



Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club
July_August_September 2026
<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



Trisha Lucas, Co-President's Message Jul_Aug_Sept 25-26;

I want to thank everyone who made the success of the last year possible, especially my Co-President and the Board members. We have three new members. Students participated in the Oratorical Contest, the Essay Contest and we awarded scholarships to Memorial High School Students. In addition, we were able to make donations to wonderful nonprofits (Miracle League, Bikes for Kids and Logan's Heart and Smiles). Members participated in volunteer opportunities such as Bratfest, Culver's and the opportunity to participate in promotion production. I want to thank every member for their participation and help (I know I needed a lot of it) and support. Thank you, Trisha Lucas

Frank Rath, Co-President Message Jul_Aug_Sept 25-26

When I agreed to serve as co-president of STOC it was a result of no one except Trish possibly being willing to be president. And she felt more comfortable having someone else co-serve with her. So I volunteered. First off, Trish has carried the heavy load of being president. And she has done an amazing job of keeping our club relevant in our members lives. Because of Trish's motivational and organizational skills – and of course the tireless efforts of our small but very energetic number of club members – STOC is as active as ever. Contributing to and serving the youth in our community through volunteer fundraising, awarding scholarships to deserving youth, awarding grants to community non-profit organizations that directly serve our youth – the Literacy Network, Logan's Hearts and Smiles, Horizon High School, and others. And of course our club directly impacted the youth in our community through volunteering to make meals at the Ronald McDonald House and our annual Lussier Center Children's Christmas Party. I am most excited about our club's revolutionary effort to re-engineer our approach to attract and retain young adults in our community to join us in the very important and amazingly satisfying efforts to serve youth and make a difference. Thanks all and I very much look forward to the future.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2026

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Sauk Trails
Current Club Officers 2025- 26
President's:
TRISHA LUCAS
FRANK RATH
Secretary/Treasurer:
Carole Klopp
Ol Fnd Rep: Bonnie Spindler,
Past President: Kathie Newman
Board of Directors
Patti Levenson 23-25
Mary Schwartz 24-26
Liv Sandberg 24-26

September Birthdays	
Carole Klopp	9/4
Mark Kraemer	9/9
Mary Breunig	9/20
Dan Chart	9/22
Jacci See	9/27
Nancy Hach	9/27
Fall/Winter Birthdays	
Rick Thomas	10/21
Ted See	10/28
Barb Sheerhan-Hill	12/20
Barry Levenson	12/30

Newsletter Editor/Distributor
STOC Website Updates
Bonnie Spindler

/

Sauk Trails
Board/ Lunch Approved
Club Officers 2026-27
President:
Mary Schwartz
Vice President:
Liv Sandberg
Secretary/Treasurer:
Carole Klopp
Past Presidents:
Trisha Lucas & Frank Rath
Ol Foundation Rep:
Rick Thomas
Board Members
Patti Levenson
Jacci See
Cathy Mays
Mary Breunig

FUND CRAZR TICKETS
STOC Optimists bought and/or sold most of the 100 available Fundcrazr tickets. The Club STUBS and checks were submitted mid-August to compete for 2026 season games. Winners will be receiving notice and checks, during the season.
The club will receive between \$10 - \$12 for each ticket sold for the STOC Foundation at the end of the season. (Approximately \$900+)
With a newly defined process, most of the 45 SWIS clubs keyed in STUB info in a pre-defined Xcel spreadsheet. This was coordinated with the 'physical STUBS' & Checks/cash sent to the SWIS Fundcrazr Chair who then does a follow-up to Pennsylvania, where winners are determined.
I'm documenting this new process, which will be set-up for a Milwaukee Optimist, to be working with the current SWIS Fundcrazr Chair, in future years.
Bonnie Spindler, Fundcrazr Contact 2026

The 2026-27 Board was voted on by the membership and approved at a lunch meeting on May 20, 2026. These optimists will be continuing/starting on Oct. 1, 26 AFTER the Annual Induction Banquet on 9/23/2026.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2026 ISADEX Infinity Proposal, June 3rd, 2026

The speaker at the Vintage on June 3rd was Tim Miller, ISADEX President. He presented his ‘Sponsored Website & Advertising Program’ which is timely with clubs needing more memberships, strong club branding, and strong community sponsored support for over 1300 members across dozens of WI Communities.

The 9 Optimists who were present heard the presentation and asked questions about his ‘sponsor paid website and marketing’ which could be available for our club. The ISADEX Infinity program is open to ANY SWIS District Clubs who want to participate in the program. With multiple clubs participating, the following can be put in place by ISADEX:

- Provide Cooperate sponsors for clubs:
- Cost of \$69/month for website would be paid by corporate sponsor;
- In exchange for sponsoring, the sponsors name/logo would be on the website
- Provide Community Advertising of Events / Accomplishment support;
- Provide club ‘branding’ and digital marketing support;
- Presentation at: WWW.ISADEX.COM/SWAP

ISADEX INFINITY Program UPDATE, July 23/Aug 1, 2026

STOC Board Decision at July 23rd Board Meeting to use ISADEX Infinity for a ‘Trial’ year. Signed up in early August 2026 effective currently and officially Oct. 1, 2026. Used in combination with On-Line Membership Plans for acquiring younger ‘members. ZOOM Meetings planning with ISADEX and coordination with Membership Team.

Domain defined: **SAUKTRILSOPTIMISTMADISON** as a CLIENT with ISADEX.

Signed up the following: **Community Services:**

- Lussier Community Service;
- Spartan Youth Service Team
- Respect for Law
- Scholarships Given Annually
- Grants Given Annually,
- McDonald’s Home Support.
- Fundraiser Events:
- Culver’s quarterly service;
- Bratfest service;
- Fundcrazr Fundraiser events
- Other Fundraisers during the year.
- SWIS District Event:

Sauk Trails and Madison Downtown registered with ISADEX Infinity with other clubs still considering. I’ve set-up the SWIS Website Milestones with a message out to CLUB Officers on SHARING their Events. Follow-up documentation on the STOC Infinity SWIS District Discount: Sponsored Website Advertising ‘Trial’ Program (SWAP Website) for 26-27 year has been received. **Bonnie Spindler**, STOC & SWIS Website co-chair

SPEAKER: June 17th, 2026 Morgan’s Caring Connection

At Morgan’s Caring Connection, we support families raising children and dependents with disabilities by helping them navigate and secure long-term planning—specifically estate planning, financial planning, and access to trusted resources. It’s work that provides peace of mind to families who often carry a great deal of uncertainty about the future.

We’ve been fortunate to build strong community partnerships over the past couple of years, including ongoing giveback collaborations with Vintage Brewing Company.

Through that connection, we’ve not only raised awareness and support, but we recently awarded a grant to one of their employees. Additionally, one of our current board members first connected with us through a Vintage giveback in 2024—so it’s been a meaningful relationship all around.

If you think it would be valuable for your group, I would be honored to come share more about our work, the impact we’re making, and ways your members can engage if they’re interested.

Diane Hoebel contacted Janis Strutt, speaker who shared on Wednesday, June 17th at the Vintage.

Janis Strutt

Co-Founder & Executive Director
Morgan's Caring Connection
230 Horizon Dr., Suite 101B
Verona, WI 53593
W: 608-598-9665
www.morganscc.org



NATIONAL MUSTARD DAY, AUGUST 1ST, 2026

National Mustard Day will happen on Saturday, **August 1st**. Our annual tribute to the king of condiments is the largest fundraiser for the nonprofit Mustard Museum, and, as you all know, it takes about 100 volunteers to handle setting-up, staffing the food and game tents, escorting mascots, and breaking down at the end of the day. Barry and I hope you can participate again this year.

Here's the link to our Signup Genius pages showing all of the volunteer shifts, or go to

mustardmuseum.org for all of the info on National Mustard Day 2026.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DADAF2FAAFDC43-64321340-2026#/>

Remember that responsible kids and teens can also volunteer. Please pass along the link to your friends, family, and work colleagues. Volunteers receive a Mustard Day logo t-shirt, plus a hot dog and cold drinks while on your shift. **(The club received: \$150 for support to the STOC Fnd).**

National Mustard Day is always a fun experience. The Red Hot Horn Dawgs will again be on the main stage in the afternoon, and The Ramble, a great country band, will be opening the day. There will be hot dogs, brats, mustard ice cream, hot pretzels and lots of mustards to try on them.

Thanks for your support.

Patti (aka Mrs. Mustard

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2026

WHAT: ANNUAL SUMMER GET-Together at SEE’s Home

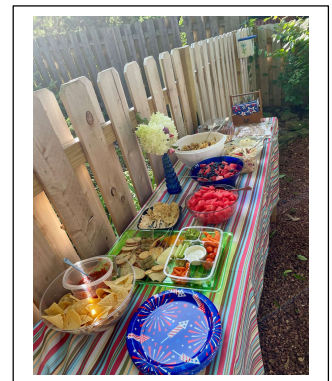
WHEN: August 16th, 2026

WHO: ALL Optimists were Invited



Optimists Attending having a great time and sharing with Optimist friends and enjoying wonderful KaBobs. *(see website).*

Thanks so much to the See’s for providing their pool and great back-yard for this annual Summer Event.



ANNUAL Sauk Trails Induction Banquet

WHERE: Johnny’s Italian Steakhouse.

**WHEN: Wednesday, September 23rd,
5:00 pm (Cocktails), dinner at 6:00 pm
followed by the program.**

The menu is:

- Chubby Cut Top Sirloin with Shrimp
- Four Cheese Ravioli and Shrimp Rosa
- Chicken Parmesan
- Cedar Plank Salmon

The meal will be served with a House Salad, Focaccia bread and garlic mashed potatoes. *(Sign-up with Trisha).*

The cost for dinner is: \$28.00 - for each member, \$38.00 - each guest

Cocktails and Dessert are separate from the cost of the meal

Horizon High School Annual Fundraiser

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, from 5:30 – 8:00 PM

WHERE: Madison Marriott South, 706 John Nolen Drive, Madison

SPEAKER: Shelly Dutch. Shelly has devoted her life and career to helping individuals affected by substance use disorders. In 2009, she founded the Recovery Foundation to address gaps and barriers that often prevent individuals from accessing and sustaining recovery. She founded Connections Counseling, a Madison-based outpatient treatment clinic, which she directed and expanded for 18 years until 2021. In 2004, Shelly was a co-founder of Horizon High School and was a longtime board member. She will be receiving a Founder’s Award at the dinner.

INVITATION: PLEASE BECOME A SPONSOR FOR OUR FALL FUNDRAISER Join the community effort to help fund Horizon High School’s operating budget by providing your sponsorship at one of the levels listed below. We must fundraise over 50% of our annual budget. Operating a Recovery High School necessarily incurs more costs compared with a regular public high school and has greater impact. Many students come to us disengaged, needing daily academic, mental health, and recovery support. To provide this, we keep a low student-to-staff ratio, with a team of four whose salaries and benefits make up 85% of our budget. It costs over \$40,000 per student each year. We hope to raise \$150,000 to continue transforming young lives. To register to attend our Fall Festival, please fill out and return the form below to our post office box address below. For more information, please contact Stephanie at treasurer@horizonhs.org. =

GRANT PRESENTED: The Sauk Trails Optimist Club has purchased a table for \$1,000 as a contribution to this annual Horizon Fundraiser. That table will be available for 10 Optimists on August 30th with any additional attendees attending at another table supported by Jacci & Ted See.

Bucky Books are Available

Also, I’ll have the new BUCKY BOOKS for our annual fundraiser with me. We have 40 to sell, and could get more if we want. The price is still \$35 per book, and STOC keeps \$15 of each sale so that’s \$600 for the club.

Each book comes with a \$10 gift card to a west side eatery as a sales incentive. And again, anyone who sells 5 books will get a free one later this fall.

If you’re not coming to the meeting and would like books, let me know and I can drop them for you.

Patti 608-444-5280

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2026

Schedules / Events	
June 3, 2026	ISADEx Infinity Proposal Speaker, Tim Miller
June 17, 2026	Morgan Caring Connection, Speaker
June 23, 2026	ZOOM, Board Meeting Scheduled
July 1, 2026	Vintage 4 person get-together, Vacation Time.
July 14, (Tue)	Culver’s Fundraiser, 8 Volunteers.
July 15th, 2026	RETURN SOME FUNDCRAZR SALES, No Speaker
July 21, (Tue)	McDonald House Meal Making (2 attendees)
July 23, 2026	ZOOM, Board Meeting Scheduled
July 23/Aug 1	Sign-up for ISADEx Infinity Program
August 1, (Sat)	Mustard Day Volunteers – See Article
August 5, 2026	Wednesday Speaker, TBA. <i>(LAST DAY to turn in FUNDCRAZR tickets OR August 19 (if needed). NO Speaker.</i>
August 8 th , 2026	SWIS CONVENTION, 4 th Qtr in Madison, WI
August 16 (Sun)	Summer Pool Party at See’s (See Article)
August 18, 2026	ZOOM Board Meeting Scheduled
August 19, 2026	Wednesday Lunch, No Speaker
Sept. 2, 2026	Wednesday Lunch, No Speaker
Sept 15, 2026	ZOOM Board Meeting Scheduled
Sept. 16, 2026	Wednesday Lunch, with Speaker: Molly Thomson with the Madison Mounted Police Patrol.
Sept. 23, 2026	Annual Installation Banquet (See Article)
Sept 30, 2026	Horizon High School Fundraiser Attendance, Marriot
Oct 7, 2026	Speaker TBA
Oct 16-17, 2026	SWIS 1 st Qtr 26-27 Conference, Sun Prairie
Oct 20, 2026	ZOOM Board Meeting Scheduled (TBD, based on New Board)
Oct. 21, 2026	Speaker TBA
Nov. 4, 2026	Speaker TBA
Nov 17, 2026	ZOOM Board Meeting (TBD, based on New Board)

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2026

Nov. 18, 2026	Speaker TBA
Dec. 2, 2026	Wrap Christmas Gifts for Dec. 4 th Lussier Party
Dec 4, (Friday)	Lussier Party, Info Provided
Dec 8, (Tues)	Culver's Share Night, 4-8 pm
Dec 15, (Tues)	ZOOM Board Meeting Scheduled (TBD based on New Board)
Dec. 16, 2026	Ornament Exchange for 2026



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

MINUTES

PRESENT: Trish, Carole, Bonnie, and Liv

ABSENT: Frank, Patti and Mary

The meeting was called to order at 5:06pm.

1. There were no Agenda Additions
2. Previous Board Meeting **Minutes** – Liv moved, Bonnie seconded minutes approval.
Motion carried.
3. **Reports**
 - A. Treasurer's Report – Carole presented the Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for the period ending with May 31st. All accounts balanced.
 - B. Fundraising Report – In Patti's absence, Trish noted that we have Culver's July 14th coming up.
 - C. Service Report – Rick Thomas was able to get a date for Ronald McDonald service on July 21st.
 - D. Social – Mary was on vacay and will report next month.
4. **Old Business**
 - A. New Member Recruitment Committee: We will be looking to recruit past JOI students who still live in Madison and younger business folk.
 - B. Online Committee: The Isadex representative was at the last lunch meeting. We will wait until Mary presents the proposal from her web design company before making any decisions.
5. **New Business**
 - A. July 1st Meeting: Carole moved to cancel the meeting, Liv seconded, motion carried.
 - B. Photo Release: Carole noted that we should have photo releases for anyone appearing on our website. Carole will look for a good one and Liv will assist.
 - C. Summer Speakers: Trish was not able to get the Mounted Police Patrol and is waiting to hear from the K-9 unit. Liv will try to get a student from the U. Rick will recruit students to speak at the July 15th meeting.
6. **Adjourn:** Carole moved and Bonnie seconded to adjourn **to July 23 or 28, 2026, (TBD via email)** at 5pm via Zoom. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2026

MINUTES

PRESENT: Frank, Carole, Bonnie, Patti, Mary and Liv

ABSENT: Trisha

The meeting was called to order at 5:09pm.

1. There were no Agenda Additions
2. Previous Board Meeting **Minutes** – Liv moved, Bonnie seconded minutes approval.

Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Website: Patti moved to continue with Isadex as our website provider for one year with the caveat that there would not be any charge. Mary seconded the motion. A long discussion followed with Frank reviewing what has transpired to date. Mary shared her proposal from Tingalls. Liv compared the two proposals in a 5-year cycle with Isadex costing \$3360 and the Tingalls proposal costing \$4855. Carole noted that we really need to step back and agree on what we all want the website to be and supported the motion to take that year to figure it all out. Mary added that we need to work on getting new, younger members – one of whom, hopefully, would be willing to be the Webmaster to handle all social media for the club. She also added that if, in fact, there wasn't any charge for this next year from Isadex, that would give us the time needed to explore all options. Frank then called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report – Carole couldn't share her screen, so everyone had to rely on the financials as distributed. She also noted that we had received \$390 for Brat Fest and \$500 from Middleton Tourism for our marketing assistance.

B. Fundraising Report – No Report.

C. Service Report – No Report.

D. Social – Mary shared that the August 16th pool party at the See's house was set and advertised. She also shared that with her having been gone for June, she was unable to set a date for the Miracle League. We'll try again next year. Finally, she will be setting up the Wollersheim Winery tour for some time in September.

5. New Business

A. Annual Meeting: Carole suggested that we set a date and place now so everyone can put it on their calendars. The board agreed that September 23rd would work at Johnny's Italian Steakhouse. Mary will coordinate with Trish.

B. The next SWIS District meeting will be August 8th.

6. Adjourn: Mary moved and Bonnie seconded to adjourn **to August 18th** at 5pm via Zoom. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer

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.