



Pathways



Sauk Trails Optimist Club
July/August/September, 2025
<https://sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org>



Co-President's Message July-September 2025;

It is almost the beginning of the Optimist New Year and there is a lot to look forward to. We have the Lussier Christmas Party to get ready for, volunteering at Culver's, social events for our club, grants to present to recipients and our meetings. I think we have accomplished quite a bit last year and that's due to the SAUK Board and all the members.

Other decisions and future plans are in this newsletter and STOC Website.
Trisha & Frank, co-Presidents 24-25 & 25-26

Sauk Trails Club Officers 2024 - 26

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 24-26

Summer/Fall Birthdays

Patti Levenson	07/15
Kathie Newman	07/22
Carole Klopp	09/04
Mark Kramer	09/09
Dan Chart	09/22
Mary Breunig	09/26
Nancy Hach	09/27
Jacci See	09/27
Rick Thomas	10/21
Ted See	10/28

FUND CRAZR TICKETS

The annual Fundcrazr tickets have been sold to cover the football season from September through the end of 2025. The cost was the same \$20 for each one. The first place winner, based on the football game scores, can win \$500.

Thanks to Carole Klopp who coordinated this annual event and all those who purchased tickets for themselves or sold to family/friends. (Checks to: **Sauk Trails Optimist Club.**)

Terri Lynn Fundraiser NO LONGER AVAILABLE

One of our annual fundraisers is selling nuts/candies from Terri Lynn through our online store is being replaced. More information will be coming from the board on possibly using See's Candies.

For questions on Terri Lynn, contact **Rick Thomas** rthomas5914@gmail.com call 608-212-7582..

Also contact Patti Levenson, as she is coordinating either See's OR a different Vendor.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025

SUMMER COOKOUT:

Frank Rath's Home, 6951 Heron Way De Forest, WI

WHEN: Saturday, June 21, 2025 2:00 p.m. Until the Party is over

Summer Get-Together at Mary Schwartz's House,

When: August 16, 2025

Afternoon



SWIS 4th Quarter Convention: August 25th Deforest, WI

Attended by: Steve Bailey, Bonnie Spindler, Trisha Lucas

September 22, 2025 Attending Madison Down Town Banquet:

Induction by Jim Kondrasuk, OI Past President of Governor Elect

Eli Kelling to > Incoming SWIS Governor 25-26.



Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025
Miracle League Game Attendance: July 10, 2025

GRANT RECIPIENT



Sauk Trails Installation New Officers: September 18, 2025



Honor Patti Levenson for Service in 2025 Year.



Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025
 Madison Reading Project: GRANT Recipient: October 15th

Presented by: Josh Pulavico and Rowan Childs.

More information at: www.madisonreadingproject.com



SCHEDULE of EVENTS in PAST/Coming Timeframes	
July 10, 2025 (Thurs)	Miracle League Game attendance, TBA in future
July 16, 2025	Speaker TBD: LUNCH: California Chicken Sandwich Fries
August 2, 2025(Sat)	Mustard Day Volunteer Opportunity
August 16, 2025 (Sat)	Mary Schwartz's Home Get-together, Wine tasting
August 19, 2025	Culver's 4-6 & 6-8 pm for Volunteer Fundraiser
August 22-23, 2025	SWIS 4 th Quarter Convention, in Deforest.
September 18, 2025	Installation of 25-26 Year Officers
October 15, 2025	Madison Reading Project, GRANT Recipient
November 5, 2025	Peace of Mind Seminar on Planning for Future Funeral.
November 19, 2025	Liv Sandburg, Optimist Speaker Sharing her Trip
December 8, 2025 (Mon)	Wrapping Xmas Presents for Lussier Christmas Party
December 9, 2025	Culver's Fundraising Scheduled Night
December 12, 2025 (Fri)	Lussier Christmas Party Planned
December 17, 2025	Ornament Exchange, Annual Xmas Program

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**

FUTURE Planning: Peace of Mind Seminar

WHAT: Peace of Mind Seminar

WHEN: Vintage Brewing Company, November 5, 2025

WHY: We will be discussing the steps involved in getting a funeral plan in place, how that plan will affect your loved ones, and answering your questions on funeral service.

GENERATING NEW OPTIMISTS

The subcommittee to explore new concepts and approaches to generate new participants in serving youth through Optimism - met and have put some beginning plans in place. To support the process is the status of the current Sauk Trails Optimist club -STOC website at: www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org. and the financial and maintenance cost of time to keep it current with information.

With the cost for the support of the website increasing for the 25-26 year, Bonnie Spindler, who has recently restructured and has been maintaining it for many years, made a proposal to the board that she would be willing to have Gene's Memorial fund be used for the increase of that payment above the current budget. A motion was made by Carole Klopp and seconded by Bonnie at the September Board Meeting for that suggestion, and was approved. This is in remembrance of the support of both Bonnie & Gene for many years as Optimists.

With the STOC Website 'possibly' being replaced in the future with AI, Google-Docs, and other environments there is a group of 5 optimists who will be making some future proposals and implementing them in the current year. This is to help increase the membership and support of the club. The implementation would be BEFORE Oct. 1, 2026 before making a decision on the STOC Website.

Frank Rath is coordinating this project.



**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
MINUTES

Present: Trish, Carole, Pattie, Bonnie, Mary, and Liv

Absent: Frank and Kathie

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

1. Welcome – no additions

2. Foundation Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2025.

On motion of Mary, with a second from Liv, motion carried to approve..

3. Financial Report: Carole reported the balance in the checking account of \$6696.28.

4. Respect for Law – Donation

After researching various options, Carole recommended donating \$100 to the Capitol K9s and the MMPD Mounted Patrol. Motion by Carole to approve these donations, second by Bonnie, and motion carried.

5. Scholarship Amounts Approval

Carole moved to approve 3 @ \$1000 each with 2 scholarships for JOI students and 1 scholarship for a Horizon High School student. Motion seconded by Pattie. Discussion followed with Rachel Dinerstein (Horizon HS student), Jana Alhuniti and Jada VanDenPlas identified as recipients. The motion carried.

6. Budget Adjustment

Carole recommended that the board change the designation of the President Benevolence fund to be used as food support for our dinner service for the Ronald McDonald House. Liv moved to change the designation to Ronald McDonald House Food Fund, Bonnie seconded, and motion carried.

7. Adjournment: Mary moved to adjourn, Liv seconded, motion carried, The board adjourned to August 19th following the Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD – AUGUST 6TH

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025

Present: Carole, Patti, Trish, Mary, Kathie and Bonnie
Meeting called to order at 12:17pm.

Mary moved to donate \$1000 to the Horizon HS fundraiser with funds transferred from the Operating account to the Foundation. Patti seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 12:23pm.

Respectfully submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, June 17, 2025 MINUTES

Present: Trish, Carole, Pattie, Bonnie, Mary, and Kathie

Absent: Bonnie, Frank and Liv

Meeting called to order at 5:11pm.

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions-None.

2. Previous Board Meeting Minutes – Mary moves, Kathie seconds to approve the minutes. Carole noted

That Liv’s name was misspelled and will correct that. Motion carried.

3. Reports

A. Treasurer’s Report – Carole shared the current Financial Report showing \$4719.66 in checking.

B. Fundraising Report –Football Craazr tickets are on sale right now. We received \$562.20 for our BratFest volunteer effort.

C. Service Report –Next week, on June 24th , we are cooking at Ronald McDonald House and still need

Volunteers. Our next Culver’s volunteering is August 19th.

D. Social Report– The June 21st “picnic” at Frank’s house in DeForest will start at 2pm. We will meet

at the Vintage parking lot to carpool. Then, on July 10th we will attend a Miracle League Game and

will plan to carpool for that event as well. Finally, a reminder that on August 16th we will party at Mary’s

house. **NOTE:** Trish has reserved Wednesday, September 17th at Johnny’s Italian Steak House for the

EOY Banquet & Induction ceremony

4. Old Business

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025

A. New Member Recruitment: Mary reported that the committee did not get a chance to meet this past month.

She will speak with Frank this weekend to see about moving this effort forward.

B. Instagram Report: Bonnie spoke with Rick, and he indicated that the JOI club had made an account

associated with their online presence. Carole will speak with Rick to determine where the account is and

will also speak with her son-in-law regarding how the app might work for us.

5. New Business

A. JOI Finances: Carole reported that the JOI club had to fund the buses for SPIRIT Day in the amount of

\$800 which left only \$780 in their checking account. She will speak with Rick to discuss a plan for the next

year and how STOC might help.

B. Non-Profit Grants: Carole reported that we will have approximately \$4000 to distribute this year. The

board received a copy of the grant packet which we will use again this year. Trish will ask members to

send Carole names and address of non-profits they would like to see submit a grant. She will then send

out the packets. They will be due by August 8th.

C. Annual Meeting Silent Auction: The board decided that we would do it if someone volunteers to chair

this event. Trish will email members to see if anyone is interested.

D. Officer Donations: Carole researched alternatives and suggested that we donate to the Police K9 non-

profit and the Mounted Patrol non-profit. Carole moves to make those donations, Mary seconds, motion

carries.

6. Club Announcements:

A. It was agreed to CANCEL the July 2nd meeting as it is July 4th week.

B. BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGES: Due to member conflicts, the next two meetings will be on Mondays –

July 14th and August 18. Please make your calendars.

C. Dates to Note:

* June 21 - Cookout at Frank's House * July 14 – Board Mtg. * August 19 – Culver's
Volunteering

* June 24 -Ronald McDonald House

*August 16-Party at Mary's

*Sept. 16 – Board Mtg

* July 10 – Miracle League

*August 18-Board Mtg. *Sept. 17 – EOY Meeting at

Johnny's

7. **Adjournment**: Mary moves to adjourn and Carole seconds. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at

6:00pm to **MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025**, at 5pm via Zoom. *Please Note Date Change.*

Respectfully submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2025
MINUTES

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

Absent: Liv

Meeting called to order at 5:08pm.

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions-None.

2. Previous Board Meeting Minutes – Mary moves, Bonnie seconds to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report – Carole shared the current Financial Report showing \$4926.75 in checking.

Carole moves and Patti seconds to dispense with the 23/24 Audit due to the changes in Treasurer. Motion carries.

Carole moves and Mary seconds to move to a Bi-Annual Audit process beginning with the 24/25 fiscal year. Motion

carries and the next audit will occur in the Fall of 2025.

B. Fundraising Report –Football Craazr tickets are all out. With members signing up to volunteer at Mustard Days, the

club will receive a \$150 donation. Patti will be picking up Bucky Books on August 20th. We are getting 40 books

and there will be a free book for every 5 sold. Gift cards will be available.

C. Service Report –Our next Culver's volunteering is August 19th. Our next Culver's will be December 9th and March

10th, 2026. Ronald McDonald House dinner was successful. Kathie will call Way Forward about possible volunteer activities.

D. Social Report– July 10th we will attend a Miracle League Game with an alternate time of July 24th should the

weather be inclement. On August 16th we will party at Mary's from 3-6pm. . Mary will do a sign-up sheet.

NOTE: Annual Banquet has been changed to Thursday, September 18th. Trish will change the reservation at Johnnie's.

4. Old Business

A. New Member Recruitment: Mary reported that the committee is working on it.

B. Instagram Report: Carole will get in gear and speak with her Tech experts on this this month.

5. New Business

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025
None

6. Club Announcements:

C. Dates to Note:

*August 19 – Culver’s Volunteering

*Sept. 16 – Board Mtg

*Sept. 18 – EOY Meeting at Johnny’s (takes the place of our regular Wednesday lunch meeting)

*Dec. 9 – Culver’s Volunteering

7. Adjournment: Frank moves to adjourn and Bonnie seconds. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at

6:00pm to **MONDAY, August 18, 2025**, at 5pm via Zoom. *Please Note Date Change.*

Respectfully submitted, Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, August 18, 2025
MINUTES

Present: Trish, Carole, Bonnie, Patti, Mary, Liv and Kathie

Absent: Frank

Meeting called to order at 5:10pm.

1. Welcome/Agenda Additions-None.

2. Previous Board Meeting Minutes – Patti moves, Liv seconds to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. Reports

A. Treasurer’s Report – Carole shared the current Financial Report showing \$6,045.32 as of July 31 in checking.

Carole moves and Liv seconds to move \$2000 from Operating to the Foundation. Treasurer feels that our

current fiscal situation allows us to support the Foundation in this manner. Motion carries.

Carole moves and Liv seconds to lower the quarterly member club dues to \$45 from \$50. Kathie felt the spousal

dues should be kept at \$35 and amended the motion accordingly. After discussion, motion carries with one
absentee.

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025

B. Fundraising Report – We received \$150 from our Mustard Days volunteering. Patti will be picking up Bucky Books on August 20th. We are getting 40 books and there will be a free book for every 5 sold. Gift cards will be available.

C. Service Report – Our next Culver’s volunteering is August 19th. Our next Culver’s will be December 9th and March 10th, 2026. Ronald McDonald House dinner was successful. Kathie will call Way Forward about possible volunteer activities.

D. Social Report – Mary reported that the wine tasting at her house was a lot of fun! Our next social events are the Horizon HS Fundraiser on Wednesday, September 17th and the Annual Banquet/Induction Ceremony on Thursday, September 18th. More to come in an email to all.

4. Old Business

- A. New Member Recruitment: Mary reported that the committee is working on it.
- B. Instagram Report: Carole has spoken with a consultant in the field and still needs to meet with her in person.

5. New Business

- A. Speakers – Bonnie would like to see speakers at most meetings – or at least once a month. There was general agreement on this.

6. Club Announcements:

Dates to Note:

- *Sept. 16 – Board Mtg
- *Sept. 17 – Horizon HS fundraiser
- *Sept. 18 – EOY Meeting at Johnny’s (takes the place of our regular Wednesday lunch meeting)
- *Dec. 9 – Culver’s Volunteering

7. Adjournment: Frank moves to adjourn and Bonnie seconds. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm to Tuesday , September 16, 2025, at 5pm via Zoom. ***Please Note Date Change.***

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Klopp, Secretary/Treasurer



SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
5:00PM via ZOOM

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025

MINUTES

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

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

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

3. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report –Carole reviewed the operating balance sheet and statement showing that we currently have \$5,770 in checking. Website fees of \$720 were brought up by Carole as being too expensive for the club. A budget comparison for next year was shown with Carole noting that paying that much would leave no wiggle room for the board. Discussion ensued with Carole suggesting a compromise that we fund the expense using the \$455 in the Spindler memorial funds in the Foundation to offset the expense and that during the next year the club determine a new approach to our online presence. Carole moved, Bonnie seconded the motion to pay the ISADEX bill using the \$455 from the Foundation with the operating account paying the remainder of \$264.88. Motion carried.

B. Fundraising Report – Pattie shared that we have 23 Bucky Books out with 17 left to sell, reminding all that the books come with a \$10 gift certificate. She then shared TerriLynn has gone out of business which was our normal Xmas fundraiser. After much discussion, Bonnies moved and Patti seconded to use See's Candies. Patti will work with Jaci See to set this up. Patti also mentioned that there are other restaurants that do “volunteer” nights besides Culvers. Topic was tabled at this time.

C. Service Report – Kathie reminded everyone that we have Culver's volunteering for funds on December 9th. She will be setting up 2026 dates soon.

D. Social – Mary shared a calendar of possible future social events (state Capital tour, Cave of Mounds, Fireside, etc.). The first event of the “new” year was to attend a Fall Harvest corn maze. After discussion it was decided to go the Mt. Horeb Sutler's Ridge Farm on Friday, October 17th at 2:30pm. Mary will distribute the info to all next week. She will also put together a list of possible social events to discuss in the near future.

4. Old Business

A. Member Recruitment and Instagram Committees will be part of the newly formed **Online Committee** consisting of Frank, Mary, Diane, Carole & Bonnie.

B. September Induction Banquet details were reviewed with the board.

5. New Business

A. OI Foundation Donation: Carole moved and Mary seconded to donate \$500 from the Foundation to the OI Foundation. Motion carried.

B. Meetings for rest of year: October 1 no speaker/ Nonno's & October 15- Msn Reading Project;

November 5 – Bonnie's speaker & 19 – Liv will share on her trip to France;
and

December 10 – gift wrap & 17 – ornament exchange.

6. Club Announcements

Sauk Trails Optimist Club Pathways” July/August/September 2025

*Sept. 17 – Horizon HS Fundraiser

*Sept. 18 – EOY Meeting at Johnny’s (takes the place of our regular Wednesday lunch meeting)

*Dec. 9 – Culver’s Volunteering

7. Adjourn: Carole moved and Frank seconded to adjourn to Tuesday, October 21 2025 at 5pm via Zoom Motion carried.

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.