

...for thirty years, the only Michigan association exclusively representing the family of independent bankers!

## Celebrating Community Banking Month - April 2005

*the winner is. . . .*

*"There's a spirit in our people, some call a sense of pride  
A building growing feeling, that comes from deep inside.  
It comes from knowing who you are - where you've been. Knowing if you had the chance, you'd do it all again.  
Hometown Community Spirit, Hometown Community Pride. that's what life is all about, reaching far and wide.  
Building for the future, altogether, side by side.  
Hometown Community Spirit, Hometown Community Pride!"*

The Michigan Association of Community Bankers welcomes the celebration of Community Banking Month this April with the **Shining Star Contest**. We were elated with all the contestants. Their community involvement overwhelmed us and made us very proud of each one in our association.

Old Mission Bank was voted the winner this year by the MACB Associates Outreach and Advisory Council. We will be delivering a banner, coffee and donuts - plus a FREE registration to the MACB Annual Convention and a FREE Tel/Webcast seminar. **Congratulations!**

You are a **Shining Star among Michigan's community banks.**



### OLD MISSION BANK

Old Mission Bank is a community bank located in Sault Ste. Marie. Since opening their doors in February 2000, the bank has shown the Sault Ste. Marie community that their core values are centered on "Hometown Community Spirit". From the time they opened for business, Old Mission Bank has been supporting the community in many different ways. It is one thing to give money to support the community -- but it is their philosophy to go above and beyond just giving money.

In the fall of 2002, a group of concerned citizens formed to purchase and revitalize the historical Soo Theatre that was built in 1930 and closed its doors in 1998. The group started with nothing but a passion to preserve this historical landmark. Old Mission Bank stepped in to help purchase the historical site and save it from being turned over to the state for back taxes. They attended committee meetings, worked with the sellers, met with the city leaders, helped structure a land contract and issued a \$50,000 interest free loan. In March 2003, the Soo Theatre was purchased and the group has been going strong ever since.

As a result of the Soo Theatre Project, Sault Ste. Marie was the recipient of Governor Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative which resulted in a \$100,000 grant (with additional funds possible) to go towards the renovation of that project. The residents of Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas have been energized by this project. Everyone wants to help and the momentum is building. This excitement would not have been possible had Old Mission Bank not provided the expertise and funds to purchase the theatre. This is just one of many community projects that Old Mission Bank has wrapped its arms around to show Hometown Community Spirit and Pride!

