



NO-SNOOZE NEWS

***BREAKFAST OPTIMIST CLUB OF
KALAMAZOO***

February 2015

Volume 24, Number 5

**YES!
WE CAN.**

**2014-15
PRESIDENTIAL
GOALS**

***#1 To develop and
execute a new
Respect for Law
Program***

***#2 Increase the use
of Social Media as a
Marketing Tool***

***#3 Receive 501(c)3
Status for the Club***

#4 Be an Honor Club

**Weekly Meetings –
Thursday's at 7:30
am at Michelle's -
677 Romence Road
in Portage**

President's Comments

We are now in the middle of the second quarter and as you can see from the newsletter there are many exciting activities coming up between now and the end of the Optimist Year. This is our busy time and we can use everyone's help and involvement.

One of the ways you can help the Club is to pay your dues. Your funding helps to keep the Club strong and enables us to help more children in our community. Our Club must pay dues for each member on our roster every quarter. This costs us money whether you have paid your dues or not. I am Optimistic that no one wants to see the Club negatively impacted by this action, and will help us help children by sending in their money in a timely fashion.

I am very excited that we have our major projects in progress; Many have new people involved as committee chairs or committee members. I love to see the involvement and the enthusiasm. If you are interested in helping with the auction, the golf outing, or the Respect for Law program just let me know and I will help you contact the appropriate chairs. Thanks to Cathy Balik, Nick Arnold and Nicole Ingersoll for their leadership.

Just remember; YES WE CAN!

Lyn

February Speakers and Greeters

February 5 Lynn Ruskar – One Kid at a Time (Taste of Heaven)

Greeter: Elaine Catlin

February 12 Fellowship

Greeter: Terri Norman

February 19 Kristi Carambula – Seeds for Success

Greeter: Laurie Jepsen

February 26 Dave Campbell – Early Middle College

Greeter: Julie Vanderwater

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Val Lippincott	8 th
Terri Norman	14 th
Sarah Bleeker	15 th
Lyn Lenox	15 th
Julie Howes	17 th
Gina Ciolelli	18 th
Gene Kangas	19 th
Marilyn Gillette	26 th

EUCHRE –February 15th
@ Mary Ann Ampersee’s
from 3-5 pm. Hope to see
everyone this month.
Contact Terri Norman if you
plan to attend.

BOOK CLUB –

Feb. 3rd, 5:30 pm at
Panera Bread on West
Main. Book: **Gray
Mountain** by John Grisham
(Jan. meeting canceled due
to weather).

March. book: **Everything I
Never Told You** by Celeste
Ny.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Oratorical contest topic is “How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to the Greater Achievements of the Future.” The date of the contest is February 7, 2015, 10:00 am and will be held at the Greater Kalamazoo Association of Realtors. Contact Dan Mills (dtmills7750@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or wish to join us that day.



BOCK is holding their annual after the holiday food drive to help restock the pantry at Loaves and Fishes. I would like you to consider that 43% of the children in Kalamazoo live at or below the poverty line. Food insecurity is high for these children particularly on weekends when they do not have access to school food programs. We have so much in our lives that this is a good opportunity to share with those children who do not. Please consider donating even if you are not a BOCK member. Contact me if you would like to donate either food or make a cash donation at Marilyn.Lenox@optimistmail.org

YES WE CAN! PLEASE BRING BY THE FEBRUARY 12TH MEETING.



BOCK is going bowling. On Tuesday, February 10th, BOCK members are invited to an evening of bowling. We will meet at 6:00 pm at Airway Lanes on Portage Road across from the airport. Bowling skill is not required but having fun is! Please contact Mary Ann Ampersee for questions. RSVPs are not required but are helpful.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 5th - Essay Contest judging begins. Contact Chris Shults

February 7th - Oratorical Contest at GKAR at 10:00 am. Contact Dan Mills (dtmills7750@yahoo.com).

February 10th – Bowling at Airway Lanes at 6:00 pm. See article for more information.

February 28th - Chili Cook-off at MaryAnn Ampersee's at 1:30 pm. See article for more information.

June 14th - Annual CCC Golf Outing at the Prairies Golf Course. More details coming soon.

July 14th – Annual Right Start Auction at the Fetzer Center (note the new venue). More details coming soon.

January Raffle & 50/50 Winners

1/15 Mary Ann Ampersee & a guest

1/22 Terri Norman & Lyn Lenox-Bosma



CHILI-COOKOFF

Our annual Chili Cook Off will be held on Saturday, February 28, at the home of Mary Ann Ampersee. The time for the event is 1:30 pm. If you don't have a good chili recipe, no worries..we still need plenty of side dishes or desserts. It will be BYOB. You will have the opportunity to vote on the best chili in several categories. This is a very popular fellowship event and is a great time to see BOCK members and spouses that haven't been able to attend morning meetings. It is also a good time to get to know new members and to visit with long term members. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at morning meetings or contact Julie Howes at jlhowes217@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP

The club membership committee has reignited its purpose, to plan and conduct an active ongoing membership plan of action that will provide new memberships and also maintain and retain current members, thereby bringing fresh new ideas for BOCK's continued progress. To this end, some simple goals have been established: encourage all members to recruit new optimists, raise the club profile through various outreach tools, review the club member interest finder and reconnect members to their identified interests, and conduct a New Optimist Wanted (NOW) Meeting this optimist year.

The membership committee meets the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, after BOCK Book Club at Panera Bread, 5119 West Main, Kalamazoo. Please consider joining the meeting and sharing your thoughts and ideas about increasing and retaining membership to BOCK and Optimist International.

If you have any ideas or questions contact Dan Mills, Membership Chair, at dtmills7750@yahoo.com



YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Our weekly 50/50 progressive raffle is building. As of this newsletter we have \$129.00 that could be yours! Each week tickets are sold for \$1.00. If your ticket is drawn, you may pick a playing card in the hope that you draw the Joker. If you do—you win! If not, the card you drew is discarded and the pot continues to grow. This is a great idea and a good money maker for the Club. You must come to a meeting for a chance at the big prize so we look forward to seeing everyone at a Thursday meeting. Good Luck.

BAD WEATHER POLICY

As we face the uncertainty of winter weather, be sure to check on school closings. Don't forget that if Kalamazoo or Portage Public Schools are on a 2 hour delay-or closed-we will not hold our Thursday morning meeting.

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

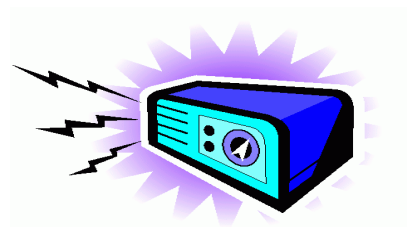
There is a quick and easy way to support the OI Foundation when you shop at Amazon. Every time you shop, AmazonSmile will donate .05% of the purchase price to the Foundation. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com search for the Optimist International Foundation. Select the Foundation as your charitable organization to receive the donations before you begin shopping. After you register on AmazonSmile, your Amazon shopping will remain the same but you will start by going to smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com. Why not give it a try and support the Foundation. It means we are "Helping Optimist Help Kids!"

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Congratulation to BOCK members who have the following Donor Levels for the Foundation.

Gary Addison	Copper	\$1000,000.00
Jan Oord Graves	Golden	\$50,000.00
BOCK	Silver	\$25,000.00
Wilma Vanloo	Honored	\$ 2,500.00

Thank you for everyone's generosity.



Breaking News

The Back to School fundraising event has been scheduled for Tuesday, **July 14, 2015** at WMU **Fetzer Center** from 6 to 9 pm. Besides drawing the winning raffle tickets for **\$1000**, \$250 and \$100, a sit down dinner will be served before the live auction.

Stay tuned for more information

11TH ANNUAL CCC GOLF OUTING



The ground may not be thawed and your clubs may have collected some dust in the off season but that does not mean you can't start planning for the **11TH Annual CCC Golf Outing**. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 14th**. Our outing will be held at The Prairies Golf Club on W. Main in Kalamazoo. It is a four person 18-hole scramble to raise funds for childhood cancer. More details will be coming soon. If you are interested in being on the planning committee, please contact **Nicole Ingersoll** at (269) 217-0513 or ingers007@yahoo.com.

In Case You Missed It!



Speaker Kathleen LaFleur, (on right) Executive Director of Wellspring Theater at the Epic Center with President Lyn Lenox.

Wondering how dance can help our young ones learn, Katy shared with us about this great program. “With the 2013-14 pilot of the *ABCDance* program, we have been able to closely monitor the cognitive benefits of dance – and the evidence points to its effectiveness. Through targeting a subset of the Head Start program (ages 3-4 years), we focused on the improvement of early literacy skills in a whole-body, learning-through-movement program. The *ABCDance* students showed dramatic improvements over the control group in the standardized PELI tests, in the areas of alphabet knowledge and vocabulary. We are attracting new educational collaborators; after the implementation of the 2013-14 pilot years we have doubled our reach from 45 to 100 students.”

The program is offered free of charge through Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers, Kresa's Head Start Program, and grants through the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Stryker Foundation, and the Pfizer Foundation. Our teaching artists and assistants will be coming into classrooms twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from January 13, through February 19, 2015 for six weeks and again from May 12, through June 4, 2015 for four weeks. The ABCDance Program integrates the Head Start Curriculum with gross motor skills through dance, music and text and is geared towards development achievement levels in preparation for Kindergarten Readiness. The program uses fun, engaging, research-based, movement-and-literacy integrated activities in pursuit of pre-literacy skills. These skills will prepare young learners to achieve future success in all academic subjects by engaging them in language and movement activities.



Speaker Rick Serafini,
Massage Therapist



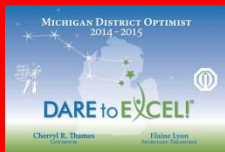
FIND US by clicking
on a link below:



**Breakfast Optimist Club
of Kalamazoo**



BOCK - Website



MICHIGANOPTIMISTS.ORG



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

CONTACT US AT:

BOCKZOO@YAHOO.COM

2014-2015 BOCK Board Members OFFICERS

President
President-Elect
Vice President
Secretary-Treasurer
Past President

Lyn Lenox -Bosma
Laurie Jefsen
Carmen Jonaitis
Linda Ingersoll
Cathy Balik

DIRECTORS

Community Service
Fellowship
Finance
Membership
Programs/Publicity
Youth Activities

Marcia Watts
MaryAnn Ampersee
Jeanette Meyer
Dan Mills
Alma McCarty
Linda Thompson

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 your 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 to 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.