



Pathways



**Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Apr – May - June 2026**

<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



Trisha Lucas, Co-President's Message Apr – May-June 25-26;

Summer is a busy time of year for us.

We have invited the Scholarship winners (4 of them) and the essay winner to lunch so we can celebrate their accomplishments. Our Social Director continues to plan interesting and fun activities for the summer and we have several speakers lined up. We have voted on the new and continuing Club Officers for 2026/2027 and are looking into new ways to promote our Sauk Trails Optimist Club.

Frank Rath, Co-President Message Apr-May-June 25-26

The event on June 18 is going to a Miracle League game night. The Membership Committee is looking into different ideas/concepts.

2026-27 Officers & Board

President: Mary Schwartz
Vice President: Liv Sandberg
Secretary/Treasurer: Carole Klopp
Past Presidents: Trish Lucas &
Frank Rath
OI Foundation Rep: Rick Thomas

Board Members

1. Patti Levenson
2. Jacci See
3. Cathy Mays

FUND CRAZR TICKETS

The annual Fundcrazr tickets are currently available. They cover the football season from September through the end of 2026. The cost is the same \$20 for each one. The first-place winner, based on the football game scores, can win \$500.

Get your tickets from Bonnie Spindler this year. They need to be sold and back to her by or on Wednesday, August 5, 2026. (Checks to: **Sauk Trails Optimist Club.**)

Thanks so much for your participation.

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.

**Sauk Trails
Current Club Officers 2025- 26**

President's:
TRISHA LUCAS
FRANK RATH

Secretary/Treasurer:
Carole Klopp

OI Fnd Rep: Bonnie Spindler,

Past President: Kathie Newman

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**Spring/Summer
Birthdays**

Doug Poole	04/11
Pete Graven	04/25
Liv Sandberg	04/25
Rick Conne	06/05
Mary Schwartz	06/02
Patti Levenson	06/15
Kathie Newman	06/22

Board of Directors

Patti Levenson 23-25
Mary Schwartz 24-26
Liv Sandberg 24- 26

Newsletter Editor/Distributor

STOC Website Updates

Bonnie Spindler

Saturday, May 23rd our Annual Bratfest,

Thanks to Diane Hoebel for coordinating, it again this year. There were 7 optimists who wrapped brats and Rick Thomas also grilled on Sat/Sun. Thanks to ALL who helped: Included were: Diane Hoebel, Kathie Newman, Bonnie Spindler, Patti Levenson, Nancy Hach, Mary Breunig, and Theresa Reinke. It was a fun day, and we earned money for our Foundation.



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Progressive Dinner was rescheduled from March 22nd to Sunday, April 12th.

Our Annual Progressive Dinner was held on Sunday, April 12th, starting at 4:30. Carole & Reid Klopp hosted the Appetizer Course and Ted & Jacci See hosted the Main & Dessert Courses. As always, spouses and significant others were welcome. GREAT TIME BY ALL.



RESPECT for Law Program

Steve Bailey coordinated the annual respect for the West Side Madison Police Officers on May 5, 2026.

Two officers: Michael Evans and Amelia Levett were honored. .



There has been a plaque that has been updated for many years of the 2 honorees each year. A plaque was completely filled and a second one with both of their names on it was presented.

Many honorees over the years from the West Madison Police Department.



April 15th, Wednesday

Speaker,

Bill Schultz, Miracle League
Grant Recipient at Vintage

June 18th, Thursday

**VISIT planned by Social
Coordinator, Mary Schwartz to
attend the Miracle Field in
Support of our given Grant.
(More info coming)**



NATIONAL MUSTARD DAY, AUGUST 1ST, 2026

Hi Fellow Optimists,

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](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DADAF2FAAFDC43-64321340-2026#/) 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.

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)**

National Mustard Museum

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 will be sharing on Wednesday, June 17th at the Vintage.

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.

ISADEx Infinity Proposal, June 3rd, 2026

The speaker at the Vintage on June 3rd was Tim Miller, ISADEx President. I had him follow-up on the same presentation that he gave at the SWIS District 3rd Quarter Conference to the Optimists present. 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. This presentation is timely for the Sauk Trails Optimist Club, as committees have been formed to promote membership needs and programs besides the website needs and continuing expenses involved.

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;

There was discussion of the Grants that we provide, which are on the STOC Website in the Events/Meetings > Grants/Scholarships; Other Events > Respect for Law; Progressive Dinner; Christmas Program; Fundraising Events; other scheduled events.

The current STOC Website would continue with some updates of software by ISADEx to include the appropriate sponsoring, branding, marketing abilities, other software to be made available for usage by our STOC Webmaster. That optimist could be one of the younger/newer members who are being defined by the STOC Membership Committee through their process who would be working with Tim Miller at ISADEx for support. Those that were present are in support of the program. There needs to be a Board decision with input from other Optimists who were not present for this important overview. More information can be found at:

- Presentation at: WWW.ISADEx.COM/SWAP
- Enrollment at: WWW.ISADEx.COM/SWIS.

Follow up needs to be made by the club to support our STOC future.

Bonnie Spindler, STOC Designer and Webmaster for many years.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” April/May/June 2026

,SCHEDULE of EVENTS 2026	
April 9, 2026 (Thurs)	SWIS ZONE Competition for Oratorical Competition (2 from STOC) Memorial High School
April 12, 2026 (Sun)	STOC Progressive Dinner, 4:30 – Klopp home, 5:45 PM See’s Home, More information in newsletter.
April 15, 2026	Wednesday, Bill Schultz, Miracle League Grant Recipient at Vintage
April 21, 2026 (Tu)	STOC Board ZOOM Meeting Tuesday at 5 PM.
May 6, 2026	Wednesday, Respect for Law Presentations
May 16, 2026 (Sat)	SWIS District Conference, Hilton Garden Inn in Milwaukee
May 19, 2026 (Tu)	STOC Board ZOOM Meeting Tuesday at 5 PM.
May 20, 2026	Wednesday, Speaker, Election of STOC Club Officers 26-27.
May 23, 2025 (Sat)	Saturday, Bratfest 9:30 – 1:30 PM
June 3, 2026	Wednesday, Speaker ISADEx President sharing opportunity of ‘Sponsoring Website and Approved Projects.
June 16, 2026 Tue)	STOC Board ZOOM Meeting, Tuesday at 5:00 PM. (Reschedule to 6/23i)
June 17, 2026	Wednesday Speaker: Janis Strutt, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Morgan’s Caring Connection. ACQUIRE: Fundcrazr Tickets.
June 18 th (Thurs)	Social Event: Miracle League Visit, to be coordinated, more info coming.
July 1, 2026	Vacation Week, Speaker TBA (if a meeting is scheduled of Not)
July 15 th , 2026	Speaker TBA – RETURN SOME FUNDCRAZR SALES
August 1, 2026(Sat)	Mustard Day Volunteers Requested
August 5, 2026	Wednesday Speaker, TBA. (LAST DAY to turn in FUNDCRAZR tickets). (Check with Bonnie if need additional time. Tickets turned in to late MAY not be included in the first week of games in September.
August 8 th , 2026	SWIS CONVENTION, 4 th Qtr in Madison, WI



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

MINUTES

PRESENT: Trish, Carole, Bonnie, Frank Mary, Kathie and Patti

ABSENT: Liv

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.

1. There were no Agenda Additions

2. Previous Board Meeting **Minutes** – Mary moved, Frank seconded minutes approval. Motion carried.

3. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report –Carole presented the Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for the period ending with February 28th. All accounts balanced with \$3697.12 in the general operating account.

B. Fundraising Report – Patti asked folk to sign up for Brat Fest. Diane Hoebel is the chair of this effort again.

C. Service Report – Kathie is looking for volunteer opportunities for the club. Carole suggested that we might want to do Ronald McDonald House meal again. Kathie will speak with Rick.

D. Social – Mary shared that the April 12th Progressive Dinner is organized with Carole Klopp hosting appetizers and Jacci See hosting the dinner and desserts. The dinner will start at 4pm.

4. Old Business

A. New Member Recruitment and The Online Committees did not have any updates.

B. Nominations: Mary reported that we need one more person to round out the board. She will work with Carole to continue recruiting.

5. New Business

A. Oratorical Contest will be held today at 4:30pm. Rick wasn't sure how many will be participating.

B. Raffle License: Carole moved and Bonnie seconded discontinuing applying for the license which we have been doing annually for a fee of \$25. Carole shared that the fee has increased and indicated that we really have not run any raffles for the last several years. Motion carried.

C. Vintage Menu: everyone was asked to share suggestions as Trish and Carole will be meeting with Michele soon.

D. Law Day was set for May 6th. Trish will share it with Steve Bailey.

E. JOI Club: Rich has put student names in the database.

6. Adjourn: Mary moved and Patti seconded to adjourn to Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5pm via Zoom. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
MINUTES

PRESENT: Trish, Carole, Bonnie, Frank, Mary, and Kathie

ABSENT: Liv and Patti

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.

1. There were no Agenda Additions
2. Previous Board Meeting **Minutes** – Mary moved, Frank seconded minutes approval. Motion carried.

3. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report –Carole presented the Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for the period ending with March 31st. All accounts balanced with \$3580.78 in the general operating account.

B. Fundraising Report – We have 6 bucky books left. Carole moves to give 2 books to MPD officers at the Law Day celebration and the other 3 to our new members. Mary seconded. Motion carried.

C. Service Report – Kathie is looking for volunteer opportunities for the club. Carole suggested that we might want to do Ronald McDonald House meal again. Kathie will speak with Rick.

D. Social – Mary reviewed various social event ideas and will put together a schedule/survey for members to review at the next meeting. Some ideas were Historical Walking tours, Wollersheim Winery tour, See's Pool Party, and the Apple Orchard Corn Maze.

4. Old Business

A. New Member Recruitment Committee will re-schedule their meeting.

B. Online Committee: needs to find a webmaster to lead this effort. Bonnie said she would work with the new person. Mary will speak with the person she uses.

B. Nominations: Mary reported that we need one more person to round out the board. She will work with Carole to continue recruiting.

5. New Business

A. Law Day is set for May 6th. Trish will confirm officers with Steve Bailey and speak with Rick Thomas about the flag stanchion and banner holder.

B. Speakers: Carole suggested we ask more folk to help with this. Suggestions: Kathie will contact Custom Canines, Trish will contact K9 Patrol and Horse Patrol for MPD, Rick will do scholarships and Youth of the month, and Frank is thinking.

6. Adjourn: Carole moved and Mary seconded to adjourn to Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 5pm via Zoom. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer