



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2017-18, No. 4, September 30, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Monday, October 2, 4:45 pm, Lions
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

Tuesday, October 3, Wonderful Collectibles, Pat Mullen

Monday, October 9, 4:45 pm, Lions
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

Tuesday, October 10, The Importance of Humor in Our Daily Lives, Chuck Stoddard

Monday, October 16, 4:45 pm,
Lions Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes

Tuesday, October 17, To Be Determined

October 19, 6:00 pm until . . . ,
ABVI "Crafting Vision, Grand
Rapids Brewing Company

October 19, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, West
MI Lions Projects Night, (New
Location) Rockford American
Legion

Tuesday, October 3 Wonderful Collectibles, Lion Pat Mullen



Lion Pat Mullen wrote a few years back, "Many of us have the collector bug and spend countless hours each week reading, researching, discussing and seeking new information and new examples of the items we collect. Almost everything is collectible . . . coins, currency, comic books, entertainment memorabilia, arms and armor, sports collectibles, wine, toys and the list never stops.

While the collectibles list is almost unlimited, so are the values of the rarest items! But what makes that "Wonderful Collectible" collectible?"

Pat has a diverse business background. Pat retired from television broadcasting after a 32-year career, serving as General Manager for many Grand Rapids and Chicago based television stations. He held corporate executive roles at Tribune Broadcasting. He returned to Grand Rapids and shortly thereafter become CEO and Chairman of Compatico, which was recently sold.

Pat is also a numismatist. After years of helping others sell coin collections, Pat and his wife Kathy launched Mullen Coins, a rare coin dealership, which caters to West Michigan clients, as well as e-commerce customers throughout the United States. Pat is a native of Pentwater, Michigan.

Pat attended the University of Michigan, where he studied speech communications, with a concentration in radio/television.

Tuesday, October 10
The Importance of Humor in Our Daily Lives,
Chuck Stoddard

"Is the doctor at home?" the patient asked in his bronchial whisper. "No," the doctor's young and pretty wife whispered in reply. "Come right in." [(Wikipedia)]

Humor is a part of healthy behavior. It can be just to have fun, to relieve tension or to make a point. The health care community says humor can help you be healthier or at least make your problems seem less burdensome. Our speaker today, Charles "Chuck" Stoddard has collected humorous stories for years (which resulted in eight volumes of "Grand Groaners").

Mr. Stoddard was born in Lansing and earned degrees from Michigan State University (Humanities) and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He began his banking career at 16 as a teller in the summers with Michigan National Bank (His father had founded the bank in 1941). After graduate school, he worked for Citibank in New York City for 3 years and an investment firm in Los Angeles for 2 years before moving to Grand Rapids in 1973. Mr. Stoddard spent 14 years with Michigan National Bank, including 9 as President of Michigan National – Central. In 1987, he founded Grand Bank, from which he retired in 2002 when Grand Bank merged with Macatawa Bank.

Mr. Stoddard was actively involved with the community and has served on numerous boards, including Rotary Club, Blodgett Hospital, Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids Foundation, Economics Club, Grand Rapids Service Corps, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Gerald R Ford Council of the Bo Scouts, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, Porter Hills Foundation and the Forest Hills Fine Arts Academy.

In 1985, he and his wife, Jan, and four other couples started a private K – 12th grade school for children with learning disabilities called the Lake Michigan Academy. In 2004, he founded Grand Angels to make private equity investment for start-up businesses and provide mentoring.

He and his wife have 4 children and 6 grandchildren. They currently live in Hickory Corners on Gull Lake and in Park City, Utah. He enjoys travel, tennis and golf. He has also written an autobiography called, "Isn't Life Grand?"

HELP! I need somebody – HELP!

That was the plea that **Lion Mark Oberlin** made at our luncheon on September 19. Despite starting to recruit speakers in late July, Mark wondered if he and his committee were hitting the wall to book and commit speakers. He asked us to help his committee out.

Even if you don't come to many luncheons, all Lions could have a notion about what a good program is. If you hear something on the news, know someone, or hear an interesting story, share it with Mark. Other Lions would probably be interested. By no means is the following list exclusive, but Mark suggests: 1) business owners with a unique success (or failure) story; 2) product inventors; 3) non-profit agencies (other than our own charities); 4) civic

**Happy Birthday
To October Lions**

G Keith Crittenden	October 2
Arthur Palmer	October 6
Mike Malinowski	October 7
Kathy O'Bee	October 10
Rebecca Eyestone	October 11
Anne Baird	October 15



or political leaders; 5) scientists or researchers; 6)sports figures.

If you think of someone, find out a contact name and contact information, and share it with Mark. Mark can be reached at 616-974-3003 or mark.oberlin@raymondjames.com.

ABVI's Crafting the Vision October 19 at Grand Rapids Brewing Company

Join ABVI for an evening of good food, beer, raffle prizes and interactive exhibits to support the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at its Crafting the Vision fund raiser at the Grand Rapids Brewing Company, 1 Ionia Ave NW (the old Rowe Hotel, across the street from the new MSU Medical Research facility). The event is presented by Meijer. Individual tickets are \$50, but there are sponsorships opportunities are available.

Please contact Larry Dodge at 616-458-1187 or ldodge@abvimichigan.org, You can also visit www.abvimichigan.org for more information.

West Michigan (Lions) Projects Night October 19, Rockford American Legion (new location)

Your Lions Board of Directors decided at our September meeting that our club will cover the \$12 cost of dinner at the West Michigan Projects Night. We realize that there are two events On October 19, which will give you a nice choice – this one or the ABVI event in downtown Grand Rapids (above).

This event provides members the opportunity for members to learn about the causes the Lions of Michigan, District 11-C1 and our club supports. Many Lions clubs also present their donations to their chosen charities at this event. Our club does not do this here since it decides most of our donations in the spring. During the social hour before the buffet dinner, attendees can visit and talk with representatives for some of the Lions' statewide and District 11C1 projects:

- * ABVI
- * All State Band
- * Bear Lake Camp
- * Eversight
- * Leader Dogs for the Blind
- * Lions of Michigan Foundation
- * Paw's with a Cause
- * Sight Seer Radio.

The event will be on Thursday night, October 19, 2017 at a new venue, the Rockford American Legion (330 Rockford Park Drive NE, Rockford MI 49341). A social hour and visiting the exhibits is from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, followed by a buffet-style dinner at 7:00 pm and the program about 7:30 pm. The evening typically adjourns by 9:00 pm. A cash bar is available.

The host club for the event is the Lyon - Muir Lions Club. This event represents the coming together of many Lions Clubs from Western Michigan to celebrate the Lions goal of service and for many clubs to present donations for Lion State and Regional Projects who serve visually impaired people.

If you want to attend, please contact Craig Nobbelin at 616-458-0471 or c.nobbelin@yahoo.com no later than Tuesday noon, October 10, 2015. We need to give the organizers an accurate count, since there they can sell meals at the door.

Lions of Michigan Leadership Institute November 10 -12, 2017

Any Lion who wants to be a leader in the Lions Club, or anywhere in life, should want to attend the Lions of Michigan Leadership Institute on November 10 -12, 2017. The deadline for registering was September 30, 2017, but if you want to attend, you may still have a chance. This is the BEST opportunity that Lions offer, right here in our own state! It is recognized by Lions everywhere. The Leadership Institute will give you skills for Lions, business, and other activities in which you are involved. Please take a moment to look at all that it offers. One of the great things about it is our Lions Club will pay your \$175 registration fee, which includes 2 nights lodging and 6 meals. All you have to do is invest some time and energy, and have some fun.

Any Lion who wants to attend should call or fax the Lions of Michigan office to reserve a spot (Phone: 517-887-6640 or Fax: 517-887-6642). Please let Craig Nobbelin know if you are attending (616-458-0471) or c.nobbelin@yahoo.com).

Covered Bridges and Log Jams

Carl Voigt was asked to write down a story of old Grand Rapids. While not repeating the whole story, the key aspects are here.

Carl wrote that, "Every time I cross Pearl Street bridge on my way to the office, I cannot but think of the old covered wooden bridge I used to cross when I was younger . . . Those old covered bridges that used to span the river must have been built with honor, as they stood the test of time and the big log jam of 1882 or 1883."

"That [log jam] was the sight that none of us will ever see again for the reason there are no more logs." He said the booms at the railway bridge [north of Leonard Street] caused the river to overflow the banks. Would the booms hold?

"One morning, a section of the railway bridge gave way and releasing the booms and the logs started for Grand Haven. There was no water in sight in the river: All one could see was a mess of pine logs.

The wooden bridges stood the strain [from the logs]. Carl said that, ". . . many of those old logs are still of the river between here and Grand Haven"

Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – Early 1946

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 some of the earliest Nuda Veritas editions that we have in our archives in early 1946.

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:

- John Buikema, Muskegon Chamber of Commerce, presented "Report of Europe" about his trip to Europe to study the import and export possibilities of the countries involved in the war.
- In response to the "self-appointed saviors of the returned veterans", the Lions brought in Col. John Emery, representing the State and National American Legion, to "clear up a lot of these matters in the minds of the Lions" pertaining to legislation and services for veterans.
- The life of Abraham Lincoln was described by a local advertising man, Ben Dean, who happened to be one of the country's leading authorities on Lincoln's life.
- In March, the Union High School Variety Show entertained at lunch – dancing, singing, and playing musical instruments. It was an annual event.
- Lawrence Bowen, a nationally known lecturer and with the Chicago Y.M.C.A now, was at Pearl Harbor "when it all happened" and talked about the Hawaiian Islands.

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

- With WW II ending, the Lions focused on increasing service to the community. In the January 1st issue of the Nuda Veritas, three activities for 1946 were identified: 1) helping to enlarge the Boy Scout program, beginning with erecting a main building at Camp Lion (about \$5,000); 2) enlarge activities in Lions blind work program as there are more blind men as a result of the war; and 3) plans developed for continued work with the Salvation Army.
- An article reported on several acts of service, including a thank you note from the wife whose husband is blind with a heart condition: “May I express my thanks to the Lions Club for the wonderful Christmas basket that was brought to us . . . It looks as though this will be the last Christmas for my husband, and you have all helped to make it a splendid one.”
- It wasn’t easy to sell the public on the idea that a roller skating show could compare with an ice show. After the Lions sponsoring the “Skating Vanities” in Grand Rapids, that all changed and the Lions ‘owner’ the sponsorship. The Lions took home a 25% cut on the first show, to benefit the Boy Scout Fund.
- For the “Big Event of the Year”- The Ladies’ Night party, 166 reservations were made for Lions and their ladies (out of Lions 215 members).

Other Lions News

Grand Rapids Lions Club 100th Anniversary Planning Committee: This committee is planning the celebration for our 100th anniversary as a club, which will likely be a series of activities or events in 2019. Any Lion who is interested in serving on the committee should contact Ed Thauer at ed.thauer@designunderwriting.com or 616- 957-3380. The committee had its first meeting on September 26 and will have another on October 24.

Thanks to the Recycling Program: The email to our club that Lion Scott Brady sent about Lion Rick Stevens note bears repeating. After our last work session in May 2017, Rick wrote,

“Last night, I walked out with a bag of goodies for ABVI from our sorting efforts. I wanted to let you know that they’ll be put to good use. One item, a lens mounted monocular, has already walked out ABVI’s door helping a young woman who came through our low vision clinic this morning.

We believe that another item, the bioptic lens, will be able to help a middle age man continue to drive to work. The bioptic lens is an \$1800 piece of equipment which is not covered by insurance, and the gentleman doesn’t have the resources to purchase one.

The recycling center is proving once again that “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.

Thank you.”

Scott noted, *“We always tell you of the work we do, out of the country on the mission trips, but we just want you to know of the good we do in our local community too.”*

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