



Harlem Ambassadors

**THE JACKSON JOURNAL**  
Newsletter of the Jackson Michigan Optimist Club  
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Weekly meetings on Thursday, 12:15 pm, at the Optimist Ice Arena,  
1200 West North Street, Jackson MI; Call 517-783-2664 for information.  
Check out our website; [www.optimistclubofjackson.org](http://www.optimistclubofjackson.org)  
**The Jackson Optimist Charitable Fund is a 501(c)3 organization**  
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*President Bob's challenge: Make a line of the Optimist creed your focus for the week.  
"Make all your friends feel that there is something in them."*



Stay in School & Drug Free



Autograph signing



Entertaining Military

**President's Corner:** I am pleased to announce that, today, another new member was installed into our club. She's Carol Sherman, the Branch Manager of the east-end Citizens Bank branch. Carol has a history of volunteering in Jackson, and she is anxious to become involved in our club activities. She received the "oath" from me and was then greeted by all of the members. Carol is a great addition. Others are still out there waiting for someone to ask them to join us and volunteer their talents. Will you extend an invitation to a prospective member?



We continue to fine-tune our biggest fund raiser, the basketball game on October 29 between the Harlem Ambassadors and the Jackson All Stars. The game will be played at the Jackson High School Field House. Jack Tornga, Dave Carlson, and I toured the field house and cafeteria of JHS with AD Russell Davis and JHS Facilities Manager Brandt Russell. Brandt and Russell are committed to helping us bring this off successfully. We will begin our promotions and ticket sales soon of this very special event. I am providing all of our members Sponsor Request Forms and asking that each of us approach businesses and business people in the community. Ask them if they can make a donation to our club to cover our total expenses for presentation of this game. My goal is to pass the revenue we earn, through ticket sales, to at least one of our major projects. We will have other fund raising activities before, during and after the game as well. Some corporate blocks of tickets have been sold already. In exchange for their financial support, we will promote them prior to and during the game. The end result is that our club will have sufficient funds to complete our projects for the kids in our community. This is a big project, and we need to have everyone pitch in. If we do, we won't fail. I need your help. I need you to be involved. We will discuss the tasks that need to be done and member assignments. We can do this!

organizations. The Network holds training sessions on "Serving on a board and what this means, Basic Board Responsibilities, Volunteer Networking, Networking for Fund Raising Executives, and Grant Writing." Their services include professional development seminars, board development, consulting and technical service, coordination, information and referral. The gradual turnaround of the state's economy has everything to do with the availability of discretionary funds for distribution. Enough unknowns remain about the economy that many groups and businesses are doing little or nothing. It looks like a year, at least, before non-profits will be back up to speed, so to speak, making grants at a rate even close to what they once were. In the meantime, her best advice is to budget on the short side. The election in November will have a dampening effect on the process, for both political and term limit reasons. The new governor will most likely replace all 18 department heads. The state offices that deal with funding issues will undoubtedly be undergoing some big changes. Past President John Knibloe and Secretary Dave Carlson attended a grant writing seminar, at the Network, several years ago. It would be worthwhile, to our Club and Charitable Fund for some of us to attend a similar session on August 17<sup>th</sup>. This was a very interesting presentation and the discussion that followed was lengthy. Regina has been invited back for more insight.

\*\*\*\*COMING UP\*\*\*\*



- July 3, John Knibloe
- July 11, Barry Chambers
- July 14, Jim Shaw



**By The Way:** Our Loudmouth was Carol Sherman, our Mummy was Pete Peterson. The 50-50 was split by speaker Regina Funkhouser and Bob Inman.

Speaker Schedule

- July 15: Kyle Jansen, Michigan Shakespeare Festival
- July 20: Club Board meeting at John Knibloe's
- July 22: Scholarship Awards Luncheon
- July 29: Valerie Balog, Sr. Human Resources Mgr. Tenneco
- August 5: Roger Lamothe, Lions Eye Openers

**RIDDLE:** Gary Hess moved to 2,000 points correctly saying "nothing" was the solution to the last riddle. Alan Miltich is second with 1000. Another riddle follows:  
**What gets whiter the dirtier that it gets? "COM'ON!"**  
**I'm still waiting! Remember what's at stake, vino supremo!** Bring your answer to the next meeting.



**Our speaker, Regina Funkhouser,** is Executive Director of the Jackson Non-Profit Network. The Network is funded by the Consumers Energy Foundation, the Jackson Community Foundation, the Hurst Foundation, the Knight Foundation, and the United Way of Jackson. She spoke to us about their programs and the general picture of funding availability from, both, for profit and not for profit



Ambassadors dancing with the Referee's