



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2013-14, No. 1, July 27, 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Saturday, August 24, Summer Picnic, Scott & Mary's Cottage on Lake Michigan:

- Come any time after 1:00 pm
- Dinner at 5:00 pm
- Bring dish to pass
- See article in newsletter



Tuesday, September 3, First Meeting of the New Lions Year,

Grand Rapids Lions Summer Picnic: August 24th

All members and families are invited to join other members and their families at our Summer Picnic on August 24th at Scott & Mary Brady's cottage on Lake Michigan. Come any time after 1:00 pm and swim, play games and **enjoy** time with your fellow Lions and their families!

Dinner will be at 5:00 pm. The Club will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs and all beverages. You are asked to bring a dish to pass. All you need to do is RSVP to scott@ninthbrain.com.

The cottage is at 5961 Scenic Drive, New Era, MI – Exit 140 off US 31 (30 miles north of Muskegon). Better directions will be sent out with the next notice. If you have questions, please call Scott Brady at 656-2620 x 25.

Grand Rapids Lions Club Annual Meeting 2012-13

The 2013 Grand Rapids Lions Club's Annual Meeting was held on Thursday evening, June 20, at Blythefield Country Club. Jack and Mary Kimmell provided the 70 Lions and their guests with their piano/guitar melodies. **Master of Ceremonies Lion Kim Gary** (hereafter known as MC Kim) guided the evening that was full of conversation, fun and recognition.

After socializing and our usual opening of song, pledge and prayer, MC Kim invited all to enjoy their dinners and each other. After dinner, MC Kim remembered two former Lions who had passed during the year, **Lion George Chaffee and former Lion David Hogarth** and recognized the 11 new Lions who joined over the last year:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Lion Jim McDowell | ➤ Lion Patrick Keenan |
| ➤ Lion Jean Kraai | ➤ Lion Gail Junod |
| ➤ Lion Jan Kim | ➤ Lion Dr. Sherah Eavey |
| ➤ Lion Kathy O'Bee | |

➤ Lion Dr. David
DenBraber

➤ Lion Dr. Lillian
Kalaczinski

➤ Lion Ryan VanDyk
➤ Lion Edward Wiest

MC Kim welcomed outgoing **Lion President Anne Baird** who provided an Annual Review of the past year. Here are the highlights of the Club activities:

Service Projects

- **Eyeglass Recycling Project:** About 113 volunteer hours are recorded each month to sort, wash, prepare and catalogue adult and children eyeglasses to take on mission trips.
- **Two Mission Trips:**
 - Sent 6,906 eyeglasses to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, via Rays of Hope; Fourteen members of the vision team saw 1,503 patients.
 - Sent 7,820 eyeglasses (plus readers and sunglasses) via FedEx & Lions in Sight to Tezuatlan, Mexico; Nineteen team members saw 2,108 patients over 4 days.
- **Annual Holiday Kids Shopping Day:** Helped 20 blind or visually impaired kids age 6-18 years and 20 youth from Saboath Ministries shop for holiday gifts for their families at the Cascade Meijer's store, using \$75 gift cards (Lions & Meijer employees); Lions participation – 22 Grand Rapids Lions and 27 GVSU Campus Club Lions partnered with the kids. (cost = \$2,112)
- **Visually Impaired Field Trip:** 11 students, 4 parents and GRPD, Kent ISD & ABVI attended a unique workshop who demonstrated the use of a Boss loop machine to record sounds and music, and then the students were given the opportunity to create their own recordings. (Students; cost = \$1,302)
- **Visually Impaired (VI) Sports Day:** The 12th annual event with the Children's Miracle Network & DeVos Children's Hospital hosted a variety of activities for over 200 participants, who are blind or visually impaired, and their families from across Michigan. Twenty Lions and 2 from the GVSU Campus Club provided the lunch and clean-up for everyone.
- **High School Student Recognition Luncheon:** For 13 years, the Club has recognized the accomplishments of two outstanding students from the 8 high schools (public, Catholic & Christian) in Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids; Each student was given Schuler's Book gift cards, a certificate of accomplishment, a photos and an interviews with Shelley Irwin (to be broadcast on her radio show). (cost = \$450)

Support for Charities (contributions reflect end-of-year dollar totals)

- **Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI):** \$36,567 to help then provide rehabilitation, counseling and peer support services; (338 vision screenings, 822 participants in outreach activities).
- **Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic** (at Cherry Street Health Services): \$20,873 to help the clinic provide comprehensive eye exams, diagnosis & treatment of ocular diseases, referrals to specialists and medications; The Vision Clinic has developed into the 2nd largest Community Health Centers vision clinic in the country, 2nd only to Boston, growing from 1,400 visits in 2005 to 6,500 visits in 2012. The clinic is now linked to the public schools for vision services.
- **Ken-O-Sha Low Vision Clinic:** \$5,670 to dispense 58 pair of glasses, 7 hand-held low vision aids.
- **Lions of Michigan Foundation:** In addition to a \$1,000 donations, provided support for low income applicants for hearing aids and vision services.
- **Lions Club International Foundation:** In addition to a \$400 donation, the club paid a \$1,500 installment toward the club's commitment to Campaign SightFirst II to help eliminate "river blindness."

- Also supported were other vision-related and Lions State projects, plus individual requests for vision & hearing aid assistance:
 - Leader Dog - \$500
 - Michigan Eye Bank – \$250
 - Bear Lake Camp - \$1,000
 - Camp Tuhsmeheeta – \$750
 - Sight Seer Radio – \$500
 - Youth Exchange – \$300
 - Eye Exams/Glasses – \$200
 - Other/Miscellaneous - \$3,102

Fundraising Activities (amounts raised reflect end-of-year dollar totals)

- **Blind Dinner Date:** The 8th annual event had 5 major sponsors, 10 other sponsors and 196 attendees to help raise \$26,238; Attenders heard historian Gordon Olson talk on ABVI's founder in honor of ABVI 100th Anniversary and two individuals who have provided outstanding services to those who are blind and visually impaired..
- **Calendar Raffle:** This year, 529 calendars were sold for \$25 each, netting an income of \$6,457; each numbered calendar sold has a chance of winning a \$25 gift card for every day of the year for Restaurant Partners or The Gilmore Collection of Restaurants.
- **Drive for Vision Golf Outing:** The 26th annual event had 35 sponsors at various levels, with an estimated 132 players, raised \$32,898.
- **White Cane Drive:** Raises funds for the Ken-O-Sha Low Vision Eyeglass Program, netting \$2,319 (as of the Annual Meeting) through solicitations 3 locations and mailed-in contributions.
- **Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation:** A portion of the fundraising activities are allocated to the Foundation (at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation), adding \$5,054, in addition to \$5,660 in individual donations; This year, the John Pridgeon Charitable Trust gave \$75,000 as a partial distribution of a \$100,000 bequest to the Lions Foundation, helping the Foundation balance increase to \$483,471 at the end of the year (almost half of the million dollar goal).

Program Highlights

- **LCI Club Excellence Award:** The Club met the requirements of for the LCI Club Excellence Award for Lions year 2012-13, which was a goal of the 2012-13 11C1 District Governor Rock Wood.
- **Reach Our and Read Early Literacy Program:** At the request of Cherry Street Health Services, the Club partnered with them to promote a reading action program at its pediatric clinic. A total of 1, 430 books were collected, including 330 new books to give to children as part of the well-child check-up.
- **Technology Committee:** Part of the President's outreach program using technology, the Board adopted 1) the Square-up mobile on-line credit card processing system; 2) a Dropbox Account – a web-based cloud file system for storing and sharing Lions documents; 3) Email Marketing system to communicate events to Lions and non-Lions with a secure system; and 4) maintained the Lions Facebook page.
- **Miracle League Baseball Field:** The Lions Board pledged \$10,000 over 5 years, joining the Rockford Lions Club for naming rights for a dugout. This specially-designed baseball field will allow visually impaired, blind and other physically or mentally individuals play on this field.
- **Lions Strategic Planning:** The Club began a strategic planning process to address the future of the Club.
- **District 11C1 Lions Project:** Club members participated in two District activities, the Lions Car Raffle and the Tree Planting Project along the White Pine Trail.

Lions Social Activities

- **Lions Bowling League** – Mondays, all year
- **Annual Western Michigan Lions Clubs Project Night** - October
- **Holiday Social** - December
- **Lions Annual Meeting** - June

MC Kim made the Award Presentations that included:

- ☞ The **President's Appreciation Award** is given to an individual deserving special recognition for outstanding service in the past year. The Award was presented to **Lion Jamie Junod**. It read: "Presented to Jamie Junod for his willingness 'To Serve' and 'To Step Up' when asked in the name of Lionism – We Serve – Grand Rapids Lions Club – 2012."
- ☞ The presentation of the **Rookie of the Year Award** was moved from the September to the Annual Meeting to recognize the Lions who demonstrated the "Spirit of Lionism" within the first two years of becoming a Lion. Candidates also should demonstrate good attendance, show initiative, motivate others by setting a good example, and participate in Club projects. Last year's recipient, **Lion Enid Carlson**, will be given a replacement plaque for the **Joseph M. Trenshaw Memorial Rookie of the Year Trophy**. This year's Rookie of the Year Award was shared by two new Lions who demonstrated the traits described: **Lion Scott Embree** and **Lion Ralph Holewinski**. In Ralph's absence, Scott was presented the trophy.
- ☞ The **Lion of the Year** is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the success of our club during the past year. This year's award was presented to **Lion Jacqueline Smart-Parrish**. It read: "Presented to Jacqueline Smart-Parrish in recognition of her dedication to Lionism through her enthusiasm, enhancement of website technology and membership strategies - Grand Rapids Lions Club - 2012-2013."
- ☞ The **Henry Vogt Meritorious Service Award** is the highest award that the Grand Rapids Lions can bestow. If the Lions motto is "We Serve," the motto for the Henry Vogt Award is "We Serve for a very long time." The recipient of the award is chosen by the past-presidents of the Grand Rapids Lions Club that involves a process that our members aren't privy to and our past presidents won't reveal. However, all of us understand that the award represents a lifetime of service to the club and a heartfelt respect for the awardee. Last year's recipient, **Lion Rob Lalley**, was given his permanent plaque for this honor, replacing this large trophy. The Lions Past-Presidents selected **Lion Steve Mulder** as recipient of the high recognition of the **Henry Vogt Meritorious Service Award**.

MC Kim recognized the **Current 2012-13 Board of Directors** and retiring board members:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| ☞ Lion Eric Anderson (2013) | ☞ Lion Jacqueline Smart-Parrish,
Membership Director |
| ☞ Lion Don Jakel (2013) | ☞ Lion Marilyn Tyree, 2 nd Vice President |
| ☞ Lion Ryan Smith (2014) | ☞ Lion Scott Brady, 1 st Vice President |
| ☞ Lion Richard Boland (2015) | ☞ Lion President Anne Baird |
| ☞ Lion Gary Anderson (2015) | ☞ Lion Brent Spoelstra, Immediate Past
President |
| ☞ Lion Shawn Eyestone (2014) | |
| ☞ Lion Jeff Kraai, Treasurer | |
| ☞ Lion Craig Nobbelin, Secretary | |

** Terms of office in parentheses*

Retiring Board Members:

- ☞ Immediate Past-President Brent Spoelstra
- ☞ Directors Eric Anderson and Don Jakel

MC Kim installed the New 2013-14 Officers and Directors of the Grand Rapids Lions Club:

- ☞ Lion Eric Anderson (2016)
- ☞ Lion Bill Fleetham (2016)
- ☞ Lion Jacqueline Smart-Parrish, Membership Director
- ☞ Lion Jeff Kraai, Treasurer
- ☞ Lion Craig Nobbelin, Secretary
- ☞ Lion, Don Jakel, 2nd Vice President
- ☞ Lion Marilyn Tyree, 1st Vice President
- ☞ Lion President Scott Brady
- ☞ Immediate-Past President Anne Baird

** Terms of office in parentheses; other change annually*

Lion Anne Baird, who will become Immediate Past-President, was presented with a President's Award plaque and a gift in recognition of her outstanding service for her year as Lions President. **Thank you, Anne!**

MC Kim introduced new **Lions President Scott Brady** and presented him with his President's gavel. Lion Scott's presentation defined what impact the Grand Rapids Lions Club has, although he admitted that Lion Anne Baird had covered many of the points he wanted to make. (Editor: However, the presentation is review is worth repeating.)

The Club's impact is felt through our many activities:

- ◆ **5 Fund Raisers:** Blind Dinner Date, Blind Dinner Date, Drive for Vision, White Cane, Lions Club Foundation
- ◆ **4 Service Projects:** Eyeglass Recycling, Mission Trips, Kids Holiday Shopping, VI Sports Day
- ◆ **4 Social Events:** Bowling, Holiday Party, Annual Dinner, Meetings Every Tuesday
- ◆ **5 Major Charities:** Cherry Street Health Services (GRLC Vision Clinic), Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Ken-O-Sha Vision Services, Lions Club International Foundation, Lions of Michigan Foundation
- ◆ **Minor Charities:** Leader Dog for the Blind, Bear Lake Camp, Camp Tuhsmeheeta, Michigan Eye Bank, Sight Seer Radio, Lions Youth Exchange Program and Individual Requests

President Scott Brady described some of ways that our Club has had an impact:

- ◆ Lions Clubs International Foundation: Worldwide initiatives help reduce or eliminate River Blindness, reduce Measles, assist in Disaster Relief and many other programs.
- ◆ Lions of Michigan: Vision Programs, Hearing Loss Programs, Michigan Eye Bank and Sight Mobile
- ◆ Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Our Club provides about \$32,000 annually; with an average cost of about \$1,000 per client, the Club affects about 32 people a year.
- ◆ Ken-O-Sha Low Vision Programs: Provides about \$3,000 annually, benefiting about 65 children with equipment or services.
- ◆ Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic (at Cherry Street Health Services): Provides an average of \$20,000, going from 3,000 patients in 2011, 6,500 patients in 2012 and expecting to reach 30,000 visit by 2014. The catalyst for the increase was the \$806,000 we raised to help build the Vision Clinic.
- ◆ Eyeglass Recycling: With an average of 115 recorded volunteer hours per month, the program is self-supporting raising \$61,000 recycling the eyeglasses that can't be used and covers rent,

supplies, shipping and equipment. Through the program, we have developed relationships with other Lions Clubs and provided member to member benefits by working together.

- ◆ Mission Trips: Six trips in 5 years have been made since we became involved. Overall, the Michigan team has had 25 mission trips. We have a capability of two trips per year, seeing about 600 patients a day, with 200 referrals for follow-up care; Leading other clubs to reach out to those without access to eye care.
- ◆ While the numbers are impressive, our Club's actions speak louder and the impact is lasting.

The Club's Future: President Scott Brady sees these things to strengthen our Club:

- ✓ Strategic Planning to strengthen and chart our Club's future.
- ✓ Increase Membership.
- ✓ More Involvement – programs, patients and families & friends.
- ✓ Give Time, Talent or Treasure
- ✓ Receive Much More Than Given
- ✓ We are Lions --- We Serve!

President Brady thanked all who came tonight and wished all a safe journey home.