour at 4:00pm at the State Line Distillery. This was a social outing and what fun we had!
3. We will be working at Culver's Share Night on **May 14th** - we still need workers. Please let me know if you can work. We are also scheduled to work at Culvers on **August 20th**.
4. **May 10-11** is our District Conference, with the oratorical contest starting at 8:00am on Saturday, May 11th. The winner will go to Regional Contest and the World Contest where the winners could receive significant scholarship amounts.
5. **May 22nd** will be our Respect for Law Luncheon, organized by Steve. We will honor 2 police officers as well as host their families and their Captains and/or Lieutenants.
6. We are looking forward to working as wrappers and grillers on Saturday morning, **May 25th** at the Brat Fest at the Alliant Center.
7. I am hoping to have at least 6 members work at WayForward on **July 10th**, 1:30-3:00 to pack groceries for those who are not able to get to the pantry. Please let me know if you can help.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club "Pathways" April - May 2024

In May, we start meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Vintage.

On the other weeks we may have social time somewhere else for lunch or for happy hour.

We continue to grow the bonds we have to make this a club that can make a difference to kids and the community. Let's continue to look for new fun ways to work together for the kids and the community. Please know that any of your ideas are welcomed. My joke for the month: Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you do criticize them, you're a mile away, and you have their shoes.

Promise Yourself: To look at the sunny side of everything and make your Optimism come true.

Kathie, Club President 2023-2024, SWIS Lt. Governor Zone 6 2023-2024

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2024

President: Kathie Newman

Vice President: Steve Bailey

Secretary: Bonnie Spindler

Treasurer: Carole Klopp
Rick Thomas,

Past President: John Fons

Board of Directors

Pattu Levenson 23-25
Rick Conne 20-23
Frank Rath 23-25
Trisha Lucas 23-25
Open Position 24-24
Diane Hoebel 24-24

April Birthdays

Doug Poole 04/11
Jeff Kuchenbecker 04/12
Pete Graven 04/25
Liv Sandberg 04/25

June Birthdays

Rick Conne 06/05
Mary Schwartz 06/02

Newsletter Editor:

[Bonnie Spindler](#)

blspindler@charter.net

Sauk Trails 'Zoom' Board Meetings

Mon, April , 15th 5 pm.

Mon. May 20th, 5 pm.

Tues June 18, 5 pm

Thanks to **Paul Johnson** for coordinating speakers through June 2024. He would like to have another Optimist/s help with this very important support for the club. If you have a speaker or would like to speak yourself, please temporarily contact President, Kathie.

SWIS 3RD Quarter Conference

Sat, May 11th 2024

SWIS 4th Quarter Convention

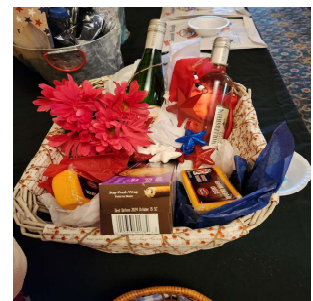
Sat, Aug 11 2024

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 receive in about 2 weeks. 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. Link to order is here: <https://sauktrailsoptimists.terrilynn.com>.

If you have any questions, please contact **Rick Thomas** rlthomas5914@gmail.com or call 608-212-7582.

President
Kathie gave
a STOC gift
basket for
the SWIS 3rd
Qtr Conf
Raffle for OI
Foundation.
Lots of
cheese &
other
goodies.



March 27, 2024 – Essay Winners Sharing



Suin Lim – 3rd Place



Esther Ko – 2nd Place



Nina Zhu – 1st Place



Rick Thomas, Essay Coordinator

Suin Lim, Nina Zhu, and Esther Ko



Steve Bailey, Oratorical Coordinator

Rick Thomas, Essay Coordinator

Thanks to **Steve Bailey** who attempted to acquire Students to participate in the Oratorical Contest, but didn't get any response. **Kathie Newman**, Club President/Lt. Governor Zone 6 coordinated with **Jodi Farritor** a Zone Contest in Verona on April 13th where there were 2 Verona Club winners who will be participating in the SWIS District Contest for scholarships. Thanks to **Rick Thomas**, who coordinated the STOC Essay contest, and the Judges who judged the Essays for STOC. The 1st Place Club winner, **Nina Zhu's** Essay was entered on February 28th to the SWIS District to compete for a \$2500 scholarship to be presented on May 11th at the SWIS District Conference in Milwaukee.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club “Pathways” April - May 2024

March 27, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting, Essay Students Sharing.
April 3, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting
April 8, 2024 -Mon	Ronald McDonald House Meal Coordination, preparing, serving.
April 10, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting
April 13, 2024	Saturday 9AM, Oratorical Zone 6 Contest at the Verona Senior Center. (Kathie is Zone 6 Chair and Jodi Farritor of Verona Club is Zone 6 co-chair.)
April 15,2024-Mon	<i>April Board Meeting, 5 PM by ZOOM</i>
April 17, 2024	<i>Dex Fabrizio, Vintage Lunch Meeting, shared about the Literacy Network and the services they offer for adults. More info: www.litnetwork.org</i>
April 24, 2024	John Mleziva, who founded State Line Distillery, will discuss how he got started and give us a tour at the distillery on the East Site at 4:00 pm
May 1, 2024	NO MEETING, Date cancelled by Vintage
May 8, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting: SPEAKER TBD
May 11, 2024	Saturday, SWIS 3 rd Quarter Conference, Oratorical / Essay / CCDHH Events and Scholarships presented.
May 14, 2024-Tues	Culver's 4-6 and 6-8 PM Scheduled (See article)
May 15, 2024	NO MEETING (2nd and 4th Wed Month ONLY)
May 21, 2024-Tues	<i>May Board Meeting, 5 PM by ZOOM</i>
May 22, 2024	Respect for Law, Vintage Lunch Meeting
May 25, 2024-SAT	Bratfest: Sign-in at 9:15 AM, Volunteer 9:30 – 1:30 at Brat Stands fundraiser,
May 29, 2024	NO MEETING (2nd and 4th Wed Month ONLY)
June 5, 2024	NO MEETING (2nd and 4th Wed Month ONLY)
June 12, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting, 3 Scholarships will be presented.
June 18, 2024-Tues	<i>June Board Meeting, 5 PM by ZOOM</i>
June 19, 2024	NO MEETING (2nd and 4th Wed Month ONLY)
June 26, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting: SPEAKER Fran Puleo Moyer. associate director of outreach programs at UW- discussing programs that bring the Wisconsin Idea to the state: Badger Talks, Bucky's Classroom and Badger Ambassadors
July 3, 2024	NO MEETING (2nd and 4th Wed Month ONLY)
July 10, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting-TBD, Way Forward (packing groceries)
July 16 2024-Tues	<i>July Board Meeting, 5 PM by ZOOM</i>
July 17, 2024	NO MEETING (2nd and 4th Wed Month ONLY)
July 24, 2024	Wednesday, Vintage Lunch Meeting: SPEAKER TBD
July 31, 2-24	NO MEETING (2nd and 4th Wed Month ONLY)
	Meetings: August 14th & 28th (2nd & 4th Wed) (Aug. 20 Culver's Share Night) Meetings: September 11th & 25th (2nd & 4th Wed). Installation Banquet -TBD. FUTURE DATES / TIMES Decided for NEW Optimist Year.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club "Pathways" April - May 2024



Ronald McDonald House, STOC Community Support

A meal was created, made & served on April 8th from 4 - 6 p.m. at Ronald McDonald House by Sauk Trails Optimists: **Nancy Hach, Jacci See, Kathie Newman, Rick Thomas, Patti Levenson, Diane Hoebel.** GREAT JOB in supporting families. The plans are to schedule another opportunity for this wonderful community project.



Dex Fabrizio, , shared on April 17th about the Literacy Network and the services they offer for adults. Info at: www.litnetwork.org.
Thanks to **Paul Johnson** for contact,



Sauk Trails Optimist Club "Pathways" April - May 2024

Distillery Tour - coordinated by Paul Johnson for April 22nd.

Over 12 Optimists attending this very interesting tour of the Distillery and enjoyed the samples at the end. Lots of fun for all who could attend.

John Mleziva, who founded State Line Distillery, discussed how he got started and give us a tour of the Distillery, many barrels were seen. See below.



Sauk Trails Optimist Club "Pathways" April - May 2024

Volunteering at CULVER's on May 14th (Next DATE: August 20)

Rick Conne, Diane Hoebel, Mary Breunig, Carole Klopp, Patti Levenson, Kathie Newman, Trisha Lucas, and Bonnie Spindler volunteered each for a 2 hour shift at Culver's. Below is the GROUP who welcomed customers, helped with cleaning tables and other needs. THANKS to **President Kathie Newman** for coordinating and to ALL the volunteers.



RESPECT for LAW: May 22nd



This annual event honors officers from the Madison West Precinct each year. A plaque is updated with the names of the honored officers, which is added to all of those honored in earlier years by the club. Thanks to **Steve Bailey** who has coordinated this event for many years.

BRAT FEST, Saturday May 25th, 9:30-1:30

Brat Fest which bills itself as the "World's Largest Brat Fest" was held Friday, May 24 through Sunday, May 26. The event has been held every Memorial Day weekend since 1983, when it was launched by Tom Metcalfe, an area businessman, who owned the Hilldale Mall location of Sentry Foods in Madison.

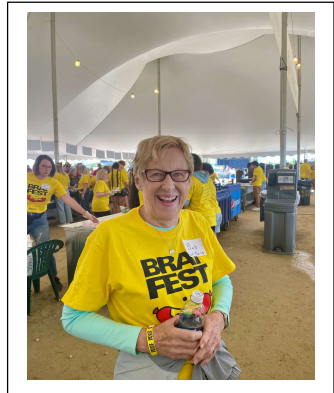
This is an annual fundraiser for our club. Thank you to Mary Schwartz, Trisha Lucas, Bonnie Spindler, Nancy Hach, Barb Sheeran-Hill, Theresa Reinke, Mary Breunig, Penny Traiber, Diane Hoebel, Kathie Newman, Patti Levenson, Paul Johnson and Rick Thomas for volunteering for Bratfest this year. Thank you to **Carole Klopp** for submitting our application to Bratfest so our club can participate. Some also went to the Bratfest website to sign-up under volunteers for this club event.

Saturday was a beautiful day to volunteer from 9:30 to 1:30 wrapping brats with Barb being a brat tent cashier. We had time after to enjoy a brat and ice cream. Friday ended up being a challenging day and evening due to the weather. Paul ended up sitting in his car waiting for the weather to clear before they were told they would be closing down for the rest of the evening for the safety of volunteers and patrons. To Metcalfe's credit, they said they would pay all the volunteers. Sunday both Paul and Rick helped out when Bratfest was moved inside.

Thanks to **Diane Hoebel** for coordinating this annual event



I have not received word yet on the final total raised, but I believe it will be about \$670.



LUNCH PAYMENTS for SAUK TRAILS OPTIMISTS

At the April 15th STOC board meeting, the motion was passed for the following:

1. All members who make a reservation, but do NOT show up, will be charged the luncheon fee (currently \$17). REASON: Last quarter the club paid out \$200 for no-shows and we just don't have that kind of money.
2. There will be 2 exceptions:
 - a. Everyone will get one "pass" for no showing in a year.
 - b. If there are extreme circumstances (heart attack, blizzard, etc.), members who have used their one-time pass will be charged \$10 instead of \$17.

TRAINING AVAILABLE for ALL OPTIMISTS for FREE:

The Optimist Institute offers a lot of interesting courses for club officers and members.

You will need to use your user id or register to obtain a user id. Your email address could be your user id. <https://optimist.tovuti.io/>

On the left side of the screen, scroll down to subscriptions.
Choose the Optimist member Free. The passcode is CLUB2324.



MINUTES- SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting **via ZOOM**

Monday, April 15, 2024; 5pm

1. **Welcome!** **Kathie Newman**, Club President called the meeting to order at 5 PM. There was a quorum present: Kathie Newman; Carole Klopp; Bonnie Spindler; Trisha Lucas; Patti Levenson. (Steve Bailey joined at 5:45 pm)

Absent: Jeff Kuchenbecker; Rick Conne; Frank Rath, Diane Hoebel.

2. **Approve March Board Minutes** – The minutes were approved by CaroleK with a second by PattiL and approved by those present.
3. **Club Financials:** CaroleK Treasurer presented the STOC Operating report as of March 31, 2024. She has been working with Bob Wortinger on these reports and indicated that the 'cash equivalent position' of over \$4,000 is acceptable at this time of the year, per both of their evaluations. She also shared the breakout by months of the Revenue and Expenses in relation to the budgeted amounts for 2024. She indicated that more information and details on Actual to Budgeted dollars will continue to be updated through the Optimist year.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club "Pathways" April - May 2024

- 4. Lunch Call-in, No Shows:** Due to various circumstances, after a call-in to attend lunch MAY be cancelled by a No-Show with a meal involved. (Sometimes another person attends to take the meal and pays for it.) At the April 15th STOC board meeting, the following was proposed:

- a. All members who make a reservation, but do NOT show up, will be charged the luncheon fee (currently \$17). (*REASON: Last quarter the club paid out \$200 for no-shows and we just don't have that kind of money.*)
- b. There will be 2 possible alternative situations:
 11. Everyone will get one. "pass" for no showing in a year.
 12. If there are extreme circumstances (heart attack, blizzard, etc.), members who have used their one-time pass will be charged only \$10 instead of \$17.

A motion was made by BonnieS and seconded by CaroleK, to accept the Lunch proposal and alternative situations. (*This will be incorporated into the STOC Policies.*)

- 5. Cancellation of April 10th Meeting:** There were only 2 optimists able to attend this lunch. President Kathie talked with Michele at the Vintage, and it was agreed to cancel the Vintage Room but instead provide a table in the main area for smaller groups then and in the future.
- 6. Scholarships:** The request for applications has been sent out. Rick Thomas will be managing this process. At his request, judges are needed to volunteer to review the applications and select the winners by April 29th. (*Volunteers to Judge from the board: TrishaL; CaroleK; BonnieS (if needed) and RickC (after communication with him?).*)
- 7. Lunch Meeting Re-Scheduling:** Another email has been sent to all members on April 11th to remind members of the change in meetings to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. The meetings will be held at The Vintage. We would like to have a social time on either the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at lunch, breakfast, or happy hour.
- 8. Acquiring Speakers:** Paul will get speakers through the end of June. Suggestions for how we continue to obtain quality speakers. This will be discussed at noon lunches on possibilities?
- 9. 2024 Officer Training:** The Club President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Foundation Rep are required by the District to complete the Optimist Institute training courses by March 31, 2024.
- 10. Officers for the 2024-2025:** Should be selected and given to OI by May 20, 2024. The nominating committee consists of Diane, Mary, and Frank.
- 11. Vintage Not available:** April 24th and May 11th. We will have a tour on April 24th at 4pm at the State Line Distillery.
- 12. Respect for Law Luncheon:** May 22nd- Status from Steve Bailey. (*Steve joined the meeting at 5:45 and indicated he would call the officers Tomorrow (April 16) to confirm and report back.*)

Sauk Trails Optimist Club “Pathways” April - May 2024

13. **Bucky Books:** Accepted for 2024 with a follow-up coming. PattL with BobW will coordinate.
14. **Culver’s Share Night:** May 14th, Volunteers requested. We will also work August 20th.
15. **Ronald McDonald House:** Successful meal on April 8th 4PM. Managed by RickT and Jacci.
16. **BratFest:** Saturday, May 28, 9:30AM - 1:30PM. Sign up was with Diane Hoebel.
(Additional volunteers can be done on-line with Bratfest.)
17. **Oratorical Club Contest** - Zone Level Contest was scheduled and held on April 13th 9AM at the Verona Senior Center. *(2 winners both from the Verona Club).*
18. **Essay Contest** - Rick is the chair. 3 essay winners read their essay at the March 27th meeting.
19. **3rd District Conference** - SWIS 3rd Qtr Conference, May 10-11, 2024 in Milwaukee.
20. **Adjourn:** A motion was made by BonnieS and seconded by CaroleK to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM, and approved by the members present.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 5PM, via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by: Bonnie Spindler, STOC Club 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.