



Sauk Trails Optimist Club of Madison



DECEMBER 2009

**Weekly Wednesday Lunch
Meetings - 11:45 – 12:45, Babe's,
Schroeder Road, Madison**



Greetings Fellow Optimists:

Well, it's that time of year when "holiday stress" can hit each of us at some point. But, that's exactly when the third line of our Optimist Creed should kick in – **"To make all your friends feel that there is something in them."** Helping others always makes me feel pretty darn good and that holiday stress seems to melt away. So, those who are Ringing the Salvation Army Bells or helping with any other service at this time of year will find that you just feel Grrrrrrreat! (Just like Tony the Tiger of commercial fame!)

Which brings me to a **goal for this year for our club – providing more service opportunities for members.** A member who recently left indicated that we "never did anything." Well, as a JOOI Adviser, I can't relate to that statement, but I can relate to the fact that perhaps we do need more service activities. So, Bonnie Spindler and Pat Beiersdorf are going to be spending a lot of time finding those activities for all of us to join in on. Some will be with the JOOI Club and some will be just us, doing a good deed because it needs to get done. Please take the time to review those opportunities and help Sauk Trails Optimist Club truly be a group that is making a difference today!

On another note, I wanted to **clarify the fundraising policy recently passed by the board.** I was approached by a member who was concerned that perhaps there was too much emphasis placed on the fundraising aspect of our club and not enough on service. The board discussed this at length at our last meeting and came up with two solutions. The first is the previous paragraph where the Program Committee will be setting up more service activities for all of us to participate in. The second solution was a clarification of the fundraising policy itself. Specifically, the policy was amended to clearly state that members could either sell OR assist with a fundraising activity (e.g., work a shift at the UW Football booth, etc.) Assisting with a fundraising activity counts towards each members fundraising goal. Obviously there is method in our madness as, hopefully, we will have more members helping out with our fundraising efforts. And I would add a final personal note on this topic - fundraising is an important component of who we are, along with service, in that we are better able then to provide youth opportunities (e.g., scholarships to camps, etc.) with the funds raised, in addition to the service we do. I hope this helps to clarify this policy and if you have any questions, please let me know.

And, finally, a joyous and hearty invitation to all to especially make a point of attending our Holiday Luncheon on December 23rd – where we'll eat, drink, and have a jolly time with our Third Annual Christmas Ornament Gift Exchange as we make sure that all of us know there is a special something in each of us!

Happy Holidays AND see you at Babe's, of course, for lunch,

Carole Klopp, STOC President 2009-2010

REMINDER:

**The Annual
ORNAMENT
EXCHANGE at the
HOLIDAY PARTY
LUNCH, DECEMBER
23rd at BABE's**

Progressive Dinner

The annual STOC Progressive Dinner is scheduled for **Sunday, January 31st, 2010.** Currently Jacci See has volunteered their home for one of the three homes. There are 2 more needed for this event. (*Last year's time frames were: Appetizer's; 3:00 - 4:30; Entrée 4:30 – 6:00; Dessert 6:00 – 7:30.*) This can be updated based on your schedule and the distance between homes participating.

Please contact Alison Scherer if you would like to participate.
schereraj@hotmail.com

Sauk Trails Optimist Club – STOC Board Meeting Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, November 3rd, 2009

Members in Attendance: President: Carole Klopp; Past President: Kevin Campos; VP: Alison Scherer; Board Members: Pat Beiersdorf, Ray Schmitz, Kathy Johnson, Jeff Hosking, Bob Wortinger.
Not attending – Bonnie & Gene Spindler.

Carole Klopp called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.

Move to approved minutes with amendment to show \$25 gift certificate to be given to a member who has a guest join the club. (Motion – Hosking; Second – Johnson)

Review of member e-mail to the board - concern about board vote to expect members to do at least one fundraising activity; the member sees the club as a service organization. Board discussion of the e-mail included the fact that the initial notice of this change in member expectations did not clearly state that members could either sell or assist with a fundraising activity (e.g., work a shift at the UW Football booth, etc.). This was moved to be amended into the minutes as well (Motion – Johnson; 2nd – Campos).

As a follow-up the board members will check with their assigned members to ensure they are aware of the change in club requirements; identify if the concern is more widespread. General board discussion that fundraising is an important component along with service in order to provide youth opportunities (e.g., scholarships to camps, etc.).

Kevin Campos stated that he recently attended a Gialamas business park party; also members seem open to STOC looking to move locations if it will help solidify the organization's identity.

Continued concern about low membership numbers. Board agreed that we need to keep an open mind regarding and look at options for increasing membership. A few recent discussions multiple board members had with members of the West Madison group indicated that this club might now be more open to a merger and compromise than in the past; this club has also lost members and is looking at how to improve. Carole Klopp to contact the President of the West Madison club.

Goals for the year:

1) Resolve identify/location issue; 2) increase lunch membership; 3) investigate merging with West Madison (or another club); 4) add 12 new members; 5) have more people attend conferences (3-4 versus current 1-2); 6) all members serve on a committee – current member committee interest currently being gathered. Motion to approve goals – Wortinger; Second – Hosking – approved.

Discussion on Local District Events.

Tri-Star Basketball (March 20, 2010) – a tie in to Champion Style Athletics – date option of Sunday, February 14, 2010. It has been difficult to get information from Champion Style Athletics. Will give a 2-week deadline. If no response, drop the event for this year. (*Lt. Gov. Tom Wohleber, provided contacts who can give possible locations in the Middleton School System for late Feb/early Mar 2010*).

Bell Ringing – Pat Beiersdorf is the lead on this service activity. Over 1/3 of slots filled; she will be contacting members to fill the remaining slots.

Question as to whether or not Wade Anunson is still a member. Will check with Gene Spindler regarding dues payments, as Wade did not think he was still a member. (*Wade has dropped, Oct 1st*).

Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) Sharing Christmas program being led by Ricki Hoefler, Janine Richgels (?), and Pat Beiersdorf. Motion by Johnson: \$500 Kathy Johnson received as an award to go toward X-mas sharing program. Second – Campos. Approved.

Motion to make it optional for club members to participate in the District's "Hello, my name is" promotion – a day proposed that Optimists would wear a nametag all day to generate discussion on why they are wearing the nametag. It was stated this was not a recruiting tool by District, but the board felt it was and that it should remain optional. (Motion – Schmitz; Second – Scherer).

Motion made **not** to participate in the **Dime-A-Day**. (Motion – Johnson; Second – Beiersdorf; Approved with one abstention – Schmitz).

Motion to have Bonnie Spindler take the lead on the **essay/oratorical contest** as expressed by Bonnie. (Motion - ? Klopp?; Second – Wortinger; Approved.)

Bucky Book Update – all 60 books are out; Kevin Campos still needs payment for 10-11 of them, or members should return the books.

Decision made that the Treasurer's report should be sent out electronically with the meeting minutes. In general, the President will issue in preparation for the next board meeting.

Next meeting – **Tuesday, Dec. 15th** (tentatively); 4:45 p.m. **Alison Scherer**, VP Note Taker

Editor: Bonnie Spindler
blspindler@charter.net
January Newsletter
Articles Due by
12/28/2009

Sauk Trails Club Officers 0910

President
Carole Klopp

Secretary/Treasurer
Gene Spindler

Past President
Kevin Campos

Vice President
Alison Scherer

Board of Directors

Jeff Hosking
Bob Wortinger
Kathy Johnson
Pat Beiersdorf
Bonnie Spindler
Ray Schmitz

SWIS District 2009-2010



Sauk Trails Optimist Club Board Decision on Fund-Raisers

A motion was made and passed that all Club members are required to **purchase, sell, or assist** with a fund-raising activity, such as Bucky Books, Koeze Nut items or Football Craze tickets. Members who do not complete this fund raising activity during the Club fiscal year (October 1st – September 30th, beginning in 2009) will be billed an additional \$50 on the 4th Quarter statement, July-September, as a donation to the Youth and Community Foundation.

ANY Optimists for Sauk Trails Club

Please put these dates on your calendar and try to make some of these SWIS Conferences. There should be club representation at each quarterly conference to acquire the information.

FUTURE 2009 – 2010 CONFERENCES SCHEDULED

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| February 6, 2010 | UW-Whitewater |
| May 8, 2010 | Wis Dells Kalahari |
| August 14, 2010 | Pewaukee Radisson |

2009 Koeze Nut Fundraiser

Our club kicked off our annual Koeze Nut Fundraiser was in October. We hope to top \$1500 in profits:

- The last order deadline will be **December 9th** for **Christmas delivery**.
- Bring order forms to Wednesday meetings or contact Rick Thomas at 212-7582 or jathoma2@wisc.edu.
- Collect money up front with checks made payable to Sauk Trails Optimist Club.

SERVICE EVENT for 01/27/2010

Do you have new or used: blankets, towels, washcloths, other cloth items OR, what about personal toiletries such as those little bottles from hotel rooms. We'd like to acquire these items on or before **01/27/10** for distribution to those in need. *(Can be brought to lunch at Babe's on that day or contact Pat or Bonnie, Service Event-coordinators).*

MOMS, Salvation Army, Wexford are possibilities, depending on what is received. *(Any other suggestions are helpful)*. Please contact Pat or Bonnie for this very worthwhile service project.

Oratorical/Essay Contest Program

Thanks to input from Rick Conne, a home-schooled parent in the Madison area has been contacted. This parent does the Madison home-schooled Newsletter and also is in contact with others. I have e-mailed the Oratorical and Essay flyer information to be included in their end of year Newsletter.

Any child under the age of 16 before Dec. 31st, 2009, can enter the Oratorical Contest and compete for the \$2,500 scholarship. (Topic: "Cyber Communication. Progress or Problem?" Club Contest: late **Feb/early March** 2010.)

Any child under the age of 19 as of Dec. 31st, 2009 can enter the Essay Contest and can also compete for the \$2,500 scholarship. (Topic: The Internet: Today's Evolution or Tomorrow's Menace?" Received by: **February 21st**, 2010).

If ANY club member knows of a youth that may be interested, please contact me and I can e-mail them the flyer information on either of these contests. We would like to have some club competition in the first quarter of 2010. Depending on the response for either of these contests, there will be a need for more Optimist support as a 'service event' for the program. Please contact me with any interest and I can give you more information.

Also, if you have any more possible youth of interest, please let me know.
Bonnie Spindler, Oratorical/Essay Chair 833-7244 blspindler@charter.net

CHILDHOOD CANCER

Sauk Trails Optimists will be able to sign-up, along with West Madison Optimists, to serve meals at UW Hospital for Childhood Cancer. Two optimists from Sauk Trails and one from West Madison will meet at the clinic entrance at 11:00 am, ends at 1:30 PM on **March 21st and April 18th**. Future dates in fall will also be chosen. **GREAT Service Opportunity for 4 Optimists.**

Please check your schedule, sign-up at lunches or by e-mail to Bonnie Spindler blspindler@charter.net or Pat Beiersdorf at pbeiersdorf@bankahb.com, SERVICE Event Co- Coordinators

**UW Football Booth**

Thanks so much to Steve Bailey and his family for all their support of the UW Booth. (Also thanks to Steve & Gene for UW booth support for high school football championships on Nov 19th). Thanks to ALL who helped with this fall fundraiser. **Great Season.**

Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) Sharing Christmas Program

Sauk Trails Optimists, Ricki Hoefer, Janine Richgels, and Pat Beiersdorf are purchasing, wrapping, and distributing Christmas gifts for a chosen MOM Family. *(More info later on family)*. Kathy Johnson received an award for \$500, which is being used for this family for holiday presents. Thanks to ALL these fine optimists for giving of their time & talent for this annual holiday project

Student of the Month Quarterly Program

George Liu, Marcus Bolles and Brittany Porrazzo were honored at a lunch on 11/11/09. (Marcus' dad was in attendance - Marcus' sister also was honored a few years ago.) Each JOOI officer shared their service / sports / school / future activities with Optimists present. Congratulations to each of these fine students. *(Next SOM Program Scheduled for: 02/10)*.

SCHEDULED SPEAKERS and LUNCHES

| Date | Speaker | Topic | Babes Noon Lunch |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| December 2 nd | Our Lady of Hope Clinic | Programs at Clinic | ½ Club Sandwich or Cobb Salad |
| December 9 th | Allen Ebert | WI Film festival | ½ French Dip or Cajun Fried Chicken Salad |
| December 16 th | 'Club Meeting' | 'Future Club Plans' | Chicken Pita or Beef Taco Salad |
| December 23 rd | Holiday Party, Ornament Exchange | | TBA |
| December 30 th | CANCELLED | | CANCELLED |

46th Annual Madison Area Service Clubs Luncheon – MASCC

16 Optimists attended the MASCC lunch and heard **Casey FitzRandolph**, a Noted Child Advocate & Olympic Speed Skater speak. He was very inspirational sharing his story and encouragement for everyone to follow their dreams. JoAnn Gruber-Hagen was the recipient of the Ruth Gordon Award. Our own **Rick Thomas** was also nominated for that award. All who could come had a great day

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We have the following time slots reserved for bell ringing in **front of Sears at West Towne Mall**. There is a need for an Optimist/s to ring the bells along with 2-3 JOOI Club students at each of these time slots. Please check your calendars and be prepared to **sign-up for at least one of these 21 time slots**. Following is the scheduled needs for signing up. *(Sign-up is still needed for those time slots in RED)*. If you haven't already signed-up, you may get a call from coordinator, Pat Beiersdorf: pat@madisonfinancial.net.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Thursday, December 3 rd | 6-8pm | Saturday, December 12 th | noon-2pm |
| Friday, December 4 th | 6-8 pm | Saturday, December 12 th | 2-4pm |
| Saturday, December 5 th | 10am-noon | Saturday, December 12 th | 4-6pm |
| Saturday, December 5 th | noon-2pm | Saturday, December 12 th | 6-8pm |
| Saturday, December 5 th | 2-4pm | Thursday, December 17 th | 6-8pm |
| Saturday, December 5 th | 4-6pm | Friday, December 18 th | 6-8 pm |
| Saturday, December 5 th | 6-8pm | Saturday, December 19 th | 10am-noon |
| Thursday, December 10 th | 6-8pm | Saturday, December 19 th | noon-2pm |
| Friday, December 11 th | 6-8 pm | Saturday, December 19 th | 2-4pm |
| Saturday, December 12 th | 10am-noon | Saturday, December 19 th | 4-6pm |
| | | Saturday, December 19 th | 6-8pm |

STOC WEBSITE LINK

www.sauktrailsoptimistclub.nexo.com

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 at 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.**

