



# Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club  
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2014-15, No. 12, February 14, 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Monday, February 16,  
Presidents' Day Holiday

Monday, February 16, Bowling,  
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, February 17,  
Neighborhood Ventures, Mark  
Lewis**

Monday, February 23, Bowling,  
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, February 24, 6:00 pm,  
Jamark Labs, Eyeglass Recycling  
Work Session & Dinner**

Monday, March 2, Bowling,  
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, March 3, Commercial  
Real Estate Trends Sheri  
Veltman & Toni Pearson**

Thursday, March 5, *Blind Dinner  
Date*, 6:00 pm

*Every Tuesday, Eyeglasses  
Recycling Work Session, 6:00-  
8:00 pm (Every Tuesday!)*

## Tuesday, February 17 Neighborhood Ventures, Mark Lewis

*Editor's Note: Rather than a program on Neighborhood Ventures announced in the previous issue, last week's program featured a presentation on the Meijer State Games of Michigan by Eric Engelbarts, Executive Director. See article later in this newsletter.*

Neighborhood Ventures is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, neighborhood-based community and economic development organization with the mission to interject vitality into the heart of each Grand Rapids neighborhood by revitalizing its business district. It has a vision of a city full of vibrant business districts, distinctive and reflective of each of the unique neighborhoods.

Working with the businesses in each of the neighborhoods and the City of Grand Rapids, its efforts help to improve quality of life and quality of place to enhance the economic health of Grand Rapids' urban neighborhoods. Neighborhood Ventures focuses on the strategic priorities of business recruitment, retention & expansion and business corridor organizing. Because of its continued work, urban neighborhoods are more inviting to visit, safer to live in and better places in which to do business.

*. . . a vision of a city full of vibrant business districts, distinctive and reflective of each unique neighborhood.*

The Neighborhood Business Alliance, which represents the 20 neighborhood business districts in Grand Rapids, hired Mark Lewis, our speaker for today's meeting, as Neighborhood Ventures' new director in 2009. Mr. Lewis had worked in several businesses and volunteered for various neighborhood residential initiatives before making his career change.

Mr. Lewis is a Grand Rapids native and lives in the city. He said he decided to become involved with the neighborhoods when he bought his first house in 1994 on Lake Drive SE in the East Hills neighborhood. He admitted that buying that house had a huge

impact on who he is today.

Lewis graduated from Davenport College (now Davenport University) with a degree in business management and, two years later, earned his sales and marketing degree from Davenport. He's served as chairman of the Grand Rapids Board of Zoning Appeals since 2010. He is on the boards for SiTE:LAB and Friends of the Opera. Before he became Neighborhood Ventures' executive director, he was the organization's board secretary from 2005 to 2007, and board president from 2007 to 2009.

**Tuesday, February 24**  
**Eyeglasses Recycling Project & Dinner**  
**6:00 – 8:00 pm, Jamark Labs**  
*No Meeting at Noon at the University Club!*

The Eyeglass Recycling Session/Dinner Meeting will be Tuesday, February 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We will meet again this Tuesday for dinner, hard work and fellowship as we process all the many pallets of eye glasses for the next mission trip. Come join us and bring a guest.

The Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is at Jamark Labs at 4282 Brockton SE, Suite D, Grand Rapids. It is approximately 1/2 mile east of Broadmore Avenue, about 1 block north of 44th street at the first traffic light and on the east side of Brockton. It is the northern-most suite in a series of connected businesses. Parking and entrances are available in the front of the building. If you have questions or want more information, please contact **Lion Brent Spoelstra** at or 616-283-0260 or bespoelstra@yahoo.com, or one of the other committee members.

*Note: The Recycling Center will be open every Tuesday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm*



*blind*  

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*dinner date*

**Blind Dinner Date – Thursday, March 5, 6 – 9 PM**  
**The Goei Conference Center**  
***Make Your Reservations Now!***



You should have received your invitation to the Grand Rapids Lions Club **9th Annual Blind Dinner Date** to honor local programs and people serving those who live with vision loss, and to raise funds to benefit our major charities: Grand Rapids Lions Vision Clinic at Cherry Street Health Services, early vision program for children at Ken-O-Sha, the youth programs at the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired and the Grand Rapids Lions Fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

The program guest for this year's dinner will be Christine Ha, the first ever blind contestant and season 3 winner of the competitive amateur cooking show, "[MasterChef](#)" USA, on FOX with Gordon Ramsay, Graham Elliot, and Joe Bastianich. She defeated over 30,000 home

cooks across America to secure the coveted MasterChef title, a \$250,000 cash prize, and a cookbook deal.

There are several ways you can support this event, have a nice evening out and raise funds for our worthy causes:

1. **Sponsorship** levels from \$500 to \$10,000 are still available.
2. **Reserve a Table** of 8 for \$600.
3. **Individual Tickets** for \$75 each for you, your spouse or significant other, and your friends or colleagues. Introduce new acquaintances to the Lions Club and perhaps they may want to become members.
4. **Make a Donation** if you can't attend.

For sponsorship, ticket, or other information about the [Blind Dinner Date](#), please call either of our co-chairs Shawn Eyestone at 616-777-5292 or Ralph Holewinski at 800-694-3175, Ext. 55. For Grand Rapids Lions members, the cost of the tickets can be billed on your quarterly statement.

In addition to our guest speaker, the program will feature awards in up to 3 categories:

- \* **Dr. Mark Sheldon Lifetime Achievement Award:** The award is given to an individual who has made vision improvement and vision loss elimination their passionate life's work both inside and outside their profession. Their dedication and unselfish contributions have made very positive impact in reducing avoidable blindness especially with those from economically challenged parts of our community.
- \* **Visionary of the Year Award:** Awarded to an individual within the medical profession who has made distinguished contributions during the past 1-3 years in their career and by significant volunteer activity that has led to major progress in the early detection and correction of vision problems in the greater Grand Rapids Community.
- \* **Vision in Action Award:** Awarded to a non-medical individual in the Greater Grand Rapids area who has made significant contributions in their career or through volunteer efforts to reduce avoidable blindness and/or provide quality of life support to those with vision loss.

## Lions Combined Districts 11-C1/11-E1 Convention

All members are invited to attend the annual Lions Combined Districts 11-C1/11E1 Convention to be held at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City, MI from Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29. Members could go up for the whole or part of the fun weekend – consider it a late winter getaway with your spouse or a friend. As an alternative, even though it would be a long day, other Lions members could for the day on Saturday for lunch and for the business meeting which normally is done by 4:00 pm (like many have at previous conventions).

At the business meeting on Saturday afternoon (2:00 pm), the Grand Rapids Lions Club will have 9.9 votes at the business meeting (see Note below). Any member can be a delegate. The Club will pay for the \$10 registration fee to the conference, if we pay by the March 14. Food and lodging will be the member's responsibility.

The Park Place Hotel is offering a \$69 rate, but you have to make your reservations by February 27. Rooms are blocked off under District 11-E1's name. Accompanying this newsletter is a copy of the District's newsletter, The Pulse, where you can find out more detailed information on the convention

and how to make hotel reservations. (You can also read what else is happening with other clubs and around the district.)

Please contact Craig Nobbelin to let him know if you have questions or are interested in attending: 616-458-0471 or [c.nobbelin@yahoo.com](mailto:c.nobbelin@yahoo.com). The first 9.9 Lions contacting Craig will be delegates. As of February 14, we have 5 delegates.

*Note: "Each club gets a minimum of 1 delegate per club for voting at the district convention. Clubs will also receive 1 delegate for every 10 members, or major fraction thereof, with 1 year and 1 day of being a Lion." The Grand Rapids Lions Club have currently has 101 members, but only 99 members qualify under the definition just stated.*

## **Growing Success for Meijer State Games of Michigan**

Over a period of 5 years, the Meijer State Games of Michigan has grown from a concept to a multi-sport, Olympic-style event that welcomes athletes regardless of age or ability. From over 3,500 athletes participating in 15 sports in its first year, it showcased almost 7,000 athletes competing in 39 sports in 2014 and is the signature event of the West Michigan Sports Commission. The 2015 summer games will be held on June 25-28.

Most recently, the inaugural Winter Games were launched in 2014, capturing 1,645 athletes competing in 12 sports. The opening Ceremonies were held at Canonsburg Ski Area. The second Winter Games will be held on February 20-22, 2015 and are expected to feature more sports and athletes. Both the summer and winter events developed as grass roots events and rely on the support of corporate partners and thousands of volunteers.

Eric Engelbarts, Executive Director of the Meijer State Games of Michigan, described the games at the February 10 meeting to a small crowd of Lions who did not go on the eyeglass mission trip to la Playa del Carmen in Quinta Roo, Mexico. He talked about the significant growth of both events and getting calls from numerous formal or informal sports associations asking that their sport be part of the games. Mr. Engelbarts emphasized that both summer and winter events developed as grass roots events and rely on the support of corporate partners and thousands of volunteers.

He explained that the games are part of the strategy of the West Michigan Sports Commission is "to promote Michigan's West Coast as the premier venue for hosting a diverse level of youth and amateur sporting events, enhancing the economy and quality of life in the region." He noted that the Art Van Sports Complex is part of the efforts of the West Michigan Sports Commission to provide the facilities that will attract visitors to Kent County and West Michigan, and who will experience what the area has to offer and spend money while they are here. This includes the Meijer State Games of Michigan. (Editor's Note that the Art Van Sports Complex is home to the Miracle Field, for which our club is contributing \$10,000 over 5 years)

Our presenter, Eric Engelbarts, was selected by SportsEvents Magazine as a 2014 e`clat, an award to recognize those in the sports events industry who are exhibiting excellence. In 2013, he was recognized as a *Grand Rapids Business Journal* 40 Under-Forty award winner. He is a Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA), holds a B.S. in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University and a M.Ed. in Sports Management from Springfield College. He serves on the board of directors for the National Congress of State Games, Michigan Senior Olympics and on the advisory board for Davenport University's Sports Management program.

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