

Central Macomb Optimist Club

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Club # 17-504

FEBRUARY 2016

From Pat's Desk . . .

Special thanks to Debbie & Rich Doran, for opening their home to our membership and guests for the CMOC's annual soup and chili cook-off. In all we had about 30 'tasters' and judges for the event. Our chief judges Pat Losinski and Delores Darios counted the votes, declaring Cindy Krzezewski as the "Best of 2016" with her lemon rice soup (which was delicious).

Congratulations to Dan Kardasz who led us to become an Honor Club during the 2014-15 Optimist Year.

Read all about our upcoming events including our Diaper Drive on February 17th.

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

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Internal VP
Fred Lyon

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External VP
Teresa Edwards

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Secretary
Elaine Lyon

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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

DID YOU BUY YOUR TICKET YET to the St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance???

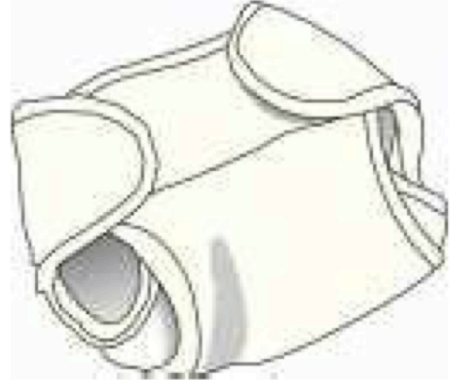


Once again we will have live music by Rick & Dayna Lieder and catering by our very own, Roasanne's (Merecki) Custom Catering. Each year our committee led by Kathy Kirby, Elaine Lyon, and Jan Zambelli create an amazing event! Do you have a gift or money donation for this effort? Just call them about your 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.

Diaper Drive for the Benefit of Turning Point

BRING YOUR DIAPERS, for Turning Pointe, to our next meeting (Feb 17th). We are hoping for carloads of diapers to deliver to this noble organization. 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, 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!!!!!!!



Soup Winners (drum roll please . . .)

Congratulations to our soup winners including: Cindy Krzezewski (cream); Deb Doran (cream) and Don Gumm (chili). Overall winner was Cindy Krzezewski with her excellent Lemon Rice soup. YUM!!!!



Hand Knitted Scarves Donation, thanks Pat Losinski & Sue Kardasz!



During our Soup / Chili cook-off we had a lot of food, fun and fellowship. Many thanks to member, Pat Losinski for her generous donation of four hand knitted scarves, which were auctioned off for a total of \$87 towards our OI Foundation "Dollar A Day donation from our Club. Additionally, Sue Kardasz' fruit pie garnered \$20 for the benefit of OIF. OF COURSE, we can't neglect thanking Kathy Searle who has discovered a new talent as auctioneer.

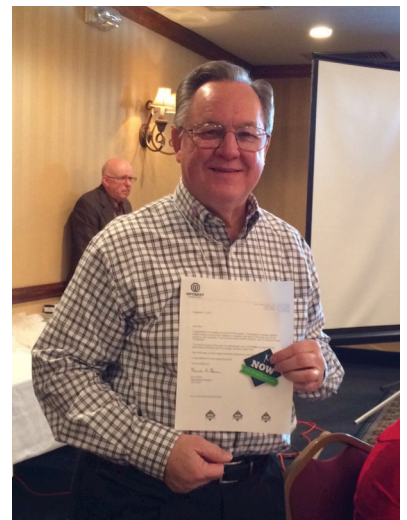
The generosity of our membership is amazing.



Gracy was very happy with her new scarf thanks to the bidding efforts of Papa Fred; the “bones” of our club Treasurer Kathy Vatalaro and Secretary Elaine Lyon; touch is important during an intense bidding ware as demonstrated by Kathy Kirby.

2Q Michigan District Conference

Immediate Past President, Dan Kardasz, accepted the Honor Club recognition for his efforts during the 2014-15 Optimist Year. To become an Honor Club the criteria is to complete at least 3 service projects (of course we had many more); grow our membership and ensure our dues are paid to both Ol and to the District. Thank you Dan for leading us last year (and the previous year!) and congratulations on receiving this recognition.



The Central Macomb Optimist Club had 8 members participate in the District Conference. We also have many District leaders in our club including Sue Kardasz and Elaine Lyon are the Co-Chairs for NOW / New Optimist Welcome; Pat Rabaut Miller is the Co-Chair for New Club Building (NCB) along with Charlie King; Richard Paul is our Zone’s Lt Governor; and both Dave Fries & Barry Burnham both belong go to the Past Governor’s Association. We are well represented in many ways.



Beanie Babies Continue to Make a Difference!

Long time fan of the CMOC, Kay Hauser, requested 150 Beanie Babies for a doctor heading to the Philippines on a surgical mission. Sue Kardasz willingly delivered them to them to help comfort these children during a time of need. It's amazing how far our club reaches across the globe! Continued thanks to Sue and Dan Kardasz for ensuring that we always have Beanies ready when we receive the call.



Mark Your Calendars!

Membership is critical to our continued success as a Club so we will be having a NOW meeting (or New Optimist Welcome) on May 4th during our normal meeting times. Rose Merecki has agreed to chair this committee. Think about your friends and family members who you want to 'hang' with and who are as passionate as we are about kids. Of course you don't have to wait until May 4th to invite folks to join on the fun.

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 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 – Chair: Barry Burnham
- **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.