



Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2014-15, No. 13, February 28, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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*, Goei Center, 6:00 pm

**Sunday, March 8, Daylight
Savings Time Begins, 2 am**

Monday, March 9, Bowling,
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, March 10, Program
yet to be finalized**

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

**March 17, Happy St. Patrick's
Day!**

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

Tuesday, March 3

Commercial Real Estate Trends, Sheri Veltman & Toni Pearson

Nationally, the economy is gradually emerging from the recession and with it sales of commercial real estate. But this growth is uneven nationally and even within individual states. In Grand Rapids and West Michigan, the economy has greatly improved compared to most of the state. Unemployment is down and employers report shortages of workers in many professions and skilled worker trades.

Our speakers today, Sheri Veltman and Toni Pearson are here to tell us how commercial real estate in West Michigan is being affected. Ms. Veltman is the Executive Director of the Commercial Alliance of Realtors and Mr. Pearson is on its Board of Directors and is an agent/broker with True North Real Estate LLC.

The Commercial Alliance of Realtors is committed to collaboration, cooperation and sharing of information for the betterment of the real estate community. It exists to:

- maintain and enforce the Code of Ethics;
- provide its members with state-of-the-art programs, products, and services that are more affordable and accessible collectively than individually
- advocate a high standard of education and professionalism
- influence public policy and political affairs which promote and protect private property rights;
- enhance the public image of the REALTOR® member; &
- act as a contributing member of the National and state Associations of REALTORS®.

Tuesday, March 10 Program Yet to Be Finalized

When this program has been finalized, an announcement will be sent to members.

Playa del Carmen, Mexico Mission Trip

Note: This following article was a draft news release.

You might think that a week-long stay in Playa del Carmen, Mexico during our frigid Michigan winter might be considered a vacation. “Well, it was warmer there than here,” says Grand Rapids Optometrist Gary Anderson, “but we were working 10-hour days in an outdoor gymnasium, so there wasn’t much leisure involved.”

The annual mission trip, coordinated by the Grand Rapids Lions Club, traveled to the Mexican state of Quintana Roo in February of this year and, despite its exotic-sounding name, the village of Playa del Carmen sits low on the rungs of Mexico’s economic scale.

The purpose of the trip was to set up a complete vision clinic for the residents, most of whom had never been seen by a vision professional previously and had also never had access to corrective eyewear. The 27 member team of Lions club members from West Michigan included five optometrists, a medical internist, and additional volunteer support staff from all walks of life. Aided by the local Lions Club of Playa del Carmen, four days of temporary vision clinic were conducted in a covered outdoor gymnasium. The team provided complete eye/vision exams for the local population and dispensed the donated and gently-used eyeglasses collected by Lions clubs throughout the state of Michigan.

In advance of each annual mission, the Grand Rapids Lions Club takes possession of the donated glasses and holds weekly work sessions in a Kentwood warehouse to sort, wash, measure, and catalogue the eyewear. This year, 10,000 pairs were shipped ahead to the mission site in January.

Project chairperson, Brent Spoelstra, considers this year’s trip a huge success. “We performed eye exams for 2100 citizens in Playa del Carmen, providing glasses—often for the first time—to those who needed them,” he reports. Patients that needed eye surgeries were also identified and arrangements were made with the local Lions Club to assist with the surgeries. “Even with our return to Michigan’s snow and freezing temps, I think everyone felt a little warmer inside from the success of our trip.”



blind

dinner date

Blind Dinner Date – Thursday, March 5, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
The Goei Conference Center
You Might Still Be Able to Attend!

The Grand Rapids Lions Club **9th Annual Blind Dinner Date** is this Thursday! The evening honors local programs and people serving those who live with vision loss and to raise funds to benefit our major charities. To reserve your spot, 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.

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.

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 (+ tax) and may continue to offer this rate after the February 27 deadline as long as space is available. Rooms are blocked off under Lions District 11-E1's name when you make your reservation.

Please contact Craig Nobbelin to let him know no later than March 10 if you have questions or want to attend: 616-458-0471 or c.nobbelin@yahoo.com. The first 9.9 Lions contacting Craig can be delegates eligible to vote at the business meeting on Saturday. As of February 31, we have 7 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.

Other Lion's News:

Mark Your Calendars for Several Lions Events:

- **White Cane Drive:** May 1 & 2.
- **VI Sports Day:** June 6 (tentative).
- **Drive for Vision:** June 22.
- **September 17-19:** the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum - The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Form returns to Grand Rapids on for the second time, 8 years after hosting the event the first time.

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