

Capitol Correspondent



The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber of Commerce • April 2004

Lansing Jaycees
PO Box 16150
Lansing, MI 48901

(517) 853-8620
www.lansingjaycees.org

Region D
Population Division 7
Base Membership: 79

Welcome to Our Newest Members!!

Thomas Barger

Clark, Chip, & Barger LLP

Fennis Daniel

Systems Technology Group, Inc.

Kathie Dunbar

South Lansing Community Development

Matt Murphy

TopCoder Software

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The Lansing Jaycees is an organization of people ages 21-39 which promotes leadership training through community service.

We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6 pm at Tripper's Restaurant, in Frandor, Lansing. Visit our website for a map to the meeting location or call us at (517) 853-8620.

2004 Board of Directors

President

Sara Ballard (517) 388-1220

Chair of the Board

Amy Miller (517) 699-0048

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Angela Backus (517) 980-3759

Legal Counsel

Thomas Barger (517) 272-5144

Membership Development VP

Jimi Carolan (517) 706-0629

Community Development VP

Sheila Wiitala (517) 482-4615

Individual Development VP

Matt Wiitala (517) 482-4615

Management Development VP

John Pulice (517) 351-4315

Membership Development Director

Patrick O'Dell (517) 281-5192

Community Development Director

Rachel Pavlik (517) 337-2007

Individual Development Director

Sheryl Soczek (517) 664-1650

Public Relations Director

Mike Flaminio (517) 980-6453

From the President...

Expanding our portfolio

It is often said we need to expand our portfolio; widen our talent pool; diversify our membership to reflect the community we live in. Who says a Jaycee can't be the mechanic at the garage, your hairdresser, a new business owner, a graduate student, someone who is looking for a new job, your neighbor across the street. Everyone has something they can bring to the table. I mean really.... we don't take applications for who gets to wear the bunny costume at the Egg Scramble, we just find someone who wants to have fun and can handle the attention of 300 kids!

By diversifying our membership by profession, hobbies, background, education, age and heritage our projects reach more people and we serve more of our community. It also creates more opportunities for each of us to learn and to teach. The ability to be both student and teacher are vital components of the leadership development that comes with being a Jaycee.

Over the next month I urge you to attend a community event or meeting you would not normally attend and say hello to that one person whom you never would. Listen to them, learn about them, and please invite them to the April 22nd Spring Membership Drive so that all of us can reap the benefits of bringing someone new into the group.

Sara Ballard, Lansing Jaycees 76th President

General Membership Meeting Tuesday April 6th at Trippers

This month's General Membership Meeting focuses on HOME IMPROVEMENT and HOME BUYING! Sheryl Sozcek and Matt Wiitala have put together a house buying panel of some Jaycee realtors and mortgage leaders to answer all your questions about buying or selling YOUR house on April 6th at Trippers in Frandor. Join us for dinner at 6:00 PM, the meeting at 7:00 PM and the House Buying Panel at 8:00 PM. See you there!



Jaycee Creed

by C. William Brownfield

*We believe that faith in God gives meaning
and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends
the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won
by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws
rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure
lies in human personality; and that
**SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS
THE BEST WORK OF LIFE***

Member/Chairperson of the Month

Member of the Month
Jamie Wilmoth

Jamie has lent us her extraordinary talents this year as our newsletter editor. Jamie has taken on this difficult task and produced a newsletter that reflects the diversity of the chapter through its design and articles. The first newsletter took her over 30 hours to complete and many other hours have been spent just collecting articles from officers and members. Congratulations Jamie!



Chairperson of the Month
Bill Snook

Although he didn't want any titles, Bill took charge of this year's mobile happy hour. He led the Lansing Jaycees on an adventure from bar to bar on old 27 during the bar hopping extravaganza. His creative mind came up with trivia, games, and lots of interesting prizes during the evening. Pictures of bull riding have been archived for later use and blackmail tactics. With a little help from Jill, Bill organized this fun event!

Community Development

And the winner is...Tim Royle, Michigan Jaycees President! A 50-50 Raffle was held at the March GMM to benefit JCFAN (Junior Chamber Family Aids Network). \$94 was collected, half of which will be donated to JCFAN. Thank you to all who participated in the raffle!

International Dinner Night was held on March 10th at Restaurant Shiki in East Lansing. Eight people were in attendance, including guests Jan Walker and Stephanie Bessen (MI JC Board of Directors), new member Fen Daniel, and Lansing JC members Karen Brown, Jeff Sand, Matt Alverson, Teresa Dittmer, and Rachel Pavlik. Teriyaki chicken, steak, and salmon were enjoyed as well as an array of sushi for veteran connoisseurs of the delicacy and others just trying it for the first time.

The Easter Egg Hunt Committee has finalized plans for the hunt, and is very excited about this year's event. The event starts at 10:00 AM but volunteers are asked to come by 8:30 to help with set-up; the event will be done by noon. Twenty-five to thirty volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Thank you for those who helped with stuffing eggs on March 21st - it really made the job go by quickly! Ricky Gonzales is the chairperson for this event and can be reached at (517) 974-9957 if you have questions about the event or would like to volunteer.

Also in April is the WKAR Auction on April 23rd. The Jaycees will be volunteering their time and telephone skills for the auction to benefit the station. Fifty volunteers are needed, and brief training is provided. The time commitment for this event is from 7:30 PM until midnight, and we are looking forward to hosting other chapter members at this event. Teri Bruning is chairing this event and can be contacted at (517) 887-9946 or teribruning@hotmail.com for more information.

We are looking for a few people to help with the REO Town River Clean Up on April 24th at 9:00 AM. We will be picking up trash on the banks - not in the river. More details to come at the GMM.

Other upcoming events include the Senior Prom at Ingham County Medical Care Facility, 3860 Dobie Road, Okemos, on Thursday, May 13th and the building of the Hawk Island Playground equipment on May 19th through 23rd. The Ronald McDonald House is having a walk/run and a carnival on June 19th from 9 AM – 1 PM and they are in need of volunteers to paint faces. If you are interested in this event, please contact Sheila Wiitala. Keep an eye out for more information about these upcoming events in the Jaycee Juice.

Rachel Pavlik, Community Development Director

Sheila Wiitala, Community Development VP

FRIDAY PHONE FUN!!

The Lansing Jaycees request your FUN and helpfulness to answer phones during the WKAR TV (public TV) annual auction on Friday April 23rd from 7:30 PM-midnight. It's FUN! This year, our goal is to have 50 Jaycees and their guests working this shift, so that EVERY phone answerer is with the Jaycees! Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who are at least age 18. It's great PR for the Lansing Jaycees – wear your Jaycee shirt and/or name badge. Please contact Teri Bruning at (517)887-9946 or teribruning@hotmail.com.



MSU Summer Circle Theatre

Hurry! Time is running out! You don't want to miss any of the fun final events chaired by your aging past president, Karen! Before I turn in my 40-year-old nametag for my walker, red hat and purple dress, I'll be chairing our second annual trip to enjoy fresh air and free theatre at the MSU Summer Circle Theatre!

The plays begin the second week in June with *The Fire Bug*. The third week in June brings us *Classics in Shorts* (Greek Classics). The final week of the series will be *The Attic, the Pearls and Three Fine Girls*. All shows start at 8:00 PM and pretty much go on rain or shine. Only lightning, tornados, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves and monsoons in the immediate vicinity of East Lansing will cause the plays to be cancelled! Check your May newsletter for more information about this great event!

Karen Brown, Chair

Membership Development

Welcome, welcome! Our newest members in March are Tom Barger, Fen Daniel, & Kathie Dunbar, & Matt Murphy. The Jaycees have some great things planned for April and May overall, but this is what Membership Development is planning! Our next General Membership Meeting is April 6th. If you bring a guest to the meeting, not only will you be entered into a drawing, but your guest will also. The more guests you bring, the more entries you receive. What is the prize you ask...\$20 off membership dues!!! We are also going to start having drawings at every GMM. Every Lansing Jaycee member will be entered. If the winner is not in attendance, the prize will be added to the next month's GMM drawing (May 4th).

On April 16th at 6:00 PM, we will be headed to the Claddagh Irish Pub for Happy Hour. After Happy Hour, we will be off to Pat O'Dell's for a great night of games! If you have any particular games you would like to play, please let us know.

Membership Information Night will be held April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Tripper's. Please invite some potential members and come share your Jaycee experiences.

For the month of May, we are having Euchre Night on the 7th and Dinner & Dancing on the 14th.

We would like to start up our mentoring program again. We are looking for some long standing members to help out and provide some guidance, as needed, to our new members.

This month, we would like to create a Membership Committee. The committee will be assisting Pat & Jimi with recruiting and retention ideas, and implementing those ideas. It's a great way to get involved and meet some more people. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Address, phone number, or email changed? Keep it up to date on the Jaycees website - www.lansingjaycees.org.

Pay dues the easy way...PayPal through the Jaycees website.

Jimi Carolan, Membership Development VP
jimicrolan@yahoo.com

Pat O'Dell, Membership Development Director
possumpod@aol.com

Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

It is always a great day to breath underwater! There were 8 Jaycees that explored Scuba diving in the pool at Haslett High school on Sat. March 13th. ZZ Underwater World provided the gear and instruction as our fearless Jaycees donned a buoyancy compensator, mask, snorkel, fins, and placed a regulator in their mouths to submerge into an unknown world, the water.

After some basic instruction we swam in the shallow end and eventually learned how to equalize our ears to swim into the deep end. We floated at neutral buoyancy and did underwater flips, twists and somersaults. Then it was underwater Frisbee time and cruising around the pool. We swam around for two hours and we were complemented on our beginner diving status by ZZ Underwater world, which we invited to check out the Jaycees.



It was a great day. Most of those present had a chance to go to the free Meridian Area Business Association Expo, which was a nice event to network, get some free ribs, Beaners coffee, and visit with local vendors. We are now looking for 5-6 Jaycees who want to get certified in Scuba diving. We will get a small discount and we can plan a fun trip to Ohio to do our final open water dives in a 65' deep quarry. If you are interested please contact Patrick Brazil at (517) 819-5433. Just remember the surface of the world is approximately 75% water. Dive on.

Pat Brazil, Chair



The battle begins!



The Ann Arbor Jaycees and the Lansing Jaycees are pairing up for a UofM vs. MSU blowout party! If you are interested in planning this first time event please contact Sara Ballard at saraballard@comcast.net. This fundraiser will be designated for Michigan Jaycees Service Center repairs.

Individual Development

The month of March saw members of our chapter take to the slopes and go underwater with one project that's become an annual tradition (the Annual Winter Getaway Weekend) and another (Scuba Diving Splash Party at Haslett H.S.) that we hope will become a regular staple for Individual Development (ID).

Our long-distance member in Cadillac, Susan Rundhaug, graciously opened her home to chair the Third Annual Lansing Jaycee Winter Get-Away Weekend from March 5th-7th. Members and non-members from Lansing and Cadillac joined in the fun at Caberfae Peaks to get in some skiing while members of the Cadillac Jaycees joined in the Euchre Tournament that was held at Susan's house. All in all, it was a fun weekend for those involved and we would like to thank Susan again for being so kind and generous to host this project and open her home to us.

Also in the month of March, members were able to learn more about the wonderful world of scuba diving. Thanks to the efforts of Chairperson Patrick Brazil, our chapter teamed up with ZZ Underwater World to introduce several of our members to their first scuba diving experience – in the Haslett High School pool, no less! This event was a great example of a member (in this case, Patrick) bringing his passion and skill in a particular area and sharing it with the Jaycees. Thanks again, Patrick!

That being said, ID still has some wonderful upcoming events. April 3rd-4th, we will be traveling up to the Traverse City area to learn more about winemaking and sample several wines on the Old Mission Peninsula and Leelanau Peninsula. We will also be checking out local restaurants and seeing what the area has to offer on Saturday night.

The House Buying Panel is shaping up nicely for the April GMM on the 6th. It would be nice to have a couple more realtors and/or financiers join the panel. If you are interested, please contact Matt Wiitala at 482-4615 or mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

On Saturday, April 17th at 10:00 AM we will be hitting the batting cages at the Baseball Academy of Mid-Michigan (BAMM) to hit softballs. Members on the softball team will use it as a chance to shake off some rust after the layoff from our championship season and those who aren't playing but are still interested in hitting the batting cages can use it to get a good workout or work off some frustration. BAMM is located at 5849 Enterprise Drive in

Lansing. After the batting cages, we plan to go out to lunch at Leo's Lodge. Chair Matt Wiitala will be working on getting discounted batting cage tokens (BAMM also supplies bats and helmets at no extra charge). Contact Matt if you'd like more information about this event.

We are still looking for a chair for Tulip Time in Holland on May 8th. According to the March 19th Lansing State Journal, President George W. Bush will be the Grand Marshal of the parade. If you are interested in chairing the event, please contact Sheryl Soczek at (517) 664-1650 or ssoczek@mail.grandhotel.net, or Matt Wiitala at (517) 482-4615 or mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

Jill Klinger and Bill Snook will be chairing the Whitewater Rafting Trip from May 28th-31st in West Virginia. More information on this exciting trip will follow soon.

Sheryl Soczek, Individual Development Director
Matt Wiitala, Individual Development VP

Happy Birthday!

Tracy Laming



John Schlueter

Bill Snook

Chris Back

Amy Radford

Membership Anniversaries

Teresa Dittmer
1997

Stephanie Steere
1996

Kim Lundberg
1995

Troy Steere
2000

Jim Munson
2003

Pat O'Dell
2002

John Pulice
2003

Sally Sohn
1996



American Cancer Society Relay for Life 2004

One of the Jaycee events that consistently gives me the most joy and provides me with the best memories is the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. My chapter in Battle Creek had a team when I was a member there. We walked in honor of Sue McMurtry, a long-time member of the Jaycees. Here in the Lansing Jaycees, we've been walking in honor of member Julie Stoner. Relay is a wonderful way to honor those we know who have been battling cancer. Not only do we honor our cancer-surviving friends and relatives, but we also raise money to find better treatments and to find a cure. Now is the time to get ready again for another 24 hours you will never forget!

Mark off May 15th and 16th on your calendar and make plans to walk, run, cook out, camp out, meet new people, win cool prizes and basically have the time of your life at the 2004 Meridian Township Relay for Life. We will be taking turns walking for a 24-hour period at Chippewa Middle School and in great Lansing Jaycee tradition, it is going to rain buckets all over us! I am done predicting sun for Relay. It will rain, just accept it, bring a raincoat and move on! Even in the rain, Relay is a blast!

For those not familiar with the Relay for Life, it kicks off with a cancer survivors' walk at 9:45 AM on Saturday. All cancer survivors are invited to lead off the walk and celebrate their victory over cancer. A cancer survivor is anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer, whether it was 10 years ago or yesterday. Around 9:30 PM on Saturday will be the luminary ceremony. This awesome, emotional ceremony is a way to celebrate the lives of all those who have had a cancer diagnosis. Luminary candles with specially decorated luminary bags will line the entire route of the Relay and names of survivors and those who have passed away from cancer will be read.

We will have a tent on site and room for a tent of your own if you would like to camp out. No, you don't have to stay the night to participate in Relay, but it sure is a lot of fun. All you card players simply have to experience the poker walk at 3:00 in the morning!

There is plenty of time to get involved and if you raise \$100 or more you get a nifty Relay for Life T-shirt! Relay packets and information will be available at upcoming GMM's. You can also sign up and print out pledge forms at the American Cancer Society Relay web site at <http://www.acsevents.org> (enter a Lansing zip code and choose Meridian Township). Or, you can just email me at kbmsu@aol.com or call at (517) 336-1217 and I'll sign you up and reserve a walking time for you!

Does this all sound like too much fun for you? Co-chairs and committee members are all welcome!

Karen S. Brown, Chair

District, Region and State News

- The Michigan Jaycees Spring Assembly will be held May 7th - 9th at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, MI. Registration deadline is April 16th.
- The Michigan Jaycees 4th Annual JCFAN Golf Scramble will be held Friday, May 7th at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. Registration deadline is April 23rd.

Visit <http://www.michiganjaycees.org> for more information about these and other upcoming events.

Attention All Members!!!!

Secretary Wanted - to keep minutes for General Membership Meeting and Board meeting, keep the master calendar, and other miscellaneous duties.

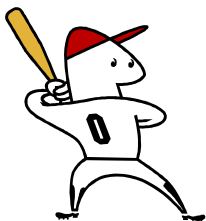
Fenner Nature Center/Home Show

The Jaycees had a wonderful breakfast at IHOP on March 20th followed by what was planned to be a trip to Fenner Nature Center to learn the process of making maple syrup. However, due to the rainy weather we voted to go to the Michigan Home Show at the MSU Pavilion. The home show was a great success to all that went. We purchased items, picked up freebies, got our spines checked, thought about purchasing wood floors, sampled food, picked up some community service donation ideas, and spent a wonderful late morning together. Some of us were lucky enough to go to the MSU Dairy Store to indulge in some good old-fashioned ice cream on the way home. All in all, it was a well-planned and totally changed day that worked out for everyone who participated in one way or another.

I hope all of you take the time to come to an Individual Development activity at some point this year. You never know what you may end up learning, who knows, you may expect one thing and get something totally different. As always, we want to serve you and help you learn something new.

Softball T-Shirts

It's nearly time for the Jaycees to be cranking up for softball in May. For 2004, we are ordering softball t-shirts. They will be light gray with our Jaycees logo on the upper left front of the shirt, small number(s) on the upper right front of the shirt, and large number(s) on the back. The lettering will be in green to go with the colors of last year's shirts.



The numbers will be chosen by each individual who orders. If a number is already taken, I encourage you to have an alternate number (for example: "44" instead of "4" or "41" instead of "14"). Orders will not be limited to softball players. If you are playing, the cost of the shirt comes as part of your player fee (which Pat O'Dell will provide information about). However, if you don't plan on playing but would like a shirt anyway, the cost will be \$8.00 for L and XL, \$9.00 for XXL. Payment is due upon receipt of the shirt.

The deadline for ordering is April 6th (the night of the April GMM). I will place the order April 7th and it will take approximately two weeks for the shirts to arrive, which will be approximately two weeks before softball starts.

Please contact Matt Wiitala at (517) 482-4615 (home) or mtwiitala@hotmail.com. All shirts ordered will be numbered so please provide a number you'd like and an alternate number in case your first choice is not available.

Matt Wiitala

Let Your Voice Be Heard!!

Send your articles about upcoming or recent events, music or movie reviews, or anything else you would like to share to Jamie Wilmoth at jamie.wilmoth@ahpplc.com. Articles are due by the 20th of each month. Let's continue to **make the newsletter your newsletter!**



Whitewater Rafting in West Virginia

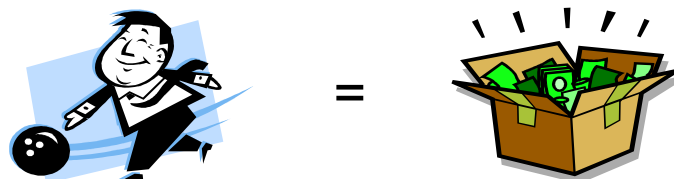
Looking for a little excitement and adventure? Then join the Jaycees as we go whitewater rafting at Rivers in West Virginia for Memorial Day Weekend, May 28th-31st. For only \$99.00, the weekend package includes a 6½ to 8 hour rafting trip, 3 nights camping (bring your own tent), and meals (including continental breakfasts, one lunch and one dinner).

The drive to Rivers is approximately 8½ to 9 hours from Lansing. You may either decide to leave Friday, May 28th or leave early in the morning on Saturday, May 29th. For more information on booking your package and other details, please contact co-chairs Bill Snook at (810) 599-6597 or snookcw@pps.k12.mi.us or Jill Klinger at 282-3877 or klingejk@pps.k12.mi.us.



Successful Bowl-a-thon For Kids!

Hip, hip, hooray! Congratulations to those who collected Bowl-a-thon pledges and/or attended our **Cosmic Bowl-a-thon For Kids** at Royal Scot on **Friday, March 26th**! Together, we reached our goal of raising **\$2,000** so that we can buy school clothes in August for 50 underprivileged children in Lansing. In attendance and having fun were about 25 adults, including past presidents **Amy Miller, Sally Sohn, and Dee Griffiths**, and four or five children. Thank you to those who helped me organize this event – **Sara Ballard, Jimi Carolan, and Patrick O'Dell**. Thank you to **Dee Griffiths** for running our 50/50 raffle and to **Mike Flaminio** for handling our registration. Thank you to **all** who collected pledges, eleven of you turned in at least \$100 each, three of those over \$200 and one over \$300!



Those who collected **at least \$100** include **Tom Barger, Jamie Wilmoth, Pat O'Dell, Ricky Gonzales, Angela Backus, Julius Edwards, Kim Doughty, Matt Wiitala, Jamie Prevo, Rachel Pavlik, Kandy Scott, and Sally Sohn**. Thank you to **Royal Scot** for the free shoe rental and two golf gift certificates. This is a fun project to chair. So, start considering whether **you** want to chair it next year.

Ann Tingay, Chair

Lansing Jaycees Calendar ~ April/May 2004

			 April	1 April Fool's Day	2 Wine Weekend Traverse City 	3 →	<p><u>General Membership Meeting</u> April 6th Tripper's in Frandor Dinner at 6 PM Meeting at 7 PM House Buying/Selling Panel at 8 PM Contact: Sara Ballard (517) 388-1220</p> <p><u>Easter Egg Hunt</u> April 10th 10 AM Come help make Easter special for Lansing area children! Contact: Ricky Gonzales (517) 974-9957</p> <p><u>Happy Hour</u> April 16th 6 PM Claddagh Irish Pub Come get happy the Irish way and play games 'til the break of day! Contact: Pat O'Dell (517) 281-5192</p> <p><u>Casino Bus Trip</u> May 1st 7 PM Join the Howell Jaycees for a trip to the Greek Town Casino in Detroit via a deluxe motor coach! Contact: Sara Ballard (517) 388-1220</p> <p><u>WKAR Auction</u> April 23rd 7:30 PM - Midnight Bring your friends and family to help support public TV. Contact: Teri Bruning (517) 484-7372</p>
4 Wine Tour Traverse City	5	6 General Membership Meeting 6 PM Tripper's	7	8	9 Good Friday	10 Easter Egg Hunt 	
11 Easter Sunday 	12	13	14 Picture Framing Class	15	16 Happy Hour Claddagh's Irish Pub (Game night following)	17 Batting Cages	
18	19	20 Board Meeting 7 PM Service Center	21 Lansing Jaycees Foundation Meeting	22 Membership Drive 7PM Tripper's	23 WKAR Auction 	24 REO Town River Clean Up	
25 Be A Volunteer in Your Own Town Committee Meeting	26	27	28	29	30 	1 Casino Bus Trip May	
2	3	4 General Membership Meeting 6 PM Tripper's	5	6	7 Euchre Night	8 Tulip Time Holland, MI	
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13 Senior Prom at Ingham County Medical Care	14 Dinner & Dancing	15 Relay for Life	
16 Relay for Life	17	18 	19 Hawk Island Playground Build	20	21	22 →	
23 Hawk Island Playground Build	24	25	26	27 	28 Whitewater Rafting Trip	29 →	
30 Whitewater Rafting Trip	31						