



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2017-18, No. 1, July 29, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

University Club

Downtown Grand Rapids

*Luncheon Meetings begin at 12:15
p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

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

Friday, August 25, 4:30 pm, Lions Club Golf Outing, Wallinwood Springs (see more detailed in this newsletter)



Tuesday, September 5, First Lions Luncheon Meeting of the New Season

Tuesday, September 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, First Eyeglass Recycling Workshop of the New Season

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

Lions Club Golf & Picnic Outing Friday, August 25

As you should know, the Lions Club social committee is hosting a golf outing and picnic on Friday August 25th, with the ***golf starting at 4:30 pm*** for those who want to play golf. The ***picnic will follow around 7:00 pm*** at Lions Cheryl and Gary Anderson's home.

The golf outing will be a casual, fun event and all members, spouses and friends are invited. We will play a scramble . . . so all golf abilities will be welcome. Cost for 9 holes of golf is \$25 which includes a cart and prizes. Golf will be at Wallinwood Springs Golf Club, 8152 Weatherwood Drive, Jenison 49426.

Dinner will be a casual cookout at a cost of \$10 per person. If you don't golf, then come for dinner. *If you don't show, you will be talked about.* Lions Cheryl and Gary's address is 1045 Lumina Dr, Jenison, MI 49428.



The front of the Wallinwood Spring golf course** is in the Scottish style, which means it is somewhat open by appearance. The Scots believe in letting nature be a golf ball's worst enemy. Berms and mounds pervade the

course and are coupled with over 30 sand traps to create a very unpleasant penalty for anyone unfortunate enough to explore their ridges or depths. Every hole has a large, undulating green that is challenging. Water comes into play on three of the nine holes.

The back nine features a 26-acre, man-made lake which creates a watery grave for misguided shots on five of the nine holes. The Grand River runs parallel to the 10th, 11th and 12th holes. The most difficult hole on the course just may be #16 - a par 4 which plays over 400 yards.

** Drawn from Wallinwood Springs Golf Club website

In an email earlier this summer, Lion Rob Lalley sent Lions a notice about this outing. **For questions and to reserve your spots, contact Lion Rob Lalley at rll@vwlst.com or 616-450-7968.**

Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – Last Six Months of 1945

As we approach our 100th anniversary in 2019, as the club looks forward, this series of articles looks back on the activities of the club, this time drawing upon some of the earliest Nuda Veritas editions that we have in our archives in late 1945.

Here are a selection of thoughts and activities from this time. The Tuesday weekly luncheons continued at the Pantlind Hotel. Here are a few programs:

- One of the pleasures that Lions luncheons have had over the years was our piano music. Jean Miller, who was Lions John McKay's sister, first began playing for the Lions in July 1946. She played into the '80's or '90 [Couldn't find out exactly when she died].
- The famous girl's ball team - the Grand Rapids Chicks - were guests of at the Lions Club's luncheon in August 1946. The team was very popular and the games were sellouts practically every night. The team was introduced, including their star catcher, Dorothy (Mickey) Maguire.
- At the first meeting of September, the program went "to the Dogs." The army's K-9 corps from Camp Custer went through all the tricks the K-9s had been taught to use on the enemy. This was their first appearance in Grand Rapids.
- A September program showed two films from *Field and Stream*. The first, titled Great Tuna, "shows how the boys hook them down on the Gulf Stream." The second, titled Biggest Bears, showed "the great Alaska brown bear in a very thrilling movie."
- In an October meeting, Lt. Col. Cecil Simmons, with the 126th Infantry, talked about his "travels" in Europe, getting around by 'yacht', on foot, by jeep "and when he was in a hurry, he went up in a plane and at the right moment, he just jumped out and dropped in on folks."
- Dr. Duncan Littlefair, Pastor of Fountain Street Baptist Church and prominent clergyman, spoke at the Lions Club luncheon on October 9, 1945.
- In late October, Wayne Hanson and world traveler, talked to club about his travels to make the word better. The last sentence caught the editor's eye, "Mr. Hanson's primary concern is to help create a spirit of mutual understanding and generous dealing among the peoples' North America and other lands." [Couldn't we use more of that today!]
- The Quota Club Girls, the new business women's club, spoke to us about their new organization.
- The Lions entertained for lunch Catholic Central's football team, City Champions this year, and had one of the coaches from the University of Michigan, Clarence Munn, making a presentation.
- A Christmas Message – Beautiful Music – Free Turkeys – Prizes: The message was by Lion & Rev. Harold Janes. The music was by the new boys' choir at Park Church. The raffle was for 10 turkeys, 10 5-pound chickens, cheese assortments and fruit cakes. Lions also brought a gift to share with another Lion.

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

- One article titled, “Our Ladies”, started out saying, “We have said before and we repeat that this, the Lions Club would not amount to much without the support of our ladies.” While the article continues, today, this statement is truer today more than it was back then. The ‘ladies’ are now Lions and supportive spouses. It would be fair to say, “We would not have it any other way!”
- In August 1945, an article, “Not Bad”, reported that **Lions International** was “represented in fifteen (15) **countries**, as follows: British Honduras, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, The United States, Venezuela.” At that time, there were **4,856 clubs** and the total **Lions membership was 217,894**. The article states, “We think that’s a fine showing and it most certainly gives us a representation of which we may well be proud.” [What would they say now? We now are in **210 countries** or territories with over **47,500 clubs** and **1.4 million members**.]
- The Nuda called for instances where customers got “real service.” Here is an example of service that most younger Lions (under 60) likely have not experienced. Mrs. Fred Olson (husband a Lion) reported unusual attention from a young lady operating an elevator in Herpolsheimer’s. She reported that this operator “went a long way out of her way to assist people and directed them to the proper departments. In every way, this young lady showed an interest in her job and the Herpolsheimer’s Company.”
- On a monthly basis (generally), the Lions Club promotes the Convention Bureau by sharing the “Convention News – Grand Rapids, The Convention Crossroads of America” which talks about the value of conventions and list those that have been recently held in Grand Rapids.
- The Club Service Committee has been given permission to buy a 16MM sound projector and screen. The will use excess proceeds from the Tuesday raffle to pay for them. “We think that’s a swell and it’s going to fill a long felt need in the Lions Club . . . Most new pictures will be 16MM and nearly all will be sound. [Ahh . . . the good ole days]
- “Carl Schowalter really is something. Fluid Drive, or Floating Power is the nearest I can come to it. If you ever saw him start out afoot, you would know what I mean. That man would undoubtedly be the best bet for anyone in a ten-mile hike.” [That’s probably why Carl lived until almost 102 and was still coming to Lions through June 2005. We noted that Carl donated \$100,000 to our Foundation upon his death.]
- A regular article, Lions’ Blind Activities noted that “Last Sunday, September 16th, it was just nine years since the Grand Rapids Lions Club took on the Blind Activities. We have watched over the blind people who were our first cases and it has been a real source of satisfaction, and it should be to every Lion that knows the story . . . “The funds came from the collection of pennies (in our little milk bottles” with their stands saying Lions Club), and sometimes special appeals.

The Shortest Meeting on Record

(Nuda Veritas, August 21, 1945)

“We venture to say that the Tuesday night meeting of the Board of Directors was the shortest meeting ever held. Wallace Muir [club president] had invited the Board to be his guests at his Lake Michigan cottage. Mrs. Muir had prepared the finest turkey dinner that you ever sat down to. The news of the Japs calling it a day reached us just as we were ready to sit down to dinner. The boys ate enough turkey and all the trimmin’s to last them a week. Then instead of settling down to the business of the evening, they approved two applications for membership and high-balled for home --- everyone wanted to be at home on an occasion like this. The meeting lasted just five minutes, and in our opinion, that’s a record.”

- A “Blind Activities” article said, “September means back to school, and the first call for this department come from the splendid teachers out at Ottawa Hills High School Braille Room. We supplied milk every day to two of the pupils out there who come from a very poor family, all last year, and could do that little thing again this year. It took \$10.00 to handle this item for the balance of this semester.” Later, the article noted, with some pride, “It is always nice to do something for the old folks who are blind, but when we can do something that brings sunshine and happiness to the children, it does seem so very much worthwhile.” Many issues shared stories about how the Lions helped people.
- Lion’s collections in our blind bottles were reported every month in the newsletter. Several companies often lead the way, including Knape & Vogt, the Bomber Café, Kirkoff Electric, Paul Steketee & Sons, Kelly Shirt Company, Modern Sheet Metal, Anderson Shoe, Old Kent Bank, and so forth. As the first & largest Lions Club in West Michigan, the club took the lead in distributing the milk-bottle stands so other clubs could collect pennies for Lions causes.



It Would Be Nice

Wouldn't this old world be better
 If the folks we meet would say:
 I know something good about you,
 And then treat us just way!
 Wouldn't it be fine and dandy,
 If each hand-clasp warm and true,
 Carried with it this assurance
 I know something good about you!
 Wouldn't things here be more pleasant
 If the good that's in us all,
 Were the only thing about us,
 That folks bothered to recall!
 Wouldn't life be lots more happy
 If we'd praise the good we see!
 For there's such a lot of goodness
 In the worst of you and me.
 Wouldn't it be nice to practice
 This fine way of thinking too;
 You know something good about me,
 I know something good about you!

(Author Unknown,
 From August 21, 1945 Nuda Veritas)

Other Lions News

Your Nuda Veritas Wants Member News: *Your editor wants to share Lions & their families” news!* With the changes to the club, we are a different club than we were in the past. Some Lions come to our luncheon meetings, some work mainly on service projects, such as the Eyeglass Recycling Program, some work on committees and other some have busy schedules that limit their involvement.

What do Lions want to know? Examples are: what awards you received; did you move; did you have a birth or birthday in the family; did you take a trip; did someone graduate from high school or college; did you run a race; anything that may be of interest. While we talk with each other around a table or announce something at a meeting or event, not all Lions know. Our newsletter is a means to help us get to each other better.

So, in the upcoming year, don't keep these “secrets” to yourself. Share with your editor so he can share them with the whole club. Thanks!