



Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2015-16, No. 9, January 16, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

University Club
Downtown Grand Rapids
Meetings begin at 12:15 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.

----- We Serve -----

Monday, January 18, Remember and Celebrate Our Civil Rights - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 18, Lions Club Bowling League, Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

Tuesday, January 19, "Why West Michigan's Economy is Different", Rick Chapla

Monday, January 25, Lions Club Bowling League, Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

Tuesday, January 26, Board of Directors Meeting, ABVI, Noon

Tuesday, January 26, Eyeglass Recycling Work Session & Dinner, Jamar Labs, 6:00 pm

Monday, February 1, Lions Club Bowling League, Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

Tuesday, February 2,

Clarence & Zita Harris Trusts Make Significant Bequests To the Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation

Upon their deaths last year, the Clarence and Zita Harris's trusts bestowed a total of **\$182,129.29** to the Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation. This brought the value of the endowment held by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to about **\$740,000**. This generous bequest brings our club closer to our goal of \$1 million.

About a month before his death on May 24, 2015, several Grand Rapids Lions visited Clarence at this home in Porter Hills Retirement Community to celebrate his 60 years as a Grand Rapids Lions Club Member. Almost 2 months after Clarence's death, his wife, Zita, died. Clarence's memorial article was published in an article after his death (Vol. 20014-15, No. 20, June 17, 2015).

Obviously, Clarence & Zita were part of the Lions family for a very long time and enjoyed helping others. Through their wills, their bequests were a way of continuing to provide service to help others through Lionism. Many other Grand Rapids Lions Club members have already made provisions in their wills to contribute to the Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation. Please consider our Foundation as you draft or revise your will.

Tuesday, January 19 Why West Michigan's Economy is Different, Rick Chapla

With a population of over 1.5 million people in the 13 West Michigan Counties, a low unemployment rate, low cost of living

and a highly-ranked Grand Rapids in several categories, these are some reasons why West Michigan is different. There seems to be an energy pulsating from West Michigan that is felt throughout the state. Our business and community leaders have set in motion an unprecedented level of growth and investment throughout the region that has made West Michigan a destination for business success.

A hallmark, or culture, of collaboration distinguishes West Michigan from other parts of the State or nation, even in competing sectors or companies. In contrast to much of the rest of the state where automobile or tourist industries are leaders, West Michigan includes these sectors as well as other smart-manufacturing, agri-business, life science, information technology and commercial design. Grand Rapids leads the way with Global Trade Magazine ranking the city among the top ten “emerging cities in the U.S. for global trade.

Our speaker, Rick Chapla joined The Right Place in 1996 and is currently Vice President, Strategic Initiatives. The Right Place is a regional non-profit economic development organization. Mr. Chapla seems like he is everywhere in the community and has involved in community development and planning for 30 years. His was with the City of Muskegon for 16 years in a variety of position including Director of Planning and Economic Development. He has been in leadership roles in the Land Conservancy, the Michigan Society of Planning Officials, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and the East Grand Rapids Planning Commission.

Rick and his wife, Willow, have two twin sons and a daughter.

Tuesday, January 26
Eyeglasses Recycling Project & Dinner
6:00 – 8:00 pm, Jamark Labs
[No Meeting at Noon at the University Club!](#)

The Eyeglass Recycling Session/Dinner Meeting will be Tuesday, January 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm (Recycling Center opens at 3:00 pm). Please come today and bring guest and prospective members who are interested in a hands-on service project.

The Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is at Jamark Labs at 4282 Brockton SE, Suite D, Grand Rapids. It is approximately 1/2 mile east of Broadmore Avenue, about 1 block north of 44th street at the first traffic light and on the east side of Brockton. It is the northern-most suite in a series of connected businesses. Parking and entrances are available in the front of the building. If you have questions or want more information, please contact **Lion Brent Spoelstra** at bespoelstra@yahoo.com or 616-283-0260, or one of the other committee members.

Note: *The Recycling Center will be open every Tuesday from 3:00 – 8:00 pm.*

17th Annual Michigan Lions Forum

The 17th Annual Michigan Lions Forum will take place on Friday/Saturday, February 26-27, 2016 at the Causeway Bay Hotel located at 6820 S. Cedar Street in Lansing, Michigan (south of I-96). This Forum offers Lions members and spouses the opportunity to learn about Lions and leadership roles. You can get a preview of our Blind Dinner Date speaker since Justice Richard Bernstein will be the key note speaker at the luncheon on Saturday. The brochure on the Forum will be a separate attachment along with this newsletter.

While some Lions members go down Friday night, many of us have met early on Saturday morning to carpool down to Lansing and then return in the afternoon. Each Lions should register individually or

as partners and pay the \$40.00/per person registration fee. The Grand Rapids Lions Club will reimburse your cost. If you want to carpool, please contact Craig Nobbelin (c.nobbelin@yahoo.com or 616-458-0471) who will coordinate the carpool.

Mark Your Calendars – 11C-1 District Convention One Day at Krupp Farms in Comstock Park

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 19, 2016** – a one-day, one district convention! The Convention is titled “Down of the Farm – Getting back to basics.” The registration deadline is February 14, 2016. Full-day attendance is \$45, including the luncheon buffet and a family-friendly Hog Roast/Picnic. The District material does not indicate if there is a rate for the day without the dinner/picnic.

Check-in registration will begin at 8:00 am and conclude with the picnic. Families are invited to attend only the pig roast/picnic for additional cost. The morning sessions include Service Projects / Fundraising and a roundtable discussion on Networking/Membership – Growth / Leadership Development. The afternoon sessions will include the Business Meeting / Elections and pie eating, game and line dancing opportunities.

Contact Craig Nobbelin (c.nobbelin@yahoo.com or 616-458-0471) if you want to register.

Other Lion News

Blind Dinner Date: Remember to mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, March 3, 2016 for the 10th Grand Rapids Lions Club’s Blind Dinner Date! Our Featured Speaker will be **Justice Richard H. Bernstein, Michigan Supreme Court**. The event will be held at Thousand Oaks Country Club. More information on cost and how you can reserve your sponsorships, your table or your spot will be forthcoming.