



Pathways

Sauk Trails Optimist Club
Madison, Wisconsin



August/September 2020

PRESIDENTS NOTE

Today I bought some soap bubbles.
Don't get me wrong.
I didn't buy them for a child.
I bought them for myself.

I bought my soap bubbles at the grocery store. We go there only about once a month now during the pandemic. We wear masks as everyone must do who enters the store and as everyone who works in the store must do. We took only a shopping cart from the row of carts that had been thoroughly sanitized by a grocery store employee who used to work in the bakery. We call him Mister Donut Man, but since they closed the bakery due to the pandemic, they reassigned him to disinfect shopping carts inside the front door. He's been doing that for about four months now, and although he wears a mask, you can tell he always does it with a smile. It's the way he greets you when you enter the store. His voice has a smile in it.

He deserves a medal.

We shopped early in the day to avoid the crowds and prior to the weekend, because you never know these days how quickly the shelves will be restocked or which items will simply become unavailable. A lot of things come to mind. We carry a list and we try not to deviate, because it all costs money and again, you never know these days how that money thing is going to work out. You can't even be sure if the store will be open, because a week or two ago they closed the store because of a disturbance outside.

But that's another story.

I bought soap bubbles because I intend to use them. I'm using them now writing this story. They work. A big soap bubble just floated over my keyboard, because as I pushed my shopping cart through the produce section, there I saw a bin filled with brightly colored plastic bottles filled with soap bubble solution. Mine has a cap that looks like a lady bug, because in this world of so many serious circumstance and consequence it occurred to me that today at least, soap bubbles might be the solution.

As I ponder that line that ends the Optimist Creed, the one about being 'too happy to permit the presence of trouble,' I know I made the right purchase.

John Fons

Recognizing Long-Time Members of Sauk Trails Optimist Club

As we approach the 28th anniversary of STOC, we thought it would be interesting to recognize club members who have been with the club for twenty years or more. These members have seen a lot of great STOC events over the years as well as a wide variety of Club fundraisers.

Here is the list of thirteen members celebrating at least twenty years with STOC along with their sponsor and the year they joined our club:

Steve Bailey (Jim Judd)	1992
Jacci See (Jim Judd)	1993
Bob Wortinger (Joe Laubmeier)	1993
Mary Schwartz (Art Schweitzer)	1994
Kathy Johnson (Lynne Fritz)	1994
John Scherer (Jim Judd)	1995
Ray Schmitz (Tom Allen)	1996
Mark Kraemer (Jim Judd)	1996
Bonnie Spindler (Jacci See)	1997
Jason Kadow (Jeff Kuchenbecker)	1998
Pete Graven (Steve Roberts)	1998
Gene Spindler (Bonnie Spindler)	2000
Brinda Thompson (Steve Bailey)	2000

A lot of interesting names there for club old-timers! Feel free to ask some of our long-time members for some favorite STOC memories.

Thank you to Bob Wortinger for the article.

Join a virtual lunch meeting and share time with fellow Optimists.

Watch for announcements via email regarding luncheon speakers and Zoom connection details.

Speakers for Zoom lunch calls are currently being organized.

STOC Bulletin Board**Sauk Trails
Club Officers
2019-2020****President:** John Fons**Vice President:** Rick Thomas**Secretary:** Kathy Johnson**Treasurer:** Bob Wortinger**Past President:** John Fons**Board of Directors**Steve Bailey
Rick Conne
Nancy Hach
Kathie Newman
Ted See
Liv Sandberg**August Birthdays**Bob Wortinger 4
BJ Bailey 5
Steve Bailey 28**September Birthdays**Carole Klopp 4
Mark Kraemer 9
Mary Breunig 20
Dan Chart 22
Nancy Hach 27
Jacci See 27**SWIS 1st Qtr Conference
2020-2021****Holiday Inn Exp,
Platteville Community Ctr**Executive Meeting: Fri, Nov 6 at 7:00 PM.
Conf Sat, Nov 7, 8:30- 4:00 PMNewsletter Editor:
Liv Sandberg
jlivsandberg@gmail.com**STOC Save the Date*****We have a safe and fun event on the calendar!!!*****STOC Annual Golf outing
September 26th at Pleasant View Golf Course****Join us for nine holes of golf and fun in a safe outdoor environment.****There are still a few spots open for golfers; hackers welcome!****Please contact Bob Wortinger asap if you are interested.****He will be securing tee times in the next couple days.****See course website for current Pandemic practices on the golf course.****Outside seating only at PV for post golf happy hour.****Bob Wortinger rwortinger55@gmail.com****BUCKY BOOKS!**

Once again, STOC will be selling Bucky Books as a fund-raiser. The hard copy version is available this year. Books have already been picked up and are ready for purchase.

Please contact Dan Bergs or Bob Wortinger and they will coordinate

Dan dan.bergs@wegnercpas.com or Bob rwortinger55@gmail.com

Sauk Trails Optimist Club's Respect for Law Program

Since 2004, STOC has recognized 34 police officers from the West District of the Madison Police Department through this program.

We have been a long-time supporter of the West District and, in fact, from 2012 through 2014 the West District office was a member of STOC through the Friends of Optimist program. During this time, current acting chief of the Madison Police Department, Vic Wahl, who took over these duties in October, 2019, served as the West District's liaison with STOC!

Acting Chief Wahl joined our August 26 lunch meeting to recognize this years recipients. Officer Joseph Buccellato and David Sherrick. Both officers generously donated their award to a charity. The Literacy Network and St Jude's Children's Hospital, respectively.

We hope you were able to join us in recognizing and thanking our officers for their extraordinary efforts and hard work.

Article : Bob Wortinger

Looking for Old STOC Newsletters

With some of us having extra time on our hands these days, we have been working toward putting together a collection of old STOC newsletters. They contain lots of great pictures of STOC members and events over the years and we are hoping to put together a collection for review at upcoming STOC banquets and social events as well as adding them to what is already on the STOC website.

We already have a full collection of club newsletters since October 2015. From 2010 through 2015 we are just missing a few editions. From 2007 to 2010, we have collected a few and we have none prior to October 2007.

If you have either hard copies or computer versions stored somewhere, please contact Bob Wortinger and we will continue to improve our collection.

Article submitted by Bob Wortinger

Southern Wisconsin – SWIS 2020-2021:

We have had a great year with John Fons as our Club President while also in the position of SWIS Lt. Governor for Zone 7. Along with other Sauk Trails Optimists he has led and supported our club besides contacting and visiting clubs in: Middleton; Verona; Mt. Horeb; Cross Plains; and Mazomanie-WiHeights as Lt. Governor.

John has accepted the position of SWIS Governor Elect for the 2020-21 year, starting on October 1, 2020. To support John in his new position as Governor Elect, there is a need for a Past Club President to come forward to continue the fine support of these clubs in the new Zone 6, starting on October 1, 2020. This would involve contacting and visiting each club once or twice during the year, sharing information about clubs at SWIS quarterly conferences, and other general communication support that John will need in his new position. There will be training available for this position.

As a Past SWIS Governor 2011-12 and SWIS Lt. Governor for 2 years prior to that, I've accepted the position as Lt. Governor starting October 1, 2020 but would like an Optimist to 'shadow' me during the year in this important position to also support John. Please consider this exciting and 'fun' position to expand your knowledge and support as an Optimist.

Contact either John at 236-0844 or Bonnie Spindler at 850-9561 for more information.

Optimistically,

Bonnie Spindler

SAUK TRAILS – Madison Club WEBSITE

www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org

Current and previous STOC Newsletters are available as PDF's on the www.sauktrailsmadisonoptimist.org website.

To acquire the newsletter, CLICK on the 'PDF Download' of CHOICE.

Call for website sponsors.

If you are interested in also being a sponsor of the STOC Website for the 2018-2019 year, and have your business/name in the rotation on our website, please contact Bonnie Spindler. Thanks to the Park Bank of Madison for their continued sponsorship.

The Sauk Trails – Madison Website is constantly being updated with many pictures in addition to those in the newsletter. To become more familiar with the website and the pictures currently available, see below:

Sauk Trails – Madison Website Pictures

In the EVENTS area, click on this link: [CLUB Program Pictures](#) (View 'Photo Galleries')

In the EVENTS area, click on this link: [CLUB Accomplish Pictures](#) ('Read More', scroll description)

In the ABOUT area, click on this link: [CLUB Photo Gallery](#)

If you have any problems acquiring the Newsletter or are NOT receiving the monthly message, please contact me so we can correct that situation. Optimistically, **Bonnie Spindler** blspindler@charter.net 850-9561 (H)

Sauk Trails Website Coordinator

**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom**Tuesday, July 14, 2020
MINUTES**PRESENT:** John, Rick T, Rick C., Kathie N., Liv, Kathy J., Steve, Ted S, Nancy, Bob W.**Guest:** Dan Berg

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Welcome/Agenda Additions: SIBS, Respect for Law, Culvers Update, STOC grants, Lussier Christmas Party & National Mustard Day. SIBS event happening in September is uncertain. Respect for Law: John is awaiting a reply from the Police Department. Culvers Update: potentially September 22. STOC grants: Rick T. will manage the requests and board presentation Lussier Christmas: Rick C. reported that the party is not a certainty due to COVID and at this time, Walmart has denied the request to donate but the store manager is pursuing it through his supervisor. International Mustard Day: Bob reported the Virtual International Mustard Day will be held virtually on August 1.

Approval of Minutes from 6/9/2020: Bob W moved & Steve seconded to approve; passed unanimously.

Financial Reports: there were only 5 financials transactions in June! \$5400 in checking; 2 members' dues are outstanding. Operating Account - Payable to OI for registrations fees for June OI virtual conference - 2 @ \$25 & 2 @ \$35. Not in operating budget but perhaps covered by SWIS Conference line item. Bratfest earned \$247. Youth Foundation A/C - Donations received from STOC members through June billing collections of \$60. Value of Vanguard investments increased \$51 in June. Christmas party has \$684 and SIBS program \$2450 in bank.

We started the fiscal year with 40 members. After adding Jane Meyer in February 2020, & adding & losing Joe Herr this year, STOC remains at 41 members. Liv moved and Nancy seconded to accept the financial reports.

Bucky Books: Dan Berg reported that there will be an option to get a hard copy book and/or an online platform where books will be shipped to the customer. STOC will provide a logo and John will write a summary of our activities.

Kwik Trip-Kathy Johnson: she reported that the charitable earnings would be meager (e.g., \$5 on a \$100 gift card purchased by a member with \$0 return on gasoline purchases and 5% on in-store purchases), so she and Bob recommend that we not participate in the Kwik Trip Scrips Program.

Happy Dollars: \$1,126 (per 7/1) + \$47 + \$46 = \$1,219 total

Football CRZR Fundraiser: 19 sold/\$220 paid/\$160 due = \$380 Total

Program Update: we have guest Speakers through August 19.

20/21 Officers/Newsletter: Kathie Newman has accepted the position of President and John Fons will assume responsibility from Liv for the newsletter.

Culvers Update: Rick C. reported that he is working with management for a September 22 date, if possible.

Adjourn to August 11, 2020 via Zoom. at 5:45 Bob motioned; Liv seconded to adjourn; passed unanimously.

5:45 p.m. Foundation Board Meeting Called to Order: Scholarship Award Deferments. \$17,800 in bank. Request for \$1000 scholarship deferment until 2021 due to COVID motioned by Rick T, seconded by Kathy J to defer her scholarship until 2021. Steve motioned and Nancy seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Johnson, Secretary

**SAUK TRAILS OPTIMIST CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via Zoom**

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

MINUTES

PRESENT: John, Rick T, Rick C., Kathie N., Kathy J., Nancy, Bob W. **ABSENT:** Liv, Steve, Ted S.
The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m.

- 1. Welcome/Agenda Additions: \$16 Zoom subscription:** is being paid by John as a club contribution but for the 2020-21 fiscal year, this will be included in the STOC budget and paid by the club. **Annual Golf Outing:** Bob will explore if members would be interested in playing on a Saturday in September. **Lussier Christmas Party:** Rick C. reported that due to COVID, the party will very likely be canceled. Sept. Culvers is canceled.
- 2. Approval of Minutes from 7/12/20:** tabled until September meeting
- 3. Financial Reports:** operating cash balance is \$5,987 and is expected to remain about there through 9/30/20 end of fiscal year. This is about \$1,500 higher than normal year-end - will consider transferring some to Foundation in September. Vanguard investment is up 22% overall over past two years. Virtual Bratfest earned STOC \$247! 2020 Scholarships are all paid. Operating net income currently is \$1,830 vs 2020 budget of \$600 loss. This is due to \$700 budgeted for year-end annual banquet (canceled) and related expenses, only \$90 in guest meals this year, speaker and plaque expenses way down from budget, STOC ahead almost in meal revenues and net expenses due to billings with Radisson, new members dues \$100 over budget and savings of about \$200 with two SWIS conferences cancelled. Amount available for grants should be about the same as last year's \$5,900. Membership still at 41. Kathy J. motioned to accept reports and Kathy N seconded. Unanimous approval.
- 4. ISADEx Invoice:** STOC website started on 8/1 a few years ago, which does not coincide with our fiscal year. We are billed \$35 for domain name and \$360 for annual web services. Last year we waited until the new fiscal year to pay and got cut off for a few days! Bob renegotiated the annual service to an October 1 start but not the domain name. Bob motioned & Rick seconded to pay the \$35 fee now – Approved.
- 5. Grant Application Review/Edit:** this year's edit includes how applicant heard about the grant. Apps due 9/5. Rick will submit it for the August newsletter and John will send out by e-mail. Rick to let Board know of progress by August 31.
- 6. Annual Banquet/Silent Auction:** due to COVID, the silent auction and banquet will not be held.
- 7. News from Optimist International: Dues; Social Media; HQ:** No increase in dues for 20/21. They created a social media policy to follow.
- 8. Nomination/Election of Sauk Trails Officers and Board Members:** officers and board members will be installed by Zoom during a noon meeting – need 14 members for a quorum. We need a vice president and have two two-year and one one-year positions to fill. Rick C. will continue. Steve and Liv's terms are up. The plan is to present the slate to the membership for a vote on August 19.
- 9. 2020 Super Optimist Sibs Day Postponement from September 26:** being postponed due to COVID.
- 10. Respect for Law August 26 – Communication with MPD-Honorees:** John received an email from the West District Captain, Tim Patton, saying he has selected police officers Joseph Buccellato and Daniel Sherrick. Each will name a charity for the STOC \$100 donation. Acting Chief Wahl and perhaps a commander also could be attending. John has invited guests from Zone 7 and the OI President to attend.
- 11. Football CRZR Fundraiser: 51 sold/19 remaining-STOC portion \$600. Happy Dollars: \$1484 to date**

Adjourn to September 8, 2020 via Zoom. at 6:07 motioned by Kathy J ; seconded by Nancy to adjourn; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Johnson, Secretary

Reminiscing About STOC Lunch Locations Over the Years

With the future status of our club lunch meetings hanging in the balance as we work our way through this pandemic, we thought it would be fun to look back at our lunch locations over the years.

When STOC started in October 1992, our meetings were held at Mountain Jack's located in the West Towne parking lot. We enjoyed it there until 2002 (they closed in 2003). We were then at Babe's from 2002 until 2010. They decided we didn't have a big enough group to use their meeting room every week. For a year and a half starting in March, 2010 we enjoyed excellent food at Sprechers. Unfortunately, they didn't have a meeting room which was large enough for us to grow.

Then in October, 2011, with Jacci as new club President, lunches became very interesting. We were at the Vintage for three months, then Claddaugh for two weeks (they didn't have a private room for us), Denny's for two weeks (Steve's all-time favorite!), and almost met at Bella Vita (the old TGI Fridays on Gammon Road), but they permanently closed the day before we were scheduled for lunch!

We have been enjoying lunches at the Radisson ever since, starting in February, 2012.

When we started in 1992, the weekly charge for lunch was \$6! It stayed at \$6 until 1999 but has been going up steadily over the next twenty years to our present level of \$15.

Hopefully we can all get together for lunch someday soon!

Bob Wortinger

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.

