



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2014-15, No. 20, June 27, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Tuesday, September 8, First Luncheon Meeting of the Year (FY2015-16)

Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 pm,
First Scheduled Recycling Night
for the 2015-16 Lions Season

September 17 – 19, USA/Canada Leadership Forum, Grand Rapids, MI

Tuesday, September 29, Noon,
ABVI, Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 6:00 pm, Jamark Labs, Eyeglass Recycling Work Session & Dinner



In Memory of Clarence “Chuck” W. Harris October 31, 1921 – May 24, 2015

Lion Clarence W. Harris died on Sunday, May 24, 2015 at his home at Porter Hills Village, Grand Rapids. He was 93 years old. He was born on October 30, 1921. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Zita Dobray Harris, nephews Jack Pool, Richard (Nora) Dobrygoski, James Dobrygoski; nieces Judy (Don) Looman, Sandra (Dave) McKone; and several great nieces and nephews

He became a member of the Grand Rapids Lions Club on February 1, 1955, sponsored by Lion Earl Unseld. He was a 60-year Lions Monarch, for which he was awarded his 60-year Chevron when several Lions visited him this April. In 1993, Chuck was the recipient of the “Henry Voet Award for Outstanding Service to Lionism”. Chuck had not attended meetings in recent years because of mobility issues and earlier this year entered hospice care.

Chuck spent his career in the heating and cooling business before retiring in 1982. He was active in his church and in Lions, an avid sportsman and participated in our Lions bowling league and summer golf outings. After golf, Lions would find him playing cards and smoking his cigar. He was a B-24 bomber pilot in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was shot down over Germany later in the war and spent about 6 months in a German prisoner of war camp before the war ended in Europe.

One of the things that few, if any, current Lions know was that Chuck was a poet. Four of his poems were displayed at his memorial mass, one of which follows this memorial article. Others may appear in future newsletters.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 29 at 11:00

am at St. Paul the Apostle Church. He specified that memorial contributions should be made to the Grand Rapids Lions Club.

***Proud to be a Lion
By Chuck Harris (May 1974)***

I'm proud to be a Lion,
And I'd like to tell you why;
Because they're always tryin
To help the other guy.

They never ask who it is,
They say what can I do,
A phone call, or a visit
They always see it through.

The Boy Scouts are just one
Of several groups they aid,
And when the project's done,
The bills are marked paid.

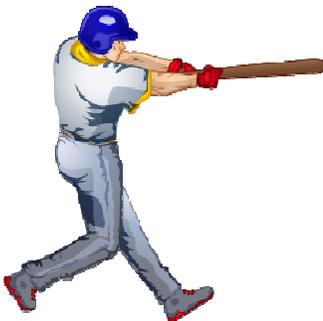
Salvation Army volunteer
In rain, or snow, or sleet,
The Lions do it every year
These guys just can't be beat.

But number one, they help the blind
In every way they can,
Such dedication's hard to find,
And they give it, to a man.

Yes, I'm a Lion member
And I'm proud as I can be,
But there's one thing to remember,
There are hundreds more like me.

Editor's Note: When the club had considerably more members, the club used to support the Boy Scouts and the Salvation Army, in addition to support for organizations serving blind or visually impaired people.

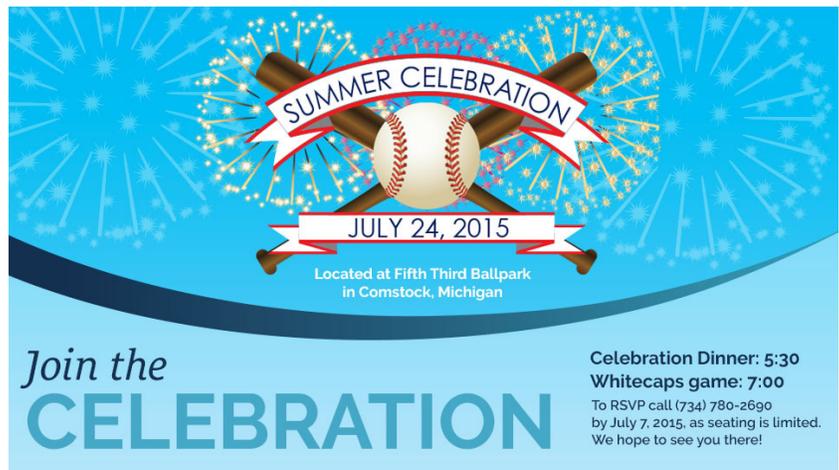
***Summer Celebration at the White Caps on July 24, 2015
Help Raise Funds for the Michigan Eversight
(formerly Michigan Eye-Bank)***



On July 24, Michigan Eversight will hold its 5th Annual Celebration at Fifth Third Ball Park in Comstock Park to raise funds and promote one of the Lions Statewide projects. You can come to enjoy the game and/or volunteer to sell tickets in a 50/50 raffle: half of one share goes to Eversight and the other half goes to the White Caps Foundation what helps to support various local causes. Eversight is requesting Lions volunteers and friends from throughout our District 11C1 to volunteer to

help sell the 50/50 raffle tickets. Volunteers should be mobile and able to go through the stands.

Here's what the Eye-Bank needs: 18-20 volunteers from 5:15 pm until the end of the 7th inning. Volunteers must be 18+ and should dress for the weather. They will receive a voucher for a hot dog and drink to use in the ballpark that evening. Let's have a good representation from our club!



If you want to volunteer or just attend the Celebration, please contact Alison Claerhout Wright, Community Relations Manager, Michigan Eversight at (800) 247-7250 (main) or her direct line at (734) 780-2638.

Humor and Suspense at the Lion's 2014 Annual Meeting

Fifty-six Lions and guests enjoyed the Grand Rapids Lions Club's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 9 at Blythefield Country Club. After a lot of socializing and piano music by Jack Kimmell, President Don Jakel opened the meeting with Mark Oberlin leading the singing of God Bless America. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the Innovation, the dinner (entrée' of sirloin steak or walleye) was served.

Since this is the first year under the new Lions structure in which the three top officers are beginning their second year, President Don felt a change-of-pace was in order: He welcomed Mark Oberlin back to the platform to introduce the entertainment for the night: Comedian Rob Johnson. Lion Mark noted that he had known "Robby" most of Rob's life, attended the Forest Hills school system and West Michigan University and then, with the encouragement of his parents (Rob Johnson & former Lion Lynn Johnson) is pursuing his dream as a stand-up comic in Chicago. Given the number of laughs and groans he got from the Lions and guests, he is well on his way to fulfilling his dream.

After the entertainment, President Don reminded us of the sad news from this year: the passing of devoted **Lions Clarence Anderson, Rev. Chuck Fry and Chuck Harris**. Then, he recognized four new Lions who joined over the last year: **Lions Diana Bergquist, Benjamin Eavey, Michel Murphy (rejoined) and Kathy Oberlin**.

President Don reported on our service projects and fund raising events. The Meijer Kids Shopping event served a record number of kids (43) in shopping for Christmas presents their families. Regular eyeglasses recycling sessions were held every Tuesday night, with two mission trip held this year – one to Jamaica and the other to Playa del Carmen, Mexico. The Lions Club annually sponsors a field trip for visually impaired students – this year to Camp Tuhsmehta with 35 students from across Kent County. On May 30, VI Sports Day was held despite the rain when the activities moved inside Wealthy Elementary School. Lions' luncheon programs took place every noon from September to last week.

Continuing on to our Club's fund raising events, President Don noted a record year for calendar sales, the Blind Dinner Date which featured Christine Ha, the first ever blind contestant and season 3 winner of the competitive amateur cooking show, "[MasterChef](#)" USA, a successful White Cane Drive and an expected "profitable" Grand Rapids Ophthalmology Drive for Vision the following Monday. In

addition, the Grand Rapids Lions Club Fund (at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation) generated upward of \$20,000 that the club distributes to our primary charities and other charitable causes.

President Don made the Award Presentations that included:

- ☞ **Rookie of the Year Award:** Candidates are Lions members who join Lions within the past 2 years and have demonstrated good attendance, shown initiative, motivated others by setting a good example and participated in Club projects. Last year's recipients, **Lion Gail Junod** and **Lion Jean Kraai**, were given a replacement plaque for the **Joseph M. Trenshaw Memorial Rookie of the Year Trophy**. This year's Rookie of the Year Award was presented to a Lion who participated in many activities and stepped up to help organize the Drive for Vision golf outing: **Lion Kyle Travis**.

- ☞ The **Lion of the Year** was presented to two individuals who made significant contributions in developing the marketing and communication portions of the club's strategic plan: **Lion Pat Mullen** and **Lion Mike Murphy**.

- ☞ The **Henry Voet Award for Outstanding Service to Lionism** is the highest award that the Grand Rapids Lions can bestow. The recipient of the 68th annual Henry Voet Award was selected by the Past-Presidents of the Grand Rapids Lions Club by secret ballot. Last year's recipient, **Lion Charles Fry**, died in January and was recognized. In a renewed tradition made famous by deceased Lion Danny Palmatier, Lion Mark Oberlin hoisted the trophy and walked through the room, pausing here and there, before holding the trophy over the head of the 2015 recipient: **Lion Craig Nobbelin**.

- ☞ The Lions president has the option to present **special awards** to Lions who have distinguished themselves. Present Don selected two Lions this year:
 - **President Appreciation Award: Lions Anne Baird** who helped organize the Meijer Kids Shopping Event and the White Cane Drive, in addition fulfilling a new role for President Don to follow up on special requests which primarily related to vision resources that she knows so well.
 - **Appreciation Award – Tail Twister Extraordinaire: Lion Mike Luhn** who served as our Club's tail-twister for many years, making the luncheons seem fun while imposing fines and gathering "Happy Dollars", welcoming guests and touting the victories of Ohio State University, his alma mater. Lion Mike is moving to South Carolina to be closer to his grandchildren.

President Don recognized the **current 2014-15 Board of Directors** and retiring board member:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| ☞ Lion Richard Boland (2015) | ☞ Lion Craig Nobbelin, Secretary |
| ☞ Lion Gary Anderson (2015) | ☞ Lion Jacqueline Smart-Parrish, Membership * |
| ☞ Lion Erik Anderson (2016) | ☞ Lion Shawn Eyestone (Vice President) |
| ☞ Lion Bill Fleetham (2016) | ☞ Lion Don Jakel (President) |
| ☞ Lion Scott Embree (2017) | ☞ Lion Scott Brady, Chairman of the Board |
| ☞ Lion Ryan Smith (2017) | |
| ☞ Lion Jeff Kraai, Treasurer | |

* Retiring Board Member

Past International Director Lion Gary Anderson installed the **2015-16 Officers and Directors** of the Grand Rapids Lions Club:

- ☞ Temporarily Vacant (2017)
- ☞ Ryan Smith (2017)
- ☞ Lion Erik Anderson (2016)
- ☞ Lion Bill Fleetham (2016)
- ☞ Lion Gary Anderson (2018)
- ☞ Lion Richard Boland (2018)
- ☞ Lion Jeff Kraai, Treasurer
- ☞ Lion Craig Nobbelin, Secretary
- ☞ Lion Scott Embree, Membership
- ☞ Lion Shawn Eyestone, Vice President
- ☞ Lion President Don Jakel
- ☞ Lion Chairperson Scott Brady

President Don made closing remarks and adjourned the Annual Meeting.

USA/Canada Leadership Forum
September 17-19, 2015, DeVos Place Convention Center
Attend & Volunteer

Returning to Grand Rapids for the 2nd time within 8 years is an even better **USA/Canada Leadership Form** on from Thursday through Saturday, September 17-19, 2015. You have a great opportunity to learn leadership skills at 120 general sessions and Lions University courses for only the cost of registration and your time – no lodging and minimal transportation costs. There will also be exhibitors and Lions merchandise for purchase. On Thursday evening, there will be a Lions Forum Festival which will feature a ferris wheel within DeVos Place Convention Center. A highlight will be the Saturday luncheon, featuring the incoming President (currently 1st vice president) Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada. His presentation will detail his 2015-16 theme and program for his presidency. **Go to www.lionsforum.org to register and learn more about the forum.**

You will also have a chance to volunteer. The Grand Rapids Lions Club has been asked to provide coverage at the Forum registration tables at the Amway Grand Plaza for Wednesday, September 15 and Thursday, September 16 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. When details and a volunteer schedule have been finalized, the club will share it with you and ask you to sign-up.

Other Lion News

Eyeglasses Recycling: The first recycling night will be Sept. 8, the day after Labor Day. Brent Spoelstra said, “We have a healthy start on our stock of glasses for the next trip, which allows us a breather for the summer. While there are no scheduled work nights over the summer, several parties have expressed an interest in doing some work, and we are making efforts to accommodate them.” Bent continued, “Numerous members have inquired [*about the next mission trip*], but we have not yet nailed down a site for our next mission trip. Once that is set, we will be able to estimate the patient load and the size of the team needed to handle the clinic.”

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