

Central Macomb Optimist Club

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Club # 17-504

January 2017

Shine on . . .



Central Macomb Optimist Club was shining brightly during the First Quarter (October through December, 2016) of this Optimist Year. In November the club welcomed 6 NEW Optimist Members. With each member an Optimist Club has we are able to care for and support 35 youth. 6 members gives the club the capability of helping 210 additional youth!

Welcoming **Katie Calderone**, sponsored by Elaine Lyon, **Laura Freestone** sponsored by Dan Kardasz, **Lauren Dallas** and **Leesa Paul** sponsored by Richard Paul, **Marge Howard** sponsored by Pat Rabaut Miller and **Bobbie Gregory** sponsored by Sue Kardasz. Please make sure to welcome and introduce yourselves to our newest members! New members bring new ideas and new enthusiasm. I wish each of these new members a long, rewarding time with this club.

***Kudos** to our member **Pat Losinski** who has so kindly knitted and given for auction at a variety of club events a beautiful selection of winter scarves. Pat was please to share that her "scarf auctions" have raised \$522. All monies raised was donated to the Optimist International Foundation on behalf of CMOC. Way to go, Pat. Pat told me she was getting out of the scarf business for awhile but her knitting needles will continue to "shine" as she resumes making beanie baby blankets for the ongoing Beanie Donation Project! No matter a scarf or little blanket, knitting and crochet are labors of love.

***Kudos** to **Dolores Darios** who picked up supplies to wrap and bag 100 beanies at home before leaving for a trip to Hawaii! She felt "guilty" not being able to be at a Beanie Swaddle night held while she was gone. Aloha, Dolores

***Kudos** to **Bobbie Gregory** who has taken up crochet after a 30 year hiatus! She is encouraging her friends to make beanie blankets with her
Our Beanie Program continues to grow with over 14000 of these cute cuddly creatures being wrapped and donated to youth by CMOC. Our donations this quarter were 800 beanies to Big Family of Michigan and 100 to Sandcastles Grief Support for Kids!
And...Yes, CMOC continued to their shining ways in the community this Christmas season! Read on....

You are all "stars" to the youth we serve! Let's keep shining.

President

Sue Kardasz

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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

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Directors (2015-17)

Julie Gola

Kathy Kirby

Elaine Robb

Directors (2016-17)

Dave Fries

Dan Kardasz

Kathe Searle

.....

Immediate Past

President

Pat Rabaut Miller

Shine on

Sue

President Central Macomb Optimist Club

2016 - 2017

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Trivia Night...not so trivial an evening!

CMOC held their 1st Annual Trivia Night that was rated an A+ successful fundraising event! Thank you to **Ginger Anderson** for organizing and chairing this evening of fun, questions, laughs, teamwork and of course TRIVIA! Thanks goes to **Dave Kiger, Nancy Kiger, Bill Konrad, Lana Montgomery and Haydn Peterson** and last but not least “**The QuizMaster**” for leading us in questions and useful information. Hopefully this event will be the first of more Trivia Nights! If you weren't there, you missed a great Friday evening! We even had a few prizes and some winners while raising money for the kids we help along the way.



CMOC's HOLIDAY Season was full of a variety of fun activities.



Our first dose of HOLIDAY Spirit was felt when **Teresa Edwards** represented CMOC in the Macomb County **Santa Parade** with a variety of representatives from other Macomb County Optimist Clubs. Thanks to CMOC member, **Al Vergilio**, for providing a generous supply of candy and sweets to pass out to the parade watchers. It's always an honor to usher Santa into Macomb County to kick off the Christmas season for the kids.

The **Christmas Auction Fundraiser** was over the top this year thanks to co-chairs **Kathe Searle** (aided by her talented elf, **Gil Searle**) and **Teresa Edwards**. With a beautiful buffet and cheery drinks, warmth, generosity and the Christmas spirit were all felt in the meeting room that evening as we raised funds to support our **Adopt A Christmas Family through Macomb Charitable Foundation (MCF)**. We had a ton of gifts that our very able auctioneer, Kathe, was able to “send home” with the highest bidder. Thank you to the elf helpers **Lynn, Debbie D, Cindy, Lynette, Donna** and all of our members and guests who made the event successful. Of course no auction would be complete without the help of **Kathy V**, who keeps tab of “how much we all spend”! I'm enjoying my handmade, hand tied fleece blanket I walked away with from the auction. Dan is busy trying to figure out what to fill the crockpot with that he won at the auction. Maybe something for the Soup and Chili Cook-Off on February 1?





We raised money and our **Club Shoppers** hit the malls and online to stretch that Christmas auction money the furthest to get the most for our **Christmas Family**. Super Shoppers this year were **Julie, Kathe, Teresa, Sally, Kathy V, Susie M, Elaine R, Cindy, Michelle, Lynette, Bobbie, Richard and Leesa P and Sue and Dan**. I know **Elaine Lyon** shopped too and ORGANIZED the entire shopping experience including making sure all of our gifts were wrapped and labeled and delivered to Cracklewood Golf Course on time for the family to pick up the following day. I do believe each child received what they had on their Christmas list. Mom's wishes were met and we had enough monies to spend for family items such as gift cards for food, paper towels and toilet paper! Each of you, whether you shopped or spent at the auction, made a difference in the lives of those in the most need.



CMOC also helped **BIG Family of Michigan** with a donation of 800 beanies for their Christmas bags delivered to foster children. Along the way, CMOC purchased 200 pair of warm gloves that were included in the Christmas Packages. **Dan K** is an expert at filling the cart with gloves and going through the speed lane to check out!



The holiday season is never complete until CMOC visits Ebeling Elementary School in Macomb to be presented with the mittens, hats and scarves that the children collected and had hung on the **Mitten Tree** (actually 3 Mitten Trees now) in their gathering area. **Richard Paul**, our Lt Governor and Charter Club Member has made sure the trees are set up each Thanksgiving and that the items are collected and distributed each holiday season. This is a long time event occurring since his daughter was an elementary school student at Ebeling. Daughter Jasmine is now in her 2-3rd year of college in Paris. Thank you Richard



for your dedication and for setting up the trees each year. This year's collected items were donated to Big Family of Michigan and Mittens for Detroit!

Our final before Christmas Day event was participation in **Wreaths Across America** at Resurrection Cemetery. **Retired Army Colonel Patricia Sellers**, a fellow CMOC member, spoke to the crowd at the American Veteran's Memorial Plaza at Resurrection Cemetery prior to a rifle salute and a laying of the wreaths to honor all branches of the American military. It is important to keep the memory alive of our fallen veterans who fought for our freedoms. Central Macomb made a generous donations of wreaths for grave placement. Remember to thank a Veteran when you see them.



On New Years Eve, the CMOC Board was presented with an emergency need from one of the 3 families who are due to lose their home and contents as part of the “**Fraser Sinkhole**”. For the family of 6 (mom, dad, 2 boys out of high school and 2 boys in Fraser Elementary School) CMOC was able to supply gift cards to Kohl’s and Target that allowed Mom to shop for the 2 youngest boys to get them ready to go back to school after the New Year. Thank you to **Elaine Lyon** for bringing this to our attention, shopping for the gift cards and getting them into the hands of the family in less than 24 hours on New Year’s Eve! **KUDOS to our Board of Directors.**

Wrapping Up...

- Let’s continue to shine in the 2nd Quarter of this Optimist Year
- Attend the **Soup and Chili Cook Off** on **February 1!** If you don’t cook soup or chili, we need rolls pop, ice! Contact Debbie Doran and Cindy (flyer attached) Friends welcome.
- Start getting your table together for the **St Pats Party on March 11.** This is **NOT** a “couples only event”! It is a **party** to raise money for “Shop With the Sheriff Day in August”. Can’t get a table together, I always have room for you at my table! Dress is casual, prizes are plentiful, food is delicious—(and did I say the food is the best thanks to members Bill and Rose Merecki), the entertainment will have everyone on the dance floor , - oh yes, **open bar!** All for \$45 per ticket. Contact Elaine Lyon (586-791-8006) or Kathy Kirby (586-222-5897) for tickets and further info. Friends and guests are welcome and encouraged.
- My door is always open to you and your ideas, thoughts questions and concerns. Call me.
- It is a pleasure to know all of you and as well as work for the common goal of supporting the youth in our community.
- Stay warm and Shine On.

Did you know?



Did you know that we have our own Facebook page? If you are on Facebook, consider “Liking” us. We post information about the CMOC events and activities. Here is our link ... or simply look up Central Macomb Optimist Club:
<http://www.centralmacomboptimist.org>

Also, we have our own Web Page too! Here is the link: <http://www.centralmacomboptimist.org>. Encourage for family and friends to take a look at our club though these pages to get our name out to our communities. Our WEBMASTER is our very own DOT HARDY.

Mark Your Calendars!

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

- **January 18:** Meeting, Hamlin Pub
- **February 1:** Soup and Chili Cook-Off at Deb Doran’s Home
- **February 11:** 2nd Quarter District Meeting, Lansing, Crowne Plaza
- **February 15:** Meeting, Hamlin Pub
- **March 1:** Meeting Hamlin Pub
- **March 11:** St Pat’s Party/Fundraiser Chesterfiled Lions Club

9th Annual Soup/Chili Cook-Off

Bring a friend to share some Optimistic fun!



Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 6 PM

Where: Debbie & Rich Doran's house at 20895 Miles Street, CTownship. South off of Little Mack, south of Harrington and west of Groesbeck. Phone is 586-219-9783

RSVP: Debbie Doran at 586-219-9783 or ddoran@shoreviewelectric.com
Cindy Krzezewski at 586-792-9193 or cindykrzez@gmail.com

Cindy and Debbie are looking for soup/chili cooks, side salads, desserts, condiments.. Please contact one of these ladies and let them know if you plan to attend and what you can bring. Your guests are WELCOME too. If you are not cooking a soup/chili consider bringing a salad, rolls or desert. Call to see what is still needed. We will also circulate the list again at our January 18 meeting at Hamlin Pub. Come hungry! Don't forget a "muffin/cupcake pan" to carry your sample soup/chili cups in for tasting!!!

Soup Categories:

1. Chili
2. Clear / Broth Soup
3. Cream Soup

Judging: All cook-off participants, members and guests will participate in the judging. Ballots will be distributed at the door.

Contest Rules:

- ✓ **Soups/Chilis must arrive at Doran's house between 5:30 - 5:45 for set up**
- ✓ Soups/Chilis will be numbered for the judging. The chef's name will be secret until after the judging.



Prizes: Three (3) prizes will be awarded including best for each category as well as the "Best Of 2017" Soup Ladle.

Previous Winners: *Keith Rengert, Karen Tucker, Julie Gola, Judy Sinclair, Terri Kowal, Kathy Vatalaro, Cindy Krzezewski*

Admission: Don't forget your scratch-off lottery tickets or a monetary donation to purchase scratch off lottery tickets to be used for a GRAND Prize at the St Pat's Party on March 11, 2017