

Central Macomb Optimist Club

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From Pat's Desk . . .

The Holidays are fast approaching and the CMOC has many events to help celebrate the season through giving back to our community and fellowship. All of these activities

are designed to meet our goals to help

- 1) Grow Membership (who wouldn't want to join our club!),
- 2) Ensure Every Member Participates on a Committee and
- 3) HAVE FUN!

During our Oct 21 meeting, I was honored to be able to install our first new member to the CMOC. Haydn Peterson is an Oakland University student and works at Office Max. Please help me welcome him to our club.



Upcoming events are listed in this newsletter. Please invite your family and friends to join us to celebrate life, the season and all for the benefit of helping the kids.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions just give me a call.

Pat RM



President

Pat Rabaut Miller

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Internal VP

Fred Lyon

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External VP

Teresa Edwards

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Secretary

Elaine Lyon

.....

Treasurer

Kathy Vatalaro

.....

Directors (2015-17)

Julie Gola

Kathy Kirby

Elaine Robb

Directors (2014-16)

Dave Fries

Kim Oakes

Jan Zambelli

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Immediate Past

President

Dan Kardasz

Michigan District 1Q Conference

Seven members (Elaine, Fred, Barry, Dave Teresa, Haydn, and Pat) from the Central Macomb Optimist Club attended the 1Q District Conference in Troy, MI. Club president, Pat Rabaut Miller was installed onto the District Board as the president of the CMOC and our newest member, Haydn Peterson participated in the "First Timers" activity. During the conference members attended workshops on Membership, PGI, Junior Golf, New Club Building, etc. and Board Members Elaine and Pat attended club officer workshops.



BIG Thanks to Debbie Doran

Big thanks to Debbie Doran who gave us 4 sets of 2 tickets to the Macomb Center for Performing Arts. This became a \$90 fundraiser for our club. Thank you so much for your generosity.

CMOC Award:

Our club was awarded with a new banner patch for our participation in the 2014-15 Dollar A Day (or \$365) donation to the Optimist International Foundation (OIF). Money donated to the Foundation supports the various scholarship programs such as Junior Golf and Oratorical Contest. OIF also selects individual clubs to award with grant money for their activities. See our OIF Chair, Dave Stevens, if you would like a tax deductible donation to the Foundation.

Healthy, Happy Halloween at the Y in Mt Clemens



Thanks to CMOC volunteers Samantha Henderson, Dianne Sinning, Leslie Schaefer and Tanya Grillo for helping the Y staff the fun-filled activities during the Healthy Happy Halloween. The club provided 250 backpacks, filled with healthy treats, for the kids as they entered the Y. Special thanks to Al Vergillio for providing the healthy snacks that were put into the backpacks and to Sue Kardasz for planning the event again this year.

The Right Step Foundation

It was a pleasure to have Sue Vergillio join us during our meeting on November 4th. Sue is the founder of The Right Step, a foundation to help under-insured children with physical disabilities get needed occupational therapy. Sue's commitment to these children was apparent as she shared stories about how the use of horses can provide a unique form of physical exercise to a child who is unable to walk. Sue and Al Vergillio, long time members of our club, always step up to the plate when asked to provide donations and support to our ongoing efforts to bring out the best in kids. It's always good to see them.



Membership Growth



Did you know that for every member, we can support 35 children in our communities? Currently, the CMOC has 56 members so we can support nearly 2,000 kids annually? Since our club is so active, the number is probably higher. Each member is encourage to consider inviting family and friends to join us to support the kids in our area. Membership growth is also a part of Personal Growth and Involvement (or PGI). PGI is the process to learn about Optimist International as well as our club as you become more actively involved in our projects. (Dot Hardy is our PGI Chair). President Pat Rabaut Miller was honored to receive a "15 Member" growth pin, from Immediate Past President Dan Kardasz during the November 4 meeting.

November / December Calendar of Events

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

- **Nov 21 (Saturday):** Bring your kids and grand kids to join fellow Optimists as we march down Main Street Santa Parade in downtown Mount Clemens. (Details will be provided once received)
- **Dec 7 (Wednesday):** Our annual Christmas Auction. Come join in on the fun and fellowship all for the benefit of a special family selected by the Macomb Charitable Foundation. All family and friends are welcome – please RSVP your count to Kathy Searle (See attached flyer for more information.)
- **Nov/Dec:** Volunteers will shop for items from the MCF family's Christmas List to ensure our adopted family has the best Christmas possible. Our club donates about \$1,200 towards this effort, based on the proceeds from the Christmas Auction. Donna Onifer is leading this effort. Please contact her if you want to shop and wrap the gifts.
- **Dec 12 (Saturday):** Wreaths Across America in honor of our Veterans at Resurrection Cemetery. Barry Burham has asked that the members of Central Macomb Optimist Club and our community to participate in the Wreaths Across America event on December 12 (a Saturday). For \$15 you can purchase a wreath that will be placed on a Veterans grave in honor of their service. You club has contributed \$150 towards this event once again this year. Barry is also looking for volunteers. Contact Barry for more information. (See attached flyer for more information.)
- **January Lottery:** One of our biggest fundraisers will be conducted during November & December once again for the benefit of The Right Step Occupational Therapy Foundation. Kathy Vatalaro is our chair for this event. Each member will receive 10 tickets in the mail to sell to their family and friends. If you need more, just contact Kathy.

