



# Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club  
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2018-19, No.1, July 23, 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*University Club*

*Downtown Grand Rapids*

*Luncheon Meetings begin at 12:10  
p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

*----- We Serve -----*

### **August, Date to Be Announced, Family Picnic**

Monday, August 13, Board of  
Directors Planning Meeting, 6:00  
pm, Location TBD

Tuesday, September 4, First  
Luncheon Meeting of 2018-19  
Lions Year

Tuesday, September 4, First  
Recycling Session in the Fall

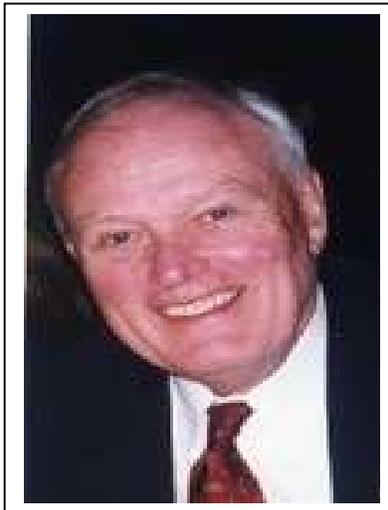
Monday, September 10, Opening  
Night of Bowling, 4:45 m (tentative)

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### ***“Second Century Success”***

*Ave you made your pledge or  
donation to the Second Century  
Success Campaign?*

## *In Memory of John S. Vander Heide, Jr. May 27, 1931 – June 24, 2018*



It is with sadness that we report the death of Lion John Vander Heide, Jr. on Sunday, June 24, 2018. He was 87 years old. He was most recently in hospice care in Grand Haven, MI.

John joined the Grand Rapids Lions Club in 1957, sponsored by Judge Robert Smolenski. He served on the Board of Directors and as our President in 1988-89. In 2017, he completed his 60<sup>th</sup> year as a Lions, earning him his Lions 60-year Monarch Chevron

for his Lions pin. Unfortunately, he died before it was presented to him. He also was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship award from the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

He proudly served in the U.S. Army, and returned to Grand Rapids to join the family business, Holland American Wafer Company, until his retirement in 2000. John was a man of many interests. His leadership roles as a board member were appreciated by many local organizations, including GR University of Michigan Club, GR Lions Club, GR Economic Club, Wedgwood Christian Homes, and GR Chamber Music Society.

## Lions' Summer Birthdays

*Happy Belated Birthdays to Lions whose birthdays have past & Happy Wishes to those which have birthdays yet to come this summer!*

Patrick Droste	June	4
Stephen Mulder	June	4
Sharon Barton	June	11
Frederick Martin	June	14
James Junod	June	16
Richard Bolhuis	June	21
Benjamin Logan	June	25
Sherah Eavey	July	1
Bill Fleetham	July	5
Robert Lalley	July	5
Patrick Mullen	July	6
Cheryl Anderson	July	9
Scott Brady	July	18
Kayla Roggenbach	July	18
Robert Snyders	July	18
Craig Nobbelin	July	20
Ryan Smith	July	25
Richard Stevens	July	25
David Kok	July	27
Shawn Eyestone	July	29
Kim Gary	August	1
Kristen Plafkin	August	1
Richard Boland	August	2
Jana Kim	August	5
Nicolas Allen	August	6
Mark Oberlin	August	7
Stephanie Anderson	August	12
David LaGrand	August	13
William Reese	August	14
Gary Anderson	August	15
Benjamin Eavey	August	15
Robert White	August	26



He also served as a board member of Elim Christian School in Chicago, IL, the Biscuit and Cracker Manufacturers' Association in Washington DC, and the Executive Reserve of Business and Defense Services in Washington DC. John was a dedicated member of the Christian Reformed Church, serving in various positions at Alger Park and Brookside churches in Grand Rapids, and after retirement, he was a member of Second Christian Reformed Church in Grand Haven.

John was an avid U of M sports fan, a fisherman, golfer, tennis player, ham radio operator, car buff, and music lover. His favorite hobby was participating in Car Club events in Michigan and Arizona, where he resided in the winter. John will be fondly remembered by his large group of coffee buddies and good friends from all walks of life in Michigan and Arizona. After he got older he lived mostly along the Lake Michigan lake shore.

John's happiest moments were spent with his family: Patricia Jane, his wife of 64 years, and his sons David, Dr. Richard and John III, as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Perhaps, the most tragic moment of his life was the death of his son, John III, in 1988.

A memorial service was held on July 11, 2018 at the Chapel on the campus of Calvin College. At the service, Jane had asked the pastor to reflect on John as a friend. Here are a few excerpts. "He liked this definition, 'A friend is one who multiplies joys, divides grief, and whose honesty is inviolable.' John personifies that definition."

Later, he noted that members of a lunch group (John was a charter member) "... characterized John – steadfast, dependable, balanced, organized, humble, while also saying he was determined-and yeas-sometimes stubborn." As he continued, that when John and Jane lost their son in 1988, John had confided, "If God ever wanted to try my faith, this would be the way. Yet, both of them remained steadfast and faithful to their Lord." The pastor concluded his remarks, "Whether in the context of business, the Board Room or among all of us who knew him, John's word was his bond."

## Drive for Vision 2018 Successful

Success found the annual *Drive for Vision Charity Golf Outing* (the 32<sup>nd</sup>). It was held at Quail Ridge Golf Club on Monday, June 18, 2017, brought to you by Title Sponsor

Grand Rapids Ophthalmology, a partner with Blue Sky Vision.

Multiple sponsors at different levels were critical to the success of this fundraiser. Lunch, a shot-gun start for the golf and dinner, when prizes were awarded, made for a nice day. A total of 132 golfers played, with 23 Lions members among them. Revenue was about \$62,000, netting more than \$42,355, which is more than the last several years net available for our charities.

Winning the men's division was the team from Shoreline Vision: Rawlinson, River, Wohfield & Bateman with a score of 56 (minus 16) . . . while Colleen Mulder's team: Mulder, Ochsankehl, Blackport & Basinski won the mixed division with a 59 (minus 13). The new event this year was the "Ball Drop" where anyone can participate in a 50-50 raffle, even those who didn't play: Gary Anderson was the big winner!

Finally, we need to congratulate the 10 Lions who worked on the committee for this event, including 8 who volunteered the day of the event: **Lions Anna Clifford, Bill Fleetham, Jamie Junod, Pat Mullen, Mike Murphy, Richard Nelson, John Rice, Rick Stevens, Joshua Thorp** and a big thanks to **Kyle Travis**, who chaired the committee.

This event benefits our two largest charities: Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI) and the Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic at Cherry Health, plus a small share going to the Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation.

*Note: Next year's event is scheduled for Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Quail Ridge Golf Club.*

## Changing with the Times

*Almost 100 years since its founding: Grand Rapids Lions Club.* Over these years, Lions members have adapted the way they get together at meetings, the way they raise funds and how they serve the community. In recent times, service clubs have had a rough time in maintaining membership and serving the community. Since the year 2000, our club embarked on two strategic planning efforts – one in 2003 and the other 5 years ago. These efforts basically were efforts to increase our membership to better serve our key charities related to vision and to have fun and meaning while doing this. Dues have changed, new programs initiated (e.g., eyeglass recycling and mission trips) and a Branch Internet club started.

Recently, you received a letter from **Lion Jeff Kraai**, the club Treasurer, announcing modest structural and dues changes. This was the result of your responses to a membership survey in the spring 2017 and discussion of those results by the Board of Directors this past year. Here's a summary – See Jeff's letter for details:

- Membership categories become the Program Level (lunch) and the Service Level (was the Branch Internet).
- All members would have equal privileges and rights. But the dues structure would be different (as it was previously).
- Program Level costs would cover all lunches. Service Level is less. Both have a discount for paying for a full year in July. Members under 40 years of age, would have a lower charge for Program Level for 5 years after they join.
- Both levels include service opportunities, International, State and District dues & magazines, and attendance at holiday party and annual meeting.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> member in a household would get a \$35 discount.

If you haven't sent in your choice to Jeff Kraai, please do so right away. He can be reached at: 616-281-0081 or [jdkraai@comcast.net](mailto:jdkraai@comcast.net).

## **Second Century of Success Campaign as our Lions Club Enters its Second Century**

Two months have passed since Lions Pat Mullen and Kim Gary announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century of Success Campaign and letters were mailed asking members for 100% participation. This effort is to reach contributions and/or pledges so our Clubs endowment fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation can reach \$1 million by the end of this year with donations or pledges (no matter how large or small), before the start of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year. It is achieving early success. There are other details involved, but this is the main thrust of this campaign. Please direct questions about the campaign to Pat Mullen at: [pmullen@mullencoins.com](mailto:pmullen@mullencoins.com) or 616-272-4402 (mobile).

*Creation of the endowment: In 1988, one member, Lynn Francis, had an innovative idea to help sustain or support for our charities. That was the birth of this endowment fund. In that way, even if the club raised fewer funds, we could always support our charities with the revenue generated from the endowment.*

## **LCIF Helping Around the World**

The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has been helping people around the world for 50 years. (article in the March 2018 issue of the of the Lion magazine) Of course, this has been accomplished through the world-wide network of Lions Clubs and its members, as well as through strategic alliances to combat specific problems. Its mission: "To support the efforts of Lions clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants."

"With more than \$1 billion in funding awarded through more than 13,000 grants, LCIF has restored sight to parents who had not been able to see their children. It has rebuilt communities devastated by earthquakes and wildfires. It has fed hungry children and embowered youth to become healthy, productive adults." The article continued, "with the support of LCIF, Lions built water wells and latrines that are helping to control the spread of blinding diseases. People who were once hidden from the world because of disability, now attend school and contribute to their communities. This \$1 billion has sown the world that Lions care and LCIF helps."

LCIF's first grant was on June 9, 1972 when a flood devastated parts of Rapid City, South Dakota, causing the death of 238 people, injuries to 3,000 more and the destruction of 1,335 homes. Lions Clubs were among the first on the scene to help the community. Currently, LCIF focuses on four main areas: sight, youth, disaster and humanitarian efforts.

In more recent years, our Club and community has benefited from several grants. One was a \$75,000 matching grant. We surpassed that level and that the and a triple-match from Medicaid resulted in over \$800,000 to build and give naming rights for the new Heart of the City Health Center's Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic. A couple other matching grants helped fund the equipment and some supplies for our Eyeglass Recycling Project. Our Club donates each year to LCIF.

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## Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – 1969

*As we approach our 100th anniversary in 2019, and as the club looks forward, this series of articles looks back on the activities of the club, this time drawing upon Nuda Veritas editions that we have in our archives from the first half of 1969. (Some editions are missing.)*

*The Tuesday weekly luncheons continued at the Pantlind Hotel. Here are a few programs:*

### Retinal Detachment Program

*[The National Eye Institute defines retinal detachment: “The retina is the light-sensitive layer of tissue that lines the inside of the eye and sends visual messages through the optic nerve to the brain. When the retina detaches, it is lifted or pulled from its normal position. If not promptly treated, **retinal detachment** can cause permanent vision loss. In some cases, there may be small areas of the retina that are torn. These areas, called retinal tears or retinal breaks, can lead to retinal detachment.”]*

“This [Tuesday] program should be of great interest because of our deep interest and involvement in the problems of the blind and sight conservation.”

“Dr. Leroy Strong is one of the very few ophthalmologists qualified to use the Photo-coagulation unit which the Grand Rapids Lions Club help purchase for St. Mary’s Hospital . . . It is my thought that, since our main activities revolves around assistance to the blind, you as Lions would like to know more about this type of prevention of blindness.”

- On January 7, 1969, the executive director of the Michigan Township Association, Col. Joseph Parisi, Jr, spoke on the subject, “The Future of Local Government”. [This question doesn’t seem to change over the years.]
- Our Lions District 11-C Governor updated the club’s members with what was happening in the District.
- Two Lions members, Dale Chesser and Joe Van Blooys, presided over the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, hosted by our Club. The Chamber new promotional film was shown at the meeting.
- Two local attorneys spoke in favor of (Thomas Shearer) and opposition to (Richard Harper) of a proposed City Charter Amendment which would establish a Department of Finance and the Office of Director of Finance. The ballot question read: “The purpose of the amendment is to integrate the several separate departments of the city performing various finance-related functions of municipal government into a single Finance Department to be headed by a Director of Finance.” “Shall the charter be amended as above described? – Yea – No.” [Interestingly, Richard Harper also spearheaded City efforts at the time “to change its policy of policy of closed sessions to at least one night meeting a month so that the public can attend.” [obviously well before the open meetings laws]
- In March, Tony Dauksza returned to talk about his Alaskan adventure. This time he described and showed pictures from a canoe trip to Pt. Barrow to Inuvik on the MacKenzie River.
- A St. Patrick’s Day program helped the Lions have a great celebration.
- Roy May, soloist and assistant director of Central Christian Church’s choir, directed the choir for our Easter Program this year.
- Earl Hill, Administrative Assistant of Public Relations for Consumers Power Community, talked about the energy sector.
- *Let’s Go Fishin’* was the topic of a program as several Lions

returned from Florida. “Dally” Dalrymple presented the film “Waters of the Whiteshell.” “dally” is was a nationally recognized authority for Zebco equipment and the “intricacies of angling in our northern waters.”

- Current Judges John VanderWal, Robert Smolenski, John Letts and Dale Stoppels spoke on April 29 for Law Day.
- Grand Rapids Junior College’s Musical Moods entertained the Lions Club on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

- A film on the 1968 Indianapolis 500, and excerpts from several other famous auto races, was shown to the at lunch.
- The Lions Club arranged for 55 foreign exchange students to meet Governor Milliken at a special luncheon at the Civic Auditorium.
- A native of Grand Rapids, Jacquelyn Otte, who recently had returned from Chu Lai, Viet Nam, and Fort Lewis (Washington), told “many interesting stories” about the war experience.

*The Nuda Veritas also had numerous interesting comments, observations, and facts on Lion issues, including:*

- Mosher’s Kangaroos were the fall bowling champions, with a record of 31 – 14 and a team average of 809.
- The Lions had collected over \$4,000 for the Salvation Army as they stood at the collection buckets over the holidays.
- The LCI Conventions was held in Tokyo, Japan on June 30 – July 5.
- A note of thanks was received from the public health nurses at the Kent County Health Department, noting that over a 14 month, they had referred 49 children to the Lions for eye examinations and glasses.
- Fred Waring was scheduled to perform again for a Lion’s fundraiser on October 23.
- The Rockford and Fremont Lions Clubs sponsored the new Grant Lions Club.
- In the Lions Bowling League, Van Blooys Leopards won the second half (winter) by just 2 games. Oudendyk’s Cougars were runner-ups.
- White Cane Week was on April 20 -26, 1969.
- This year (1969) was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the club.
- The Second Annual Strawberry Festival and Bazaar welcomed Lions and the public on June 21, 1969. [The strawberry jam was wonderful!]

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## **Other Lions News**

### **Summer Activities:**

**Weekly Luncheon Raffle Reminder for September:** The raffle pot now is about \$1,800 with three chips – two red and one white. The chances are certain there will be a winner at the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting In September, and that person will win about \$800+. Be sure to come to these meetings and buy tickets!

**USA – Canada Lions Leadership Forum:** The largest and best Lions Club Leadership training event in world, the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is for you! With over 50 specific training sessions related to developing quality Lions Clubs, thousands of Lions Leaders share their experiences. And, it is within driving distance (about 5 hours) this year in Columbus, Ohio. The Forum is on September 20 -22, 2018. To find out more information or make a reservation, go to [www.lionsforum.org](http://www.lionsforum.org). If you plan to go, check with members of our club to see if you can carpool to Columbus with Lions coming from West Michigan.

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