

Central Macomb Optimist Club

Volume XII, No 4 (135)

Club # 17-504

JANUARY 2016

From Pat's Desk . . .

January begins our 2Q in Optimists and we have already served hundreds of children in our community (I won't go over the list ... just see the December Newsletter!)

Please help me welcome our two new members Bill Konrad and Aaron Monacelli. Our club is now +2 members which translate into our ability to service about 70 more kids each year.

We were honored with a visit from our District Governor, Steve Sucher, on January 6th. His motto is "Stand Tall For Youth". Congratulations to Dan Kardasz, our Immediate Past President who led us to becoming an Honor Club during the 2014-15 Optimist Year. Dan and the CMOC will be awarded during the 2Q meeting in Bay City on February 6th.

We have lots of volunteer opportunities for our club members. Take a look and let me know if you have any interest in either leading an effort or participating on a committee.

As always, let's focused on our goals to:

- 1) Grow Membership (who wouldn't want to join our club!),
 - 2) Ensure every member participates on a committee during the year and
 - 3) HAVE FUN
- ... All while we're helping others in our communities.

Give me a call if you have any ideas, questions or concerns.

Pat RM at (586) 731-1831



President
Pat Rabaut Miller
.....

Internal VP
Fred Lyon
.....

External VP
Teresa Edwards
.....

Secretary
Elaine Lyon
.....

Treasurer
Kathy Vatalaro
.....

Directors (2015-17)
Julie Gola
Kathy Kirby
Elaine Robb

Directors (2014-16)
Dave Fries
Kim Oakes
Jan Zambelli
.....

Immediate Past President
Dan Kardasz

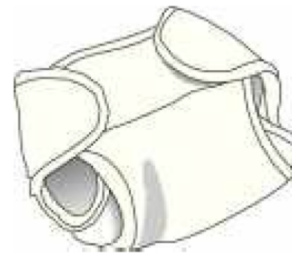
Welcome!

Two new members, Bill Konrad and Aaron Monacelli, were installed into our club on January 6th by President Pat Rabaut Miller and Michigan District Governor, Steve Sucher.



Diaper Drive for the Benefit of Turning Point

We were honored to have Karan Battes-Gasior join us from Turning Point to tell us about this amazing organization. Turning Point will be the recipient of the diapers collected during our Diaper Drive (& meeting) on February 17th. We're hoping for car-loads of diapers to deliver to this noble organization. During her talk, Karan informed us that Turning Point supports the community in a variety of ways including support victims of domestic violence through 'prevention education', how to have a 'health relationship'; how not to be a passive bystander when witnessing any type of violence; etc. In addition to diapers, Karan shared that there is also a need for paper products such as toilet paper, tissue, cleaning products, paper towels, etc. The CMOC Board approved a donation towards this type of product. So in addition to the diapers the membership is donating we will, as a club, also be donating lots of paper products. Yeah team!!!!!!



More Beanie Babies Delivered!

Thanks to Sue and Dan Kardasz efforts, 50 beanies are being given to an elementary school principal in Toledo Oh to use with students who might be stressed. Sue explains that she met the principal's brother during Donor Breakfast the Mount Clemens Y. They also shared that during the breakfast, photos of the Healthy Halloween event at the Y, including the backpacks we donated, was playing in an overhead slideshow. Another wonderful way to get our message out that we "Bring Out The Best In Kids"!

St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance



Once again we will have live music by Rick & Dayna Lieder and catering by our very own, Roasanne's (Merecki) Custom Catering. Each year our committee led by Kathy Kirby, Elaine Lyon, and Jan Zambelli create an amazing event! Do you have a gift or money donation for this effort? Just call them about your donation (numbers are on the flyer). I've had a few say, "but I don't dance". That's ok. If you love music make sure you at least tap your foot! Tickets are available through Elaine Lyon at \$45 each. Invite your friends and family! It's a great way to get to know the member of our club and learn about the great things we do for our community.

Stevenson High School donation, thanks to Rose Merecki!

Member, Rose Merecki, approached our Board about donating to the needs of homeless or needy children attending Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights. Rose works at this school and was approached by a counselor at the school. Your Board of Directors approved donating \$500 towards the needs for these kids for clothing items (e.g. jeans, shoes) as well as other items needed by the kids on an individual basis. Thanks Rose for bringing this need to our attention!

Hand Knitted Scarfs Donation, thanks Pat Losinski!

Once again, many thanks to member, Pat Losinski for her generous donation of hand knitted scarfs. After our meeting, three members purchased three of the scarfs for a total of \$90 towards our Club's donation to the Dollar A Day to Optimist International Foundation. The remaining three scarfs will be raffled off during our Soup & Chili Cook-Off on Feb 3rd.

Reel Optimism:

Every Optimist Club in the International community is challenged to create a video about their club, which can be submitted up until April 15. This year's theme is "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others." The 2016 categories that we could participate in include Club Showcase and Put Your Optimism on Display. Clubs winning this competition will earn their club \$1,000 grant!



For more information, here is the link to the contest rules along with last year's winners. They are a lot of fun to watch. <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/reeloptimism.cfm>

Volunteers needed - -

We are looking for volunteers for the following committees or activities:

- Reel Optimism video producer (deadline April 15)
- Newsletter Editor

Mark Your Calendars!

We hope that all of our members can participate in at least one of our events including:

- **February 3 (Go to Debbie Doran's home NOT the Hamlin Pub):** Soup & Chili Cook-Off. Categories include cream and broth soups and chili. Is your soup worthy of the engraved soup ladle? Time will tell. Chair: Debbie Doran
- **February 6 (Saturday):** Michigan District Optimist 2Q Conference
- **February 17 (Wed meeting):** Diaper Drive for the Benefit of Turning Pointe. Chair: Elaine Lyon
- **March 12 (Saturday):** St Pat's Day Dinner Dance. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and a great party. Chairs: Kathy Kirby, Elaine Lyon & Jan Zambelli
- **April 27 (Wed):** Oratorical Contest at the JJC. Chair, Sue Kardasz
- **May 4th:** Club New Optimist Welcome (NOW) meeting. Chair: Rose Merecki
- **May 18:** Annual CMOC elections
- **May 21:** Macomb County Optimist Club Junior Golf Tournament at Cracklewood, Regional Chair, Dan Kardasz
- **June 30:** Optimist International Convention in Quebec City – See Dave Fries for more information.