



# Central Macomb Optimist Club

Volume 7, No 5

May 2010

OPTIMIST CLUB 17-504



## Club Awards \$3,000 For Kids "serving underprivileged children in and around our community"

### Dinner-Dance Pays Off For Kids



Shelly Penzien & Susan Schwark of Macomb Charitable Foundation accept \$3,000 check from President Elaine on behalf of Optimists from the March St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance Project.

### Jim Kaza - Jr. Optimist Golf Tournament

"Help Wanted.. Hour or two"



Jim Kaza was guest speaker at our April meeting. Jim is chairman of the Jr. Optimist Golf Tournament which takes place on May 22nd (beginning at noon) at the St. Clair Shores Country Club. Our club will be sponsoring several children.



Please let President Elaine know if you can help (1-2 hours) with this Children's Cancer Campaign project event.

### It's a GIRL ! Madison ! Congratulations Jeff & Aileen !

Optimist Jeff Sprys and his wife, Aileen were blessed with a baby girl on Friday, April 16th. Madison weighed in at 4 lbs 12 oz - 19 inches long. Congratulations to the Sprys family !

50/50 Winners Rose Pipia & Fred Lyon

### Braggs and Fines

- Donna:** Wins again (her daughter this time)
- Pat:** Great to get back from trip to Alabama?
- Donna:** Attended UP Special Olympics swimming event. Great experience.
- Keith:** Oratorical - Thanks Cindie & Passport Pizza. Great to have Janet Dunn at meeting & welcome Madison (Sprys) to the Optimist family.
- Barry:** Lou Moss nominated for Athena Award - Congratulation on such a great honor.
- Craig:** Very proud of daughter... she also received a promotion at work.
- Cindie:** Christina & Jason moved to new home in Ferndale and receive 6% raise at work.

### May Birthdays

- 10 Fred Lyon
- 11 Fred Vatalaro
- 15 Mark Hackel
- 30 Keith Rengert



Dues: \$10 per month (\$40 new member fee)  
 Meeting dates: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month  
 May 5 - Regular Meeting - Hamlin Pub @ 7 pm  
 May 19 - Regular Meeting - Hamlin Pub @ 7 pm  
 All regular meetings at - Hamlin Pub (22 & Hayes)  
 New Members & Guests Welcome!

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[www.centralmacomboptimist.com](http://www.centralmacomboptimist.com)

### Central Macomb Optimist Club

- President  
Elaine Lyon
- Internal V.P.  
Barry Burnham
- External V.P.  
Donna Onifer
- Secretary  
Pat Rabaut Miller /  
Kelley McClellan
- Treasurer  
Kathy Vatalaro
- Directors (09-10)  
Craig Babcock  
Fred Lyon  
Rose Pipia
- Directors (10-11)  
Julie Gola  
Rose Merecki  
Dot Hardy



# Welcome New Member John Klatt



John Klatt was welcomed as our newest Central Macomb Optimist Club member on April 21st.

Special guests at that meeting were John Kaza, Debbie Selke and Susan Schwark.

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Mary Potts Guest Speaker

Mary Potts, Kinship Care Coordinator of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren was guest speaker on April 7th.

Mary noted that the mission of her program is to provide support, assistance and resources to families where the grandparents– or other family member is raising and has custody or guardianship over the child(ren). There are currently 560 families in their database with 90% of them residing in Macomb County.



The needs are great with 10 new families added to their program each month. For more information and/or assistance this worthwhile program, visit:  
[www.grandparentsraisinggrandchildren.org](http://www.grandparentsraisinggrandchildren.org)

# Boys & Girls Club Community Service Award

The Central Macomb Optimist Club was honored by the Shelby Township Boys and Girls Club with their Outstanding Community Service Award for 2009-2010.



## Deepest Sympathy To the Vatalaro Family

The Central Macomb Optimist Club condolences go out to the Vatalaro family on the passing of Kathy's sister Debbie Chaney.

## District Car Race

Fred is building a 2010 Chevy Camaro for the big race. This may not be the Indianapolis 500 or the Kentucky Derby but Fred assures our club a victory on May 15 (District meeting).

**By providing hope and positive vision,  
Optimists bring out the best in kids!**

## MEMBERS

- Craig Babcock
- Barry Burnham
- Jessica Campbell
- Janet Dunn \*
- Kathy Gayda
- Paul Gayan \*
- Julie Gola \*
- Mark Hackel
- Dorothy (Dot) Hardy
- Martin Hardy
- Dan Kardasz - (new)
- Sue Kardasz - (new)
- Patricia Kerich
- John Klatt (new)
- Paul Kowal
- Terri Kowal
- Bonnie Locke
- Barb Lyon
- Elaine Lyon
- Fred Lyon
- Rose Merecki
- Pat Rabaut Miller
- Karen Monville \*
- Donna Onifer
- Richard Paul \*
- Shelly Penzien
- Rose Pipia
- Keith Rengert \*
- Kelley Scalici
- Jeff Sprys
- Kim Steffen \*
- Cindie Szarek \*
- Karen Tucker
- Kathy Vatalaro
- Fred Vatalaro
- Sue Vergilio (new)
- Joe Wietecha
- David Wallis
- Bob Wallman

39 Total Members



# About Member ... Pat Rabaut Miller



**Pat's back yard with family and friends**

Pat Rabaut Miller moved to Shelby Township a couple of years after she became widowed, in 2002, so she could be closer to her family.

We met Pat in 2006 when three (3) Optimist Clubs in Macomb County hosted 14 Russian businessmen when they visited our area to learn more about the U.S. construction industry. She home hosted two of our guests (Alex & Max).



**The Russians**

During these 3+ weeks of home hosting, she had the opportunity to meet many of the members in the clubs. Seeing all the wonderful work the Optimists did for the kids in our community she became a member. She is also one of the founding members of the Troy Optimist Club.

Pat retired from AT&T Information Technologies in 2008 as a Senior Technical Team Leader. She managed people in three (3) different countries (US, Israel & India) and different locations. Her team was responsible for managing major system conversion in the ATT Advertising Division.

Since retiring she had dedicated her time to volunteerism including:

- Secretary / Board Member – Central Macomb Optimist Club
- Chair – Boy Scouts of America, Ojibwa District
  - Organization Chair – Shelby Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
  - Local Happenings Chair and Grief Support Facilitator – Widowed Friends
  - Volunteer for the PT/OT department – William Beaumont Hospital-Troy

Pat has traveled to 43 states and 18 countries over many years and expects to travel more in her retirement years.

In addition to volunteerism, Pat focuses on her family and friends. She enjoys traveling, golfing, cooking and simply enjoying life to it's fullest.



**The Fun**



**The Chili**



**Thanks Pat**



## Thank You Optimist ... Pat Rabaut Miller



## CENTRAL MACOMB OPTIMIST CLUB WILL AGAIN HOST EVENT AT MACOMB COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

*- Club will Emphasize the Need for Respecting the Law*

“We believe it is important for children to grow up with a strong belief in abiding by the law, respecting law enforcement thus the Central Macomb Optimist Club promotion of educational activities that support this belief.”

Through our club’s Respect for Law event, we partnered with L’Anse Creuse Public Schools and county public safety officials to encourage respect for law and the promotion of respecting law enforcement. The event will include a week of educational activities that will conclude with a forum where questions will be answered by a panel of experts.

- **Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2010**
  - **Time: 1 pm until 2:30 pm**
  - **Location: Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center**
  
  - Panel Participants (or representative).
    - Juvenile Justice Center - Director Chuck Siedelman
    - Macomb County Sheriff - Mark Hackel
    - Macomb County Prosecutor - Eric Smith
    - Macomb County Family Court Chief Referee- Dane DeRush
    - Probation Officer - Brian Daniels
    - L’Anse Creuse Public Schools - Program Coordinator John Klatt
    - Macomb County Board of Commissioners - Commissioner Susan Doherty
  - Agenda
    - Welcome & Opening - Jeff Sprys & Elaine Lyons
    - Thanks to Students; L’Anse Creuse School and Juvenile Justice Center staff
    - Introductions: Participants will give overview of responsibilities (1:10).
    - Prepared questions will be directed to panel members. (1:20 to 2:10)
    - Recognition of top student participants (2:10)
    - Poster Contest: “Respect for Law Week.” - Announce winners
    - Additional recognition.
    - Wrap-up: (2:20) PHOTOS OF PARTICIPANTS & STAFF
-

# Central Macomb Optimist - Event Calendar

- **May 5 (Wed)**      **Respect For Law @ JJC at 1 pm**
- **May 5**            **Regular Meeting- @ Hamlin - 7**
- **May 19**          **Regular Meeting- @ Hamlin - 7**
- **May 22**          **Jr. Optimist Golf Tournament - Noon at St. Clair Shores Country Club (call Elaine to volunteer)**

## Respect for Law Day at JJC on May 5th

*"We believe it is important for children to grow up with strong belief in abiding by the law..."*



"We believe it is important for children to grow up with a strong belief in abiding by the law, respecting law enforcement thus the Central Macomb Optimist Club will be promoting and directing activities at the Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center in support of this belief." ... Elaine Lyon.

This years event will take place on May 5th at 1 pm at the Juvenile Justice Center... an excellent event to observe. Hope to see many members in attendance this year.

## Club Elections Take Place in May

### Update on nominating committee slate of candidates

Donna Onifer announced that the nomination process is drawing to a close. Nominations for President; External Vice President; Internal Vice President and Directors are currently near completion. As of the last meeting of April the following individuals have accepted nominations: President - Kelley McClellan; Vice President (Internal/External) Paul Kowal and David Wallis; Board of Directors Fred Lyon, Donna Onifer, Rose Pipia and Sue Kardacs.

Any additional nominations can be made by contacting Donna Onifer. Both Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by the Chair.

Elections take place in May and the new officers begin their terms in October of 2010.



# Central Macomb Optimist Club

**Bringing Out The Best In Kids**



## The Optimist Creed - Promise Yourself ...

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all you friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

The Central Macomb Optimist Newsletter is published monthly. Please feel free to submit an article or photo of interest to the Co-Editors: Keith Rengert & Kim Steffen / [KRengert@Comcast.Net](mailto:KRengert@Comcast.Net)

### CENTRAL MACOMB OPTIMIST CLUB

PO BOX 380206

Clinton Township,

Michigan 48038-0061



# MAY



May 5 - Meeting @ 7 Hamlin Pub  
 May 19 - Meeting @ 7 Hamlin Pub

Hamlin Pub (Hayes & 22 Mile)

[www.michiganoptimists.org](http://www.michiganoptimists.org)