

Capitol Correspondent



The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber of Commerce • **March 2005**

Lansing Jaycees
PO Box 16150
Lansing, MI 48901

(517) 853-8620
www.lansingjaycees.org

Region D
Population Division 7
Base Membership: 91

Welcome to our newest members!!

February 2005

Kristy Jones, Fifth Third Bank
Trish Batterson, Charlotte Public Schools
Kristin Batdorf, Backbone Chiropractic
Jaimie Hutchison, Youth Development Corporation
Wayne Hutchison, U.S. Air Force

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 7:00 pm (dinner between 6:00 and 6:30) at Tripper's Restaurant in Frandor. Visit our website, www.lansingjaycees.org for a map to the meeting location or call us at (517) 853-8620.



March General Membership Meeting "Mid Winter Wellness Break"

Come to the March GMM to relax a little and learn about some of the benefits of chiropractic and massage therapy from Kristin Batdorf and Jennifer Trendt, two of our new members.

If you have any questions about the March General Membership Meeting, please contact Laura Vieth at (517)627-7145, or lavieth@cmsenergy.com.

2005 Board of Directors

President

Laura Vieth (517) 627-7145

Chair of the Board

Sara Ballard (517) 388-1220

Treasurer

Jill Schumacher (248) 379-9732

Secretary

Lynn Schramm (810) 300-1487

Membership Development VP

Chris Vieth (517) 627-7145

Community Development VP

Tracy Prush (517) 699-8166

Individual Development VP

Matt Wiitala (517) 482-4615

Management Development VP

John Pulice (517) 351-4315

Community Development Director

Jill Klinger (517) 282-3877

Individual Development Director

Sheryl Soczek (517) 664-1650

Management Development Team

Amy Miller (517) 525-0129

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A Ray of Sunshine in the Middle of the Darkness

It's easy to feel down in the winter. The days get so short that sometimes I feel like I'm living in a cave. Other days, when the sky is gray from dawn to dusk, I just want to stay in bed and hide under a blanket. But often times, usually when I least expect it, I have experiences that cheer me up like a ray of sunshine.....

At the February GMM, I ran into a Jaycee who had chaired the Ronald McDonald House dinner the day before. When I asked him how the project went, his eyes lit up as he replied "It was AWESOME!!". He got more and more fired up as he told me about how 10 Jaycees had shown up and that they took over the kitchen and had a great time making dinner for the parents staying at the house. He told me that they got to talk to some of the parents, they were able to spend time with each other, and they even had fun cleaning up! I was excited that the project had gone well and that he had a great time running it - it made me regret that I hadn't been able to attend!

Over the weeks following the GMM, I had an opportunity to attend two committee meetings; one for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on March 26, and another for the Bowl-A-Thon on April 23. In both meetings I found groups of people that were psyched up about organizing their respective projects. Committee members brought plenty of new and innovative ideas for how to make their project more fun, more profitable, and how to improve on the success of the previous year's event. I left each meeting with a renewed enthusiasm, and I was hopeful that my assignments would help contribute to each project's success.

On February 17, I attended a Jaycee Member Orientation and CPG Training session. By the time everyone had arrived and found a seat, I was surprised to realize that there were 14 attendees - 5 new members, 5 prospective members, and 4 board members!! Even though I've been through several orientation sessions already this year, I enjoy them for several reasons: I get a refresher course on the organization and history of the Jaycees; I believe that if a new member is trained they are more likely to get involved with the organization; and I also enjoy meeting and talking with prospective members about why they're interested in joining the Jaycees. Hearing people tell stories about why they joined the Jaycees (or why they're interested in joining) helps me look at the Jaycees with a fresh perspective - it makes me appreciate my involvement and reminds me that "You get out of your membership what you put into it".

Please remember that there are plenty of opportunities to get involved with the Jaycees, whether it's being on a project committee, attending one of our Individual or Community Development events, or attending an orientation or training session. Don't miss an opportunity for a ray of sun to shine on you!!

Laura Vieth
77th President
Lansing Jaycees

March GMM

Tuesday, March 1st
Dinner between 6:00-6:30 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM
Tripper's in Frandor



Membership Development

Important! - Member Recruitment

We need your help in finding prospects and new members for our chapter. Why do we all need to focus on recruitment? There are several reasons:

1. Many hands make light work. It is true, that with more members we can do more. There are more people to participate in more projects and in larger projects. By participating in member recruitment, you are working to develop the production capacity of the chapter - our ability to do more.
2. Replacing ourselves. In Jaycees, there's a limit to how long we are members (aging-out at 40). In addition, members move away, they become inactive, and otherwise choose not to participate. In order to continue as a chapter, we need to replace ourselves.
3. You are our greatest resource. In finding new prospects, this type of recruitment-by-member-referral is a powerful and effective way for the chapter to grow.

Each one of you probably knows at least one other person of Jaycee age. Please take some time this week to introduce one new person to this great organization. If you are not comfortable asking people to join or talking to them about membership, send me their contact information and I'll be glad to speak with them. In addition, there are other ways that you can help in the chapter's recruitment efforts- you can hang up membership signs on bulletin boards, attend chamber networking socials, help out with membership drives, and various other activities. Just ask and I'll be glad to work with you.

Chris Vieth, Membership Development VP
Kim Doughty, Membership Director

Philosophical Tidbits To Think About

You can easily tell when you are on the road to success. It is usually all up hill.

A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you just the same.

The following is a list Jaycees who have April or May renewals. Because of changes with renewal processing with the Michigan and US Jaycees, renewals are due one month early. i.e. - April renewals are due in March, May renewals are due in April. Please check the due dates on your invoices.

Nicholas	Barbu	04/01/04
Teresa	Dittmer	04/01/97
Kim	Lundberg	04/01/95
Jim	Munson	04/01/03
Patrick	ODell	04/01/02
Travis	Pasma	04/01/04
John	Pulice	04/01/03
Stephanie	Steere	04/01/96
Troy	Steere	04/01/00
Matt	Cannata	05/01/04
Tim	Luea	05/01/04
Amy	Radford	05/01/00

Upcoming Events

Member Orientation - Mar 1st, 6:00 PM - preceding the GMM, this is for members and prospective members who would like to learn more about the Jaycee organization and how to get involved.

Coffee Break- Mar 8th, 6:30 PM - a social at a local coffee shop, Beaner's in East Lansing, 1427 West Saginaw.

Member Orientation/CPG Training - Mar 15th, 7:00 PM - an additional opportunity to attend an orientation, followed by a Chairperson's Planning Guide training session at 8:00 PM.

Happy Hour/B.L.A.A.S.T. - Mar 18th, 6:00 PM - Friday after-work social. This month, we're meeting at Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania.

Individual Development

Individual Development (ID) continues an exciting variety of events as we approach the end of February and head into March.

For starters, the **Dinner out with the Foodie Club** has been a tremendous success, as evidenced by the 16 people who attended the inaugural event at the State Room in the Kellogg Center at MSU in January. The February Foodie Club event was held at the new Cancun Mexican Grill in Okemos, highlighting the diversity of places and menus that come as part of this wonderful experience. For more information on upcoming Foodie Club events, please contact Amy Miller at aemill@comcast.net.

For the second year in a row, the Jaycees are teaming up with **Martin Luther Chapel for a Wine and Cheese Evening**. A number of wines, cheeses, crackers and other beverages and snacks are available (the event is free although participants are asked to bring a favorite beverage or snack - or both!). A vintage record player will be playing some classic oldies and this event is a very casual way to meet some new people, engage in casual conversation and sample some nice beverages and snacks. Martin Luther Chapel is located at 444 Abbott Road in East Lansing (it is located north of City Hall and free parking is available in the city lot between the Chapel and City Hall). The event starts at 7:00 pm and will be in the Fireside Lounge of the Chapel. We look forward to you attending! If you would like more information, please contact Matt Wiitala at 896-7423, mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

Dave Akens, John Pulice and Matt Wiitala are looking to get some regular fitness activities going. We are considering an "Arctic Walk" - a hike to defy Mother Nature before the spring thaw shows up. We've also had the idea of "Wallyball" mentioned (Volleyball with walls). We are looking to get this started soon before we decide, oh well, I'd rather sit home and watch Survivor or Apprentice (no offense intended). For more information or any fitness ideas, either indoors or outdoors, please contact Matt Wiitala at 896-7423, mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

In **March** we will be going to the **Maple Syrup Festival** at Fenner Nature Center (the entrance is located southeast of the intersection to Mt Hope and Aurelius Roads). This year, the Festival will be **March 20-21** from **11-4**. The event is free and is a wonderful family event. Demonstrations on turning sap into syrup are done and you can warm up in the Visitor's Center with some hot chocolate and browse the gift shop. We plan to go to IHOP on Grand River in Meridian Township beforehand and enjoy a sumptuous breakfast. Last year, rainy weather caused us to deviate from the Festival but we will give it a try again this year. For more information, contact Sheryl Soczek at 664-1650, ssoczek@mail.grandhotel.com or Matt Wiitala at 896-7423, mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

In April, just before softball gets into high gear, we will be going back to the Baseball Academy of Mid-Michigan (BAMM) to spend an hour or two at the slow-pitch softball batting cage there. If you've had a rough week and want to take it out on some softballs or just need to shake some rust off your swing, this is the place to be! More information will be coming out on this event shortly. And you don't need to be on the softball team to come out! For more information, contact Matt Wiitala at mtwiitala@hotmail.com, 896-7423.

Matt Wiitala, Individual Development Vice President
Sheryl Soczek, Individual Development Director

Community Development

The Lansing Jaycees have been busy helping out in our community the last few months and there are many more events to come! In January, we made a taco dinner for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Then in February, we raised money to assist low-income families with their utility bills by participating in Walk for Warmth.

Of course, we have many more community events coming up in the near future and all of them are in need of volunteers. To begin with, a committee has been working hard at planning our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This event will take place on Saturday, March 26th (the day before Easter) on the capital lawn. The festivities will begin at 10:00 AM, but we are asking all volunteers to arrive no later than 8:30 AM so that we can set up and be prepared for all of the kids. We will need approximately 25-30 volunteers to make this event a success, so if you are interested in participating, please sign up at the GMM or contact John Prush (our volunteer coordinator) at 699-8166 or <jaycees@prush.com>. The next committee meeting will be Thursday, March 3rd at 6:30 at the Prush's house (call or e-mail if you need directions). We will also be stuffing Easter eggs on Wednesday, March 23rd at Kristy Jones' house in Charlotte (contact her for directions, kristy.jones@53.com). Any help would be appreciated!

The Lansing Jaycees will also be answering phones for the WKAR auction again this year. The tentative date for this is Friday, April 15th from 8:00 PM - 12:00 midnight. If you would like to help provide manpower for this community fundraiser, please contact Teri Bruning at 517-887-9946 or teribruning@hotmail.com

On a final note, we are still looking for fresh ideas on new projects and are willing to help fund and organize them. We are also in need of a committee to start working on the annual Children's Shopping Spree which takes place in August. If you would like to step up to this task, please contact Tracy Prush at 699-8166 or <tracy@prush.com> or Jill Klinger at 282-3877 or klingejk@pps.k12.mi.us.

Tracy Prush, Community Development VP
Jill Klinger, Community Development Director

Dinner at Ronald McDonald House

Ronald McDonald house was a "fiesta" success. With the great help of **Amy Miller, Lynn Schramm, Kim Doughty, Teri Bruning, Joshua Springer, Jenn Miller, Trish Batterson, Necole Staron, John Prush, Tracy Prush, and Jennifer Trendt**, the Lansing Jaycees prepared a TACO DINNER for the guest families. Ground beef taco meat, refried beans, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, and many other toppings rounded out the dinner, and nobody could pass up the Amy Miller Angel Food/Strawberry Cake!

Just so happens that one of our newer members, Jennifer Trendt, is a regular volunteer staff member at the house! She provided us with an in-depth tour and even used her masseuse skills to unwind any stressed out cooks!

Not only did dinner go over great, but the many hands available made the after-work quick and easy. The Ronald McDonald kitchen was cleaned, dishes washed, and utensils returned to their drawers in no time; plus all the leftovers were neatly stored and labeled in the community refrigerators. Thanks to everyone who made this dinner night a "buonas noches!"

-John Prush

Walk for Warmth.

February 26

Raised \$195.



Relay for Life

Hi everyone, its Relay for Life time again. We will be walking May 14th and 15th in Meridian Township. I would love to hear any input or ideas to help our group to beat its goal of \$2,400. I look forward to working with everyone to make this year's Relay an event to remember. If you would like to assist us with our fundraising goal please contact me at

brockatj@hotmail.com.

Kathy Brock

Management Development

Congratulations Lansing Jaycees on a great 2004 at the February MIJC Convention!

Jimi Carolan 60/60 Membership VP Incentives
Angela Backus Treasurer Incentives 4th Quarter
Sara Ballard Lichwala Award, Luthy Award, and
MIJC Service Award
Lansing Jaycees 6th Place Overall Parade of
Chapters
Lansing Jaycees 4th Place 4th Quarter Metro
Parade
Lansing Jaycees Bronze Chip
Lansing Jaycees Active Chapter Size

Michigan Jaycees Metro Conference News

The 2004 Junior Chamber International President Kevin Cullinane from JCI Ireland will be making a stop in Grand Rapids and extends an invitation to all Michigan Junior Chamber members to join him for some light refreshments.

Sunday March 20, 2005
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Grand Rapids Junior Chamber Office
2774 Birchcrest Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI

For questions or to RSVP: sgreenlee@jci.cc

Happy Birthday!

March
Angela Backus
Teri Bruning



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**



Upcoming Lansing Jaycee Fundraisers

BOWL-A-THON for CHILDREN'S SHOPPING SPREE!

We will be having our annual Bowl-A-Thon to raise money for the Back to School Children's Shopping Spree in August. This year we will be Bowling on Saturday April 23rd from 1-3 pm. The location is Holiday Lanes at 3101 E. Grand River Ave.

To bowl it will cost \$25.00 per person or for a team of 4/\$80.00. This price will include 3 games and shoe rental. We will also accept donations if you do not want to bowl. Please contact Kim Doughty @ 517-980-0989 or Lynn Schramm @ 810-300-1487 for more information.

Stay Informed About Your Chapter

Check out the file archives in the Member area of the Lansing Jaycees website for information on the management of the chapter. You can view the Board of Directors meeting minutes and financial information. 2005 Budget information will soon be available in the file archives or can be requested by emailing treasurer@lansingjaycees.org.

		1 March General Member-ship Meeting	2	3	4	5 Foodie Club Wine Making
6	7	8 Coffee Break Beaner's EL	9	10	11 Euchre Party 	12
13	14	15 Member Orientation /CPG Training	16 Board Meeting	17	18 Happy Hour B.L.A.A.S.T.	19 Maple Syrup Festival
20	21	22	23 Easter Egg Stuffing Party	24	25	26 Easter Egg Hunt 
27	28	29	30	31	1 April	2
3	4	5 General Member-ship Meeting	6	7	8 Happy Hour B.L.A.A.S.T.	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 WKAR Auction	16
17	18	19 Member Orientation /CPG Training	20	21	22	23 Bowl-a-Thon for Kids
24	25	26	27	28	29 Happy Hour B.L.A.A.S.T.	30

Member Orientation & CPG Training

March 15
MI Jaycees Service Center

Orientation – 7 PM
Learn about the Jaycee organization, its opportunities, and how to get involved.

CPG Training – 8 PM
Learn about the Chairpersons Planning Guide, a project planning tool.

Contact: Chris Vieth
(517) 627-7145

Easter Egg Hunt

What has 300 kids, 3000 eggs, and 1 large bunny?
The Lansing Jaycees Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Important Dates:
Committee Meeting Feb 10
Egg Stuffing Party Mar 23
Easter Egg Hunt Mar 26

Contact: Tracy Prush
(517) 699-8166

COFFEE BREAK SOCIAL

We will be meeting for Coffee or your favorite Hot Drink and warm chit chat Tuesday March 8th at Beaner's in East Lansing. It's a brand new location on Saginaw St. across from the Walgreen's at Coolidge and Saginaw. We will meet at about 6:30 pm. For more info call Kim @ 517-980-0989. Hope to see you all there.



SOFTBALL TIME

It may only be March but it's not too early to be thinking of playing on the Lansing Jaycees co-ed summer 2005 softball team. The season starts at the beginning of May and will end in early July.

For those who've played the past two seasons, it's been a lot of fun, which is the primary purpose. We've also been pretty good on the field, with a combined 15-6 records, including being the 2003 Delta Township Northern Division Champs.

Practice for the 2005 season will begin in April. Practices and games are held in Delta Township and will be at one of three township parks: Erickson Park, Sharp Park or Delta Mills Park. The season will begin on Wednesday, April 4, and continue for the next 9 Wednesdays, barring rainouts (Delta Township will inform us at 4:30 pm of game day if this is the case). Games will be either one of the four following times: 6:15, 7:15, 8:15 or 9:15 pm. A batting cage session will also be scheduled for early April (TBD) at the Baseball Academy of Mid-Michigan (BAMM) to give players extra batting practice.

Regardless of your talent or experience, consider signing up if this is something that interests you. Everyone who shows up to games will play (you are also encouraged to show up to practices – this is not a prerequisite to playing but we all need practice).

Player fees and contracts are due to either Steve Popp or Matt Wiitala by Monday, April 25th. Contracts will be handed out at practices and players can be added throughout the season (in the case you aren't able to play beginning in May). For more information, please contact Steve Popp at popps@michigan.gov or Matt Wiitala at mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

Letter from your new editor, Kristy Jones
Thanks for all the assistance in getting the articles in on time and in such great response.

As a new member, I am looking forward to meeting all of you and getting more involved with the Lansing Jaycees. What a tremendous group of individuals we have among us, I am thrilled be here.

If you have further information you'd like to send, please forward it to me at kristy.jones@53.com or call me at 517-351-5315.

I also look forward to having you to my home to assist with the stuffing of Easter eggs on March 23. Hope to see you all there!

Mentors Needed!

Would you like to make a difference in our community? Do you enjoy working with children? Do you have an hour to spare? If so, mentoring may be for you!

New City Academy in Lansing is looking for mentors to serve as adult resources, compassionate listeners, and friends to students in grades 4-8. To be a mentor, you only need to commit an hour a week to a student for the remainder of the school year. Scheduling is flexible and the benefit is great. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Jesse Cabell at 272-3000 or by e-mail jesse_cabell@yahoo.com. Mentoring will begin this month, so act soon!

SPRING