

SWIS 'Combo-Zone' ZOOM Meeting, January 9, 2021

A SWIS 'Combo-Zone' ZOOM was held on Saturday morning, January 9th. The meeting started with a Welcome, Pledge, Introductions and ZOOM procedures for over 60 optimists who logged in. These Optimists represented their clubs with a presentation and/or to acquire information from other club optimists. There were 7 Lt. Governors who coordinated and facilitated in acquiring information about: Speaker and Programs Fundraising Ideas; and Youth Events, during the Pandemic and in the future. The information was recorded, with notes taken by Lt. Governor's, and have been combined and will be placed in the Resources area of the Leaderboard. *(With e-mail contact information available, ONLY Club/District officers have access in the Leaderboard of the SWIS Website).*

Speakers and Programs, Jerry Kuhn, Lt. Gov. Zone 1, Facilitator:

Mary Kuhn, Southwest Milwaukee club: Noted that their club generally has three things they look for in speakers and programs: Informative topics, having something to do with kids and whether the club can support them either financially or physically.

Jerry Kuhn, Southwest Milwaukee Club: Mentioned having hometown heroes as speakers. Such as parents of students who have served in the military, also firemen and first responders. He also talked about Christmas meals.

John Fons, Sauk Trails-Madison club and Governor-Elect: Talked about dealing with senior living facilities to have the facility use Zoom to have its residents listen to the club's programs. He also said that he had a roster of former speakers who could be used to increase enthusiasm among clubs that were having issues with membership and motivation. Happy Dollars in the club has been very successful.

Jerry Mislav, Menomonee Falls Club: Discussed that club's strong relationship with the school district. The club honors a student of the month 9 times per year and is using Zoom to continue to meet. Several other clubs noted that they have similar student programs. He mentioned that speakers at meetings could be a draw as new members. Also Scholarship parents could make great members. He mentioned using the High School Website to help in recruiting new members and asking High School grads from Badger Sports or just Badger students to be members. Jerry is planning on sending SOM criteria for distribution.

Todd Paulus, Menomonee Falls Club: Mentioned that creativity draws us to things cash raffles, golf outings.

Amanda Szymkowski, Milwaukee Club: Shared about using Google Meet for meetings since it has no time limit and is free to users.

Fund Raising, Todd Paulus, Lt. Gov. Zone 2, Facilitator:

Todd Paulus, Menomonee Falls Club: Shared that a Packer Raffle most years, is offering eight tickets to a Packer game as the top prize. This year, because of COVID, the raffle prizes were cash awards. The club also has a scholarship golf outing, a chili dinner, a trivia contest and a bags tournament. A raffle license is needed to operate a raffle. Other fund raisers discussed were meat raffles and "Happy Dollars". Todd also noted that their club sponsors a leaf raking by kids program, with the youth groups splitting the donations based on the number of their members participating.

Penny Simmons, McFarland Club: Shared that their club made "Santa Hotline Calls" charging \$5 per child or \$10 per family to have kids talk with Santa, which was very successful.

Jerry Kuhn, Southwest Milwaukee Club: Shared that their club did a Brat Fry through Sendiks markets using another organization's 501 (c) (3) to raise funds for that organizations with the club supplying the manpower.

Youth Activities: Elizabeth VanNatta, Lt. Gov. Zone 5, Facilitator:

Lee Sorenson, Cross Plains Club: Discussed their Santa visits program and how they had curbside pickup of the treat bags this year. They also give \$25 Barnes and Noble gift cards to their Student of the Month selections. Lee mentioned that they include elementary and Catholic schools in their Student of the Month program. They have a format that they send to the school laying out the Student of the Month program. He also mentioned that they have a Scholarship Program for the High School. A plaque is given to each student in the Student of the Month program and another plaque is kept in the school showing each year's names of winners. They also give a donation of \$150.00 each month to the schools.

Maureen Crombie, Sun Prairie Club: Discussed Tri-Star basketball and said they would be having it outside this year, scheduled for April 24th. Maureen mentioned the Sun Shine Supper where all are welcome. They conduct drive thru meals. Also work with the Original FFA program and Black Student organization. They inquire on what the students are doing for the community. Maureen mentioned that clubs should post happenings in the local newspaper and face book to promote the Optimist Club. She also shared about perhaps once a year, students could talk about what is happening and then post that on face book for students and parents.

Jo'El Pearlman, Kenosha Club: Discussed the Oratorical contest and encouraged clubs to participate this year, even if it is virtual.

Todd Paulus, Menomonee Falls Club: Mentioned that they hold a fishing derby and a Post Prom for Junior's until 4:00 pm before the students are free to go. Their schools determine who to honor for the "Do the right thing award".

John Fons, Sauk Trails-Madison club and Governor-Elect: John talked about Student of the Month should honor the best and talked about having a club within a club.

Virtual Oratorical Location 'General' Suggestions: Jerry Mislant questioned whether a Church would do streaming. Todd Paulus mentioned maybe Google Doc. Jo'El Pearlman will check with other Districts about Google Doc. Phil Sheahan mentioned working with churches to be able to hold an indoor Oratorical Contest. Cory Ann St. Marie-Carls said her sister started a you tube channel with a small amount of cost. The club would need a certain number of members to get it free. (*Suggestions in Resource area of SWIS Website*).

Barb Brinkmann, Leadership Dev. Chair: Mentioned Google meets. She said that the school must require the club to meet in order to get in.

Amy Soleimani-Mafi, SWIS Fitness Chair: Amy mentioned club fitness and asked if anyone has new ideas to contact her. Her information is listed on the SWIS Website.

Thanks to **Fred Dorn**, Lt. Governor Zone 7 and **Dave Lowe**, Lt. Governor Zone 3 for providing the notes that day. Also thanks to Phil Sheahan, for recording on January 9th and updating the notes taken besides facilitating the technical needs during the 1 hour session.

Bonnie Spindler, SWIS Lt. Governor Zone 6