



# Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club  
January / February, 2025 Schedule  
<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



## Co-President's Message January / February 2025;

Our new co-presidents will be leading the meetings and coordinating the speakers and schedules for the twice a month schedule in 2025.

As we work our way through Winter we have things we looked forward to:

- Monday, February 10, we prepared a meal for Ronald McDonald's House;
- Wednesday, February 12, our final grant recipient, Bill Schultz, with the Miracle League, joined us for lunch;
- Friday, February 14 was Valentine's Day;
- February 22 there is the second quarter SWIS Conference.

We begin March with our progressive dinner on Sunday March 9. (see below), Other items on the agenda are sorting clothing for WayForward, Culver's, new speakers and inviting JOI students to join us for lunch. Some of the other decisions and future plannings are in this newsletter and on the STOC Website.

**Trisha & Frank, co-Presidents 24-25**

## STOC PROGRESSIVE DINNER, SUNDAY MARCH 9, 2025

<b>Appetizers:</b>	<b>Main Course:</b>	<b>Dessert:</b>
<b>4:00 - 5:15:</b>	<b>5:30 - 6:45</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:00</b>
Home of Carole and Reid Klopp 22 Appomattox Court, Madison (608) 833-4561	Home of Ted and Jacci See 6326 Stonefield Road, Middleton (608) 217-2089	Home of Kathie Newman 434 Augusta Drive, Madison (608) 395-1253

**Don't worry if you can't make all three courses, just come when you can. It's a great opportunity to catch up with your Optimist friends! Spouses and significant others are welcome!!**

**Please sign up to bring an appetizer, a main course side dish (for example, a salad or bread), or a dessert. Bring a beverage for yourself or to share with others. You can respond by calling or texting Mary at 608-576-5711.**

**Sauk Trails  
Club Officers  
2024 - 25**

**President's:**  
TRISHA LUCAS  
FRANK RATH

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Carole Klopp

**OI Fnd Rep:** Bonnie Spindler,

**Past President:** Kathie Newman

**Board of Directors**  
Patti Levenson 23-25  
Mary Schwartz 24-26  
Liv Sandberg 24-26elp

**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** [rthomas5914@gmail.com](mailto:rthomas5914@gmail.com) or call 608-212-7582.

**January/February Birthdays:**

<b>Frank Rath</b>	<b>Jan 2,</b>
<b>Bonnie Spindler</b>	<b>Feb 11,</b>
<b>Trisha Lucas</b>	<b>Feb. 23.</b>

**MC DONALD'S HOUSE, FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

There were 5 Optimists who helped put together the meals for about 30 people at the McDonald House. Thanks to Rick Thomas, who accumulated and brought most of the ingredients needed for the meals, besides others who brought items. There was also a tour of the facility. There will be another future date scheduled in the future for supporting McDonalds House.



**TRAINING AVAILABLE for ALL OPTIMISTS for FREE:**

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

Your email address could be your user id. <https://optimist.tovuti.io/>

The 'passcode' has been updated to: **2425member**. (More information on the process will be available on the SWIS Website along with many other updates. These will be shared at the February 26, 2025 lunch meeting.)

## Grants and Scholarships

Each year organizations can present their community projects that impact youth and/or families at a lunch during the year. They can then be considered for grants. Grants can also be requested for consideration by the Board each year. In the most recent year there were \$500 grants given to the following organizations.

### Way Forward

WayForward Resources (formerly Middleton Outreach Ministry) provides access to nutritious food for people throughout Dane County and support that helps people stay in their homes in Middleton, Cross Plains and west Madison. Our Optimists have volunteered in selecting food items off of shelves and then distributed to families for their needs. Our Club presented a representative of Wayforward with a grant of \$500 for their program.



### Literacy Network

Literacy Network helps adults in Dane County build skills, reach goals, and connect communities.

Literacy Network helps adults improve their job situation, communicate better with children's schools, gain US citizenship, learn basic reading, writing and English language. Opportunities for volunteers include tutoring for life situations and/or teaching English 1 on 1. Our club presented the Literacy Network with a \$500 grant for their program.

### Logan Smiles

Logan's Heart and Smiles Provides Accessibility and Safety Home Modifications for Children with Disabilities. Some are interested in doing hands on work on a project site, or planning for a fundraisers, or even providing meals/snacks to our volunteers. Our club presented representatives of Logan Smiles with a Grant of \$500 for their program.





## Miracle League

Promote the construction of special facilities that meet the unique needs of Miracle League players and their families.

We cannot change or cure the medical issues life has dealt children with disabilities. What we can do is provide them with an opportunity to experience the joy and benefits that come from playing our national pastime–baseball. Our club presented a \$500 grant for their program.

January 8, 2025	Wednesday, Way Forward Speaker Grant Recipient (See Above)
January 22, 2025	Wednesday, Literacy Network Grant Recipient. (See Above)
February 12, 2025	Wednesday, Miracle League Grant Recipient -LUNCH: Pulled Pork with fries.
February 22, 2025	SWIS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conference, Saturday 9-3 PM
February 26, 2025	Wednesday, Bonnie Spindler, STOC Website - LUNCH: Burger with fries.
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	ESSAY Winner’s essay sent to SWIS Essay Chair. More information available in SWIS website at: <a href="https://swisdistrict.org/pages/essay-contest.asp">https://swisdistrict.org/pages/essay-contest.asp</a>
March 12, 2025	Horizon High School Update – LUNCH Fish Sandwich with Caesar Salad
March 26, 2025	Students of the Quarter/Month - LUNCH House Salad with Chili
April 7, 2025 (Mon)	Way Forward, 3:15-515 for Volunteers
April 9, 2025	Wednesday, Frank Rath, Patient Safety/Treatment Quality in Radiation Therapy LUNCH California Chicken Sandwich with fries.
April 12, 2025	Oratorical ZONE Contest planned. (Info TBD)
April 23, 2025	Wednesday, Speaker TBA - LUNCH; Flatbread with meat soup or Pizza with Caesar Salad. -
May 6, 25 (Tues)	Culver’s 4-6 & 6-8 pm for Volunteer Fundraiser
August 19, 25(Tues)	Culver’s 4-6 & 6-8 pm for Volunteer Fundraiser

FOLLOWING is the Vintage Menu Rotation (to be evaluated for May / June / July 2025.)

- Pulled Pork with fries;
- Burger with fries;
- Fish Sandwich with Ceasar Salad;
- House Salad with Chilli;
- California Chicken Sandwich with fries;
- Flatbread - either Bruchetta with meat soup or Pizza with Ceasar Salad.

## HIGHLIGHTS of Sauk Trails Optimist Club Website

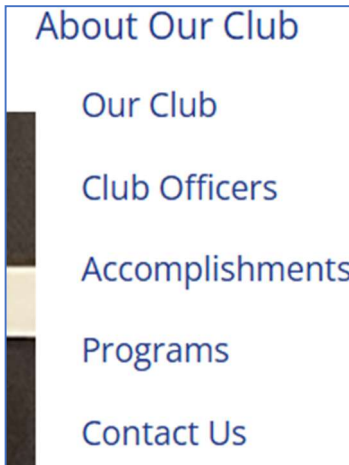
[www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org/](http://www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org/)

**ATTENTION:**

Anything that RECENTLY was Updated.

**HOME Screen:**

FACEBOOK, EVENT SCHEDULE, MISSION



**Check out the Accomplishments and Programs and various picture links.**



**Check out the: Calendar Event Schedule of events/meetings.**

**Check out the: Christmas pictures, fundraising events, grants & future scholarship info and pictures.**



**Check out the Club/District Events including the Oratorical and Essay Information and links.**



**Check out the: Historical photos of optimist friends, past newsletters, and presidents.**



## SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Carole Klopp, Patti Levenson, Trish Lucas, Kathie Newman, Frank Rath, Liv Sandberg and Bonnie Spindler

**ABSENT:** Mary Schwartz

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

1. **Previous Board Meeting Minutes** – Kathie moves to approve with a second from Liv. Motion passes unanimously.

#### 2. Reports

A. Treasurer’s Report – Carole reviewed the Operating accounts noting that we have \$4329.33 in checking, starting off the year in a strong position. We have 25 members.

B. Policy Committee Report – Carole reviewed the changes with the Board and moved to approve the policies. Pattie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Club members now have to approve the policies as well.

C. Fundraising Report – Patti reported that we sold 40 Bucky Books and will be receiving \$600 for the foundation. We now have 6 “free books to sell. We also sold \$1390 in gift cards for the Texas Roadhouse in exchange for which they will be providing food for the Lussier Center Xmas party.

D. Service Report – Kathie reported that we will be “working” November 19<sup>th</sup> at Culvers and May 6<sup>th</sup> an August 19<sup>th</sup> as well. She will speak with Rick T about serving at Ronald McDonald House and is seeking other service ideas.

E. Speakers – Frank has set up 2 grant recipients to come to one meeting in December and one meeting in January (Logans Hearts & Smiles and Way Forward). He is in contact with the other 2 recipients (Literacy Network & Miracle League) for February.

#### 4. Old Business

A. Audit Committee – Carole is still working to get folk to serve.

#### 5. New Business

A. Xmas tip for Vintage Waiters – Since we have 2 waiters who work our lunch, Carole moved to give each \$50. Kathie seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Meeting Site: Johnny’s / Olive Garden: there was a lot of discussion around where meetings should be held. Trish formed a sub-committee of Carole/Patti/Trish to work on this in the new year.

C. December Meetings: The December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be wrapping the Lussier Xmas presents. Mary asked that everyone be reminded that the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the annual Ornament Exchange.

D. Agenda Additions: Adding

6. **Adjournment:** Frank moves to adjourn the meeting to **December 17, 2024** at 5pm via Zoom With a second from Bonnie. The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

**Sauk Trails Optimist Club Youth & Community Foundation**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**November 12, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Carole Klopp, Patti Levenson, Trish Lucas, Kathie Newman, Frank Rath, Liv Sandberg and  
Bonnie Spindler

**ABSENT:** Mary Schwartz

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved on motion of Patti with a second from Bonnie.
3. Financial Report: Carole reviewed the current financial status of the Foundation noting that we should have approximately \$9000 to grant out this year, assuming our fundraisers are all successful.
4. Police Department: Do we want to donate to their Foundation since the officers are not allowed to accept monetary donations. Kathie or Steve will look into this, most particularly to find out if there is a Police Foundation and where we would send the check.
5. Lussier Community Center Xmas Party: It will be December 13<sup>th</sup> and the wrapping party has been set for December 11<sup>th</sup>. Frank’s daughter will get the gifts. The schedule will be:  
3:30 – members arrive for set-up  
4:00- Cooking food.  
Ask Rick T. for number of JOI students who might help with the Balloon Activity. There will also be a crafts room and cookie decorating. Santa(Rick T) will be in a separate room to hand out gifts.
6. Grants Update: Frank has approached 3 banks for donations. One Community Bank has agreed to donate \$500. If any member needs the federal and state IDs, please contact Carole.
7. Adjournment: Bonnie moves to adjourn with a second from Frank. The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

*A meeting in January on the 21<sup>st</sup> is recommended.*



**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, January 21, 2025  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Carole Klopp, Patti Levenson, Trish Lucas, Kathie Newman, Liv Sandberg,  
Mary Schwartz, and Bonnie Spindler

**ABSENT:** Frank Rath

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

2. **Previous Board Meeting Minutes** – Liv moves to approve with a second from Mary. Motion passes unanimously.

## Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” January / February 2025

### 2. Reports

- A. Treasurer’s Report – Carole reviewed the Operating accounts noting that we have \$4620 in checking as of December 31, 2024. We have 25 members.
- B. Fundraising Report – No Report
- C. Service Report – Kathie reported that we will be “working” Culvers May 6<sup>th</sup> an August 19<sup>th</sup> as well. She has contacted Rick T about serving at Ronald MacDonald house and will Contact Way Forward for a date to volunteer. She continues seeking other service ideas.
- D. Speakers – Back to old times, a list is being circulated at each meeting requesting members to speak or to suggest and confirm a speaker. Frank has confirmed our final grantee – Miracle League of Dane County – to be at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- E. Social – Mary with working on organizing the Progressive Dinner – set for March 9<sup>th</sup>. She will be asking members to host Appetizers at 4pm, Dinner at 5:30pm and Dessert at 7pm.

### 4. Old Business

- A. Club Policies need to be voted on by the club. Carole will circulate via email and ask everyone to vote online.
- B. Lunch committee will be meeting first week of February.
- C. Website – Bonnie is updating and will present at lunch meeting.

### 5. New Business

- A. Member Resignations: Carole moves to accept the resignations of Paul Johnson and Jeff Kuekenbecker, Bonnie seconds the motion passes unanimously.
- B. Essay and Oratorical Contests – we need to find chairs.
- C. Bonnie shared there are new club contests/health grants available from OI.
- D. Banner Stand – Rick T. and Carole will look into and obtain.

**6. Adjournment:** Carole moves to adjourn the meeting to **February 18th** at 5pm via Zoom with a second from Bonnie. The meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.

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.