



Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2015-16, No. 13, March 12, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Monday, March 14, Lions Club
Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, March 15, The
Smiling Ranger, Denny Gillem**

**Thursday, March 17 – Happy
St. Patrick’s Day!**

Monday, March 21, Lions Club
Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, March 22, CWD Real
Estate, Nick Koster**

Monday, March 28, Lions Club
Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes, 4:45 pm

Tuesday, March 29, Board
Meeting, ABVI, Noon

**Tuesday, March 29, Eyeglass
Recycling Work Session & Dinner,
Jamark Labs, 6:00 pm**

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*Recycling Center Open Every
Tuesday, 3:00 – 8:00 pm*

Tuesday, March 15 The Smiling Ranger, Denny Gillem

The war journal, Smiling Ranger, by Denny Gillem, is not your standard war journal. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the trials and times of an Airborne Ranger Infantryman who doesn't take himself too seriously. The author is here to talk about his book and his experiences.

Lieutenant Colonel Denny Gillem (retired) is a 1964 West Point graduate and a Vietnam combat veteran. He served two tours in Vietnam as a company grade officer, where he received seven US awards for valor. After a distinguished military career, he now lives in Michigan as a college professor at Grand Rapids Community College and is the host of *Frontlines of Freedom*, the nation's number one military and veteran radio show. You can listen to Denny every weekend at www.frontlinesoffreedom.com.

Col Gillem also served with the 5th Infantry Division, commanded the 101st Airborne Division, deployed to the 1967 Detroit riots and went to Vietnam during the Tet fighting in 1968. Later, he served with the ROTC at Stanford University, the mechanized infantry battalion in Germany and returned to the U.S. to be a war planner for Europe and the Middle East.

He has a master's degree in political science from the University of Texas (El Paso) and an MA in education. Since leaving the Army, Denny has worked in sales, leadership, consulting, and academic positions in Michigan. He met his wife, Marilyn, while in the military.

Tuesday, March 22 CWD Real Estate, Nick Koster

Who among developers knows what is happening downtown? While there are many developers, CWD Real Estate Development (CWD) may know best since they are the largest

owner of downtown office space in Grand Rapids (controls approx. 1.35M SF). One of their current projects is the renovation of the old Rowe Hotel at the NW corner of Michigan Street and Monroe Avenue.

CWD is the area's leading locally-owned, full-service real estate investment firm (leasing, management, maintenance, development and accounting/finance). CWD brings a long-term, value-based approach to serving clients and maintaining their buildings, resulting in long-term customer relationships and well cared for buildings in their hometown.

CWD also brought several sought after retailers to Grand Rapids: Cabela's, Trader Joe's, West Elm, Anthropologie, Orvis, lululemon, Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market, Chipotle, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, Potbelly, Panda Express, and Tom + Chee.

CWD was founded in 2008 by West Michigan natives and partners Sam Cummings, Scott Wierda and Dan DeVos. They have 75+ years of collective experience in owning and operating commercial real estate in West Michigan, with a track record of successful projects and customer service.

Nick Koster, Vice President of Operations, will talk with us at this meeting. He manages CWD's daily operations, overseeing acquisition, development, leasing, maintenance and management of the company's real estate portfolio of more than 2.7 million square feet. He previously had served as Business Manager for Roersma & Wurn Builders, and Special Projects Manager for the City of Grover Beach in Grover Beach, CA. Mr. Koster started his career at ZS Associates, a global management consulting firm located in Chicago, IL.

Mr. Koster has a BA in business administration (University of Michigan). He is also involved in the community: Camp Henry Board of Directors City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., an advisory committee for the State of Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs. He also was recognized as a 2014 "40 under 40 Business Leaders" by the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*.

A Successful "Blind Dinner Date"

"Success!" That is what the 10th Annual Blind Dinner Date is being called on the event that was held on the evening of March 3, 2016. It was an evening filled with great conversation, meeting new supporters, a delicious dinner, honoring vision professionals and capped off with inspirational thoughts from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein.

The Grand Rapids Lions Club hosted 212 guests at the Thousand Oaks Golf Club. Lions Shelley Irwin and Shawn Eyestone were the Masters of Ceremonies for the event (They were great!), which grossed almost \$43,000 (net funds raised will be reported later). The three individuals who have dedicated themselves to serving the blind and low vision community were honored:

- **Dr. Lion Rene Mika**, OD, chosen for the *Visionary of the Year Award*, was introduced by Cherry Health's Chief Executive Director, and is a pediatric optometrist and Director of Vision Care Services for Cherry Health ("our" vision clinic). This award is given to individuals who are medical professionals and have made distinguished contributions in the last 1-3 years.

She has a doctorate of optometry, has been in private practice and is part of the faculty at Ferris State University optometry program. She has published and lectured nationally and internationally. She also had had significant volunteer activity that has led to major progress in the early detection and correction of vision problems in West Michigan and the Grand Rapids area. She led the development of a vision clinic at Baldwin's Family Health Care. She joined

Cherry Health in 2011 and collaboratively led the development of “See to Succeed”, Michigan’s first comprehensive school-linked vision program. She served on a National Expert Panel for Children’s Health and Vision and published the first evidence-based national guidelines for vision screenings for young children. She is also a member of several professional associations.

- **Lion Richard Carlson**, selected for the *Vision and Action Award*, was introduced by his proud son Lion Adam Carlson, OD. This award recognizes non-medical individuals who have made significant contributions in their careers or through volunteer efforts to reduce available blindness and/or provide quality of life support to those with vision loss. He has spent the last 46 years working in healthcare and is both a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist. He holds degrees from North Central Michigan College and Western Michigan University. He is on the advisory board and an adjunct faculty member for the Respiratory Program at Muskegon Community College.

Richard is a member of the Muskegon Northside Lions Club (31 years). He was served the club in many capacities and co-chaired the eyeglass recycling Project. He has received numerous awards for his Lions activities. He became involved with vision mission trips by helping Lions Past International Director Dr. Dennis Cobler prepare eyeglasses for a mission trip for Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity. The next year, he had the opportunity to go on his first mission trip. His experience made a profound impact on him and he became dedicated to the service project. Every Saturday, he worked with other Lions Club members to prepare glasses for their annual mission trip. After over 20 year working on this project while based in Muskegon, it become harder to keep the work sessions going. The project was transitioned to the Grand Rapids Lions Club. The program was met with renewed enthusiasm and new ideas, taking the eyeglass recycling project and mission trip to another level. He remains involved working on eyeglasses in his home and accompanying the team on their annual vision mission trips.

- **Dr. Ralph Crew**, DO, awarded the *Dr. Mark Sheldon Lifetime Achievement Award* was introduced by Mary Jones. The award recognizes individuals who have 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 impacts in reducing avoidable blindness, especially with those from economically challenged parts of our community (*or world*). Dr. Crew attended Oakland University after a short stint at West Point (realizing he didn’t want to become a soldier) and medical school at Ohio University. After graduating in 1981, he completed an internship and immediately went to work at a Migrant Farmworker Clinic in Ohio. He was accepted into an Ophthalmology residency in Columbus, Ohio and later finished a fellowship at the University of Michigan in Glaucoma and Anterior Segment Surgery.

In 1990, he moved to Big Rapids to serve the underserved of the community, became the first Ophthalmologist in a 50 mile radius and began volunteering his services in the MetroHealth Ophthalmology Residency Program, and in 2011 became its director. Dr. Crew began going on medical mission trips in 1998 and has gone on over 25 trips. He and his wife organized some trips, but usually participated in trips organized by other organizations. He attends all MetroHealth Ophthalmology Residency cataract surgeries and works five days seeing underserved and indigent patients. He also sees patients at the Michigan VA home every other week.

Following the awards, our feature speaker, Justice Richard Bernstein of the Michigan Supreme Court,

was introduced by Dorothy Guide-Addison. Justice Bernstein was elected to the Court in November 2014 and is the first blind person elected to the Court. Prior to his election, he was known as a tireless advocate for disabled rights. Blind since birth, he is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan and earned his juris doctor from Northwestern University School of Law. His cases often set national standards protecting the rights and safety of people with and without disabilities.

In his spare time, Justice Bernstein is an avid runner and has completed 18 marathons, including 18 New York City marathons, the full Ironman triathlon in Coeur d'Alene Idaho, and the Israman triathlon half Ironman in Eilat, Israel.

His speech was inspiring, especially for those with disabilities or experiencing challenges in life. A main theme throughout was to have belief in yourself and to never stop trying to be the best person you can. His many references to God showed a deep faith in God to help individuals. He referenced many situations in which he was able to overcome challenges and to keep going. For especially those who are blind and visually impaired, his presentation was inspiring.

The Lions Board of Directors and other Lions must recognize the Lions or others who planned and managed this successful event: Erik Anderson, Gary Anderson, Anne Baird, Sharon Barton, Mary Brady, Ben Eavey, Shawn Eyestone (Co-Chair), Bill Fleetham, Shelley Irwin, Jessica Kogelschatz, Jean Kraai, Colleen Mulder, Mike Murphy, Mark Oberlin, Bill Reese (Co-Chair) and Rick Stevens.

Welcome New Lion Members!

Since July 2015 through this month, the Lions have approved and welcomed 9 new members to the Grand Rapids Lions Club. Some have been officially inducted, others will be as their schedules allow and two have resigned because of job changes. We welcome them all to help us serve the community by helping the blind and visually impaired by following our motto --- *We Serve!*

Three were announced in our first issue on September 1: Lisa Lafave (resigned), Mary VanderLugt (branch) and Steve Shubert. The six other new members include:

- **Lion Arthur Palmer** – sponsored by Lion Lynn Francis (inducted): He is married to Keasha, is retired, lives in Belmont and was a former Grand Rapids Lions Club member in the 1980s; cell phone = 616-292-7599; email = apalmer810@gmail.com.
- **Lion Pamela Fox** – sponsored by Lion Phil Wood: She is an attorney, lives in Wyoming SW and was a former Grand Rapids Lions Club member roughly in the 1990s and early 2000's; cell phone = 616-293-3958; email = pamelaklokfow@gmail.com.
- **Lion Diana Bergquist** – sponsored by Lion Ralph Holewinski: She is retired, was a very close friend with Ralph, lives in Grand Rapids NE and has been involved with us for 2-3 years prior to joining; cell phone = 616-608-2257; email = diannabergqq@gmail.com.
- **Lion Steve Frenndt** – sponsored by Lion John Rice (inducted): He is the West Michigan Market Manager for Dart Bank, a new bank in this market, is married to Meggen and lives in Grand Rapids SE.; cell phone = 616-540-0742 or work phone = 616-608-1861; email = sjfrenndt@gmail.com.
- Jessica Kagelschatz (resigned due to a new job)
- **Lion Renee Mika, OD** – sponsored by Lion MP Chelsky (inducted): She is an optometrist and Director of Vision Service at Cherry Health, and an Associate Professor at Ferris State

University, is married to Harry and lives in Grand Rapids NE; cell phone = 231-692-1462 or work phone = 616-776-2135; email = reneemika@ymail.com.

Other Lion News:

White Cane Drive: Please reserve **Friday May 6 and Saturday May 7** so that you can participate in the White Cane Drive. We will be collecting at the Walmart's on 28th Street (Cascade) and Alpine Avenue both days and downtown on Friday Noon. More news and sign-ups will be shared in April.

Drive for Vision Charity Golf Outing: Another reminder to mark your calendars, solicit sponsors (new and old) and plan to participate or volunteer on **Monday, June 20, 2016**. It will be at Quail Ridge Golf Club.