



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



**Weekly Lunch Meetings
Wednesday's 11:45 - 12:45
The Radisson on Grand Canyon Drive**

January 2017

Happy New Year and Greetings to Friends of Sauk Trails Optimists,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Holiday Season. This is always a busy time of year and now we can all decompress and enjoy the balmy winter we are having.

After a several week hiatus, our club will come back to order for an exciting new year kick off on Wednesday January 11. Please plan on attending. We will be busy as we start the New Year with plans for luncheon speakers, the Oratorical Contest, the Essay Contest and our Progressive Party.

We still desperately need speakers and would really appreciate all of you sharing in this responsibility. You are of course welcome to speak on anything that you are passionate about including your hobby or a great life story such as the one John Fons shared with us last month.

The Oratorical Contest theme this year is "What the World Gains from Optimism." The Essay contest theme this year is "Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges." Dates have not been set for these contests at the club level but it is not too soon to pitch the word to any youth (under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2016) you may know. Both of these contests provide a chance at winning scholarships but just as important, an experience that will help make students competitive in their application for colleges.

Mark "Progressive Party" on your calendar for March 12. This event is always a highlight of our fellowship activities and will involve host houses for appetizers, main course and dessert. Please invite a guest to join you to experience first hand how nice, interesting and good looking we are! Information will be forthcoming on who the three hosts will be.

On behalf of all club members, I want to give a sincere thank you to Dan Berg & Bob Wortinger for Bucky Book sales, to Rick Thomas for organizing Koeze nut orders and to Rick Conne for a very successful Lussier Christmas party!

I look forward to sharing an Optimistic 2017 with each of you!

Optimistically yours,
Mike Grasmick, President

STOC Bulletin Board

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2016-2017

President: Mike Grasmick

Vice President: Dan Chart

Secretary: Rick Thomas

Treasurer: Bob Wortinger

Past President: Carole Klopp

Board of Directors

Steve Bailey
John Fons
Rick Conne
Dashni Sathasivam
Nancy Hach
Kathy Johnson

January Birthdays

Kathy Johnson 2nd
Frank Rath 2nd



Next District Conference

SWIS 2nd Quarter Conference, 2016-2017

February 17-18th, 2017 in Janesville, WI

Newsletter Editor:
Liv Sandberg
jlivsandberg@gmail.com



Lussier Christmas Party

On December 9th. our Optimist Club sponsored a Christmas Party, at the Lussier Community Education Center. This party had 114 children from Lussier, as well as 37, from the Meadowood Neighborhood Center. on Raymond Road. A dinner was served for 180, including chaperons, and volunteers. The dinner was contributed by the Madison Pick 'n Save Stores. Cookies for dessert, and decorating, were supplied by Stella's Bakery. Each child was given a Gift from Santa. The Christmas gifts were supported with a grant from Walmart West, and Sam's Club gave a grant to have Nick and his wife Fah, perform a wonderful Magic Show, and animal balloon blowing. We had lots of volunteers, from our club, and SYS, a youth group, our club sponsors from Memorial High School. I also want to thank Frank Rath, and his wife, Sherrie, who assisted me. This wonderful event could not happen without the help of all of you. This year again, the party was a huge success. Happy New Year. Rick C.

Sauk Trail Optimist Club Meetings and Scheduled Events

Jan 11 Lunch meeting

Jan 18 Lunch meeting

Jan 25 Lunch meeting

March 12 Progressive dinner

Weekly lunch meetings in green

Bucky Book Sales

We sold about 70 Bucky Books this year and got about 10 books for free. We handed out one book to sell for the remaining Bucky Books at the last club meeting. Thank you to all the participants in this fundraiser.

Dan Bergs

STOC Outreach

Our club decorated Christmas Trees again at Rosewood Villas on Saturday, December 3. We always have a great time decorating the trees for the residents and enjoy their company.

Dan Bergs

SWIS Conference Update:

The District new initiative to attract new members into Optimists clubs:

'Social, Service, and Young Professionals Group'

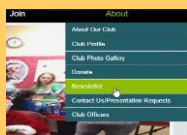
For more information, please see website for additional information on membership. <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/membership6.cfm>.

SAUK TRAILS – Madison Club WEBSITE

www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org

There have been some recent questions on the receiving of the monthly STOC Newsletter. The current STOC Newsletter and previous newsletters are available on the www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org website.

The newsletters are in the ABOUT tab under NEWSLETTERS. The Current and Past Newsletters available as PDF's:



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 so we can correct that situation. Optimistically, **Bonnie Spindler** blspindler@charter.net 850-9561 (H)

Bonnie Spindler, Sauk Trails Website Coordinator

SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, December 20, 2016
MINUTES

PRESENT: Dan C., Rick T., Steve, Bob, Mike, Kathy, Dashni, Carole, Rick C.

Others Present:

Absent: Nancy, John

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

1. **Addition to agenda:** Oratorical contest?
2. **Approval of Board Minutes from 11/8/2016.** Carole moved to approve, Kathy seconded, Bob noted that Mike was absent last month, Passed unanimously.
3. **Acceptance of October Financial Reports:**
We are still in good financial position. All dues have been paid. We still have Bucky Books available. Carole moved to accept November financial reports. Steve seconded. Passed unanimously.
4. **Membership Report Update:**
We are at 42 members. At the convention they suggested we recruit Jaycees who are turning 40. They also suggested we form a "sub club" at the University level possibly with former SYS members.
5. **Board Organization**
 - a. Optimist Bylaws and Club Policies – tabled until next month
 - b. Discussion was had regarding whether the board should meet monthly or bi-monthly. Consensus was that we continue to meet monthly.
 - c. Committee Reports:
 1. Christmas Rick C. gave an accounting of the donations and expenses of the party. We ended up with a reserve of \$845.
 2. Service
 - a. Reach a Child has a project this evening. Planning on having a regularly scheduled event.
 - b. Essay contest and Oratorical contests will be organized again this year.
 3. Silent Auction
 4. Social
 - a. Progressive dinner tentatively March 12
 5. Fundraising
 - a. \$22 from Madison Marathon will be coming
 - b. Koeze was down a little from past years
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Bucky Books – We have 10 left to sell
 - b. Koeze Nuts – We were down about \$300 from last year
 - c. Nov. 19 District Convention – It was not as well done as in the past.
 - d. Shirts – Jacci See will speak with the vendor
7. **New Business**
 - a. Handing out of Board of Director pins will be postponed until next month.
 - b. New Membership Drive – We need to recruit possibly using social media
 - c. Possibly could do an Active Shooter Training
 - d. Lussier and Reach a Child sent a Thank you for our recent donations

Carole moved to adjourn, Dashni seconded, meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. Next meeting will be January

10th.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Thomas, 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.

2017 STOC Snap Shots

December in Pictures

**Photos by
Steve Bailey; Carole Klopp,
Dashni Sathasivam, Liv
Sandberg**



Student of the Month Recognition:

STOC members were again delighted to be able to honor two exceptional SYS Memorial HS students with the ‘student of the month’ award, presented by Rick Conne and Carole Klopp. Loren and Mary also enlightened members about the activities they have been involved with already as well as their plans for their future.

L to R: Rick Conne, Mrs. McMahon, Loren McMahon, Mary Shampo, Jeff Shampo and Kim Castelaz

REACH – A – Child



The REACH –A-Child staff and board honored SYS with a Group Volunteer of the Year Award at the December Open House. Co-President, Mary Shampo accepted the award on behalf of the club. Rick Conne, Amy Olson (HS Counselor, Student Youth Services, SYS liaison), Carole Klopp, Mary Shampo, & Eric Salzwedel (REACH-A-Child)



Rick Conne volunteering time at REACH-A-Child, organizing and preparing back packs of books.



Gift Wrapping Festivities for Lussier Christmas Party

Wrap once! Tape twice! or was that Wrap, rewrap, then tape?



I'm happy to hold tape while she does all the folding!



The Wrapping Crew!



Expert wrappers, Steve and Mary, enjoying their job!



Dashni, The present tracker, trying to keep it all organized!



"Is this how it's done?"



I really want this toy!



Look! I've got it!

Santa's bags are ready to be delivered.



Were done!

STOC ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

An annual favorite lunch meeting: the ornament exchange.

