

Macomb Chamber Awarded 'Outstanding of the Year'

The Macomb County Chamber of Commerce was recently honored by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals (MACP) by being named 2012 Outstanding Chamber of the Year.

Grace Shore, CEO of the Macomb Chamber, said MACP presented several Chamber of the Year Awards based on the size of the particular chamber. Macomb won in the mid-size category. The organization has about 900 members.

The Outstanding Chamber of the Year Award is meant to recognize organization excellence in chambers and provides a unique benchmarking opportunity to assess a chamber's strengths.

The award is based on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce accreditation process for local chambers and highlights accomplishments in the areas of leadership/governance, finance, advocacy and membership development.

"Among the Macomb County Chamber's noted achievements were its leadership in state and local policy issues, its targeted communications strategy and its ability to manage financial and human resources to maximize return on its investment," said Bob Thomas, director of MACP.

Shore noted, "When they heard about us winning, the . . . directors (were) very proud," Shore said. "We heard that we had won the award at the recent

state-wide chamber conference in October. They had an award banquet and I was given a plaque as well for winning the Michigan Chamber Professional Award. I have been Macomb's CEO for 22 years."

Winning the award was no easy task, Shore said. The Macomb Chamber had to put together a portfolio and present it to MACP.

The portfolio included essays that described the chamber's financial condition as well as its governance policies, and its advocacy on behalf of chamber members, as well as its business programs.

"This is an award that celebrates the whole chamber and our board of directors," Shore said.

"They have all contributed so much to our success. As to what's next for the Macomb Chamber, it's more of the same. We like to do things that serve all of Macomb County and serve the community as a whole."

Shore said the chamber instituted two new programs this year.

One was the preparedness event. The chamber worked with local hospitals to have a plan in place in case of an emergency.

"As I say this, Hurricane Sandy is hitting the East Coast," Shore said. "When a disaster like that hits an area, it's good to have coordinated plans in place to allow



Several members of the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce show off the "Outstanding Chamber of the Year" award which was presented to the organization by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals. Standing from left: Kevin Chandler, Wayne State University; Don Kieftuk, Health Alliance Plan; Dan Bernard, Vercruyse, Murray & Calzone, PC; Mike Lotito, Innes & Lotito, PC; Grace Shore, Chamber CEO; Jon Peterson, AT&T; Geary Maiuri, Macomb Community College; Eric Emerton, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management; Larry Powe, Keller Thoma PC, and Melissa Seley, Flagstar Bank. Seated from left: Lynn Carlino, Baker College of Clinton Township; Susan Crkovski, Davenport University; Jennifer Mefford, IBEW/NECA, and Board Chair Maria Silamianos Sherman, Omega Solutions.

institutions such as hospitals to be able to handle emergency situations as they happen."

The emergency doesn't have to be weather-based, Shore said. It could be medical, public safety or technological in nature, she said, adding that the point is to be ready when something bad

happens. Hurricane Sandy has shown the value of making plans in advance of when an emergency happens.

The second program that the chamber started in 2012 was the "Hiring Our Heroes" effort. Held at Selfridge Air Force Base, it was aimed at helping returning

veterans find employment.

The Macomb Chamber has 21 board members, chaired by Maria Silamianos-Sherman of Omega Solutions, a professional employers association. Mike Lotito, a CPA with Innes and Lotito, takes over as chairperson in 2013.

TV Anchor Hosts Lions Fundraiser in Warren

The Lions Hearing Center of Michigan is holding its eighth annual Dinner Dance and Auction on Saturday, Nov. 10, in the MRCC Banquet and Convention Center at 23401 Mound Road in Warren.

The festivities begin at 5 p.m. This year's hostess and emcee is WDIV Channel 4's Carmen Harlan. The dance will feature the music of the Saline Fiddlers.

Tickets are \$55 apiece. A table of 10 may be purchased for \$500.

In addition to dinner and dancing, there will be a live auction and a silent auction. Among the prizes available through live bidding are a one-week stay at the Grand Mayan Resort in Mexico, a weekend stay in Chicago, fishing trips and Red Wings tickets.

Items available through the silent auction include sports memorabilia, electronics, jewelry and gift certificates. There will also be a raffle with a grand prize of \$1,000.

To order tickets, call 313-745-4664, or visit www.lhcmi.org/dinnerdanceauction.html.

The Lions Hearing Center of Michigan funds a variety of programs and services, including a newborn hearing care program.

It also funds free hearing screening for children at schools, Head Start programs, the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility

and a variety of health fairs.

The Center's programs also help seniors. They provide a free hearing screening to any senior program, community center or living facility in the greater Detroit region.

Screenings are offered on location and at no cost to the program or to the senior citizen. They also provide follow-up care at their clinics in Southfield, Rochester and Dearborn. Screenings are performed by the Center's trained staff and volunteers.

The Center also has a hearing aid assistance program. For

those individuals who qualify (no insurance and within 200 percent of poverty income levels), the Center provides free hearing aids. These new hearing aids are digital and programmable.

Hearing aids are available to persons living in Michigan, and are distributed through 17 participating locations around the state.

In addition, low-cost hearing aids are available to all individuals who do not qualify for this program. A wide range of models is available to those in need of hearing aids.

\$2 Hardcover Books, Children's Books For 25 Cents Offered at Warren Sale

The Friends of the Warren Public Library are holding their November Book Sales Friday, Nov. 16, and Saturday, Nov. 17.

Officials say there will be no book sales in December, so this is the last chance to take advantage of the group's book bargains this year.

Friends president Naida Okray said the books come from a variety of sources. Some are donated, some are the library's overflow.

"We carry books on a variety of topics," Okray said. "We carry novels, we carry children's books, we carry cookbooks, textbooks, DVDs, books on tape and even VHS tapes."

The cost can't be beat, Okray said. The hardcover books go for \$2, trade paperbacks go for \$1, fiction paperbacks go for 50 cents, Harlequin romances 25 cents, children's books 25 cents, VHS tapes \$1, talking books \$1 and DVDs \$1.

"That's quite a bargain," Okray said. "We will have people stop by our store at 5959 Beebe off of Mound Road and drop off a bag full of books as a donation, but they'll look around and end up buying two bags worth of books before they leave."

The money raised from the book sales goes to support the

Warren public library, Okray said, for projects that aren't in the library's budget.

The Friends group just bought some early-learning literacy computers for all the libraries in the Warren system. The old computers were, in turn, donated to the Bovenschan Special Needs School in the Macomb Intermediate School District.

"I also want to mention efforts JoAnn Rossell makes to serve our veterans," Okray said. "She takes duplicate books over to the John Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital."

When asked how many books are on sale, Okray replied that all of the books at 5959 Beebe are on sale. They number in the thousands.

"I'd say the biggest sellers are the fiction novels," Okray said. "We get a lot of people looking for their favorite authors like James Patterson and Janet Evanovich. But our customers are interested in a wide range of books from history to cooking to business."

The bookstore is open from 9 a.m. to noon every Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of the month. But there will be no Saturday hours this December. Regular hours pick up again in January.

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