



Nuda Veritas

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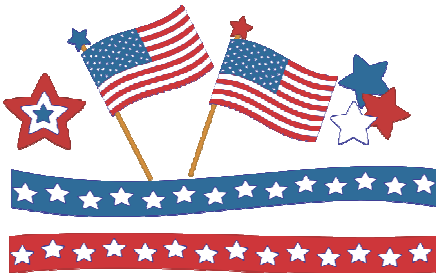
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

No Lions Club meetings or
eyeglass recycling sessions are
scheduled to be held this summer

Happy 4th of July!



Summer Family Outing: To Be
Determined

**Tuesday, September 6,
First luncheon meeting &
eyeglass work session**

Tuesday, September 27, Noon,
Lions Board of Directors, ABVI

**Tuesday, September 27,
Eyeglass Recycling Work Session
& Dinner, Jamark Labs, 6:00 pm**

Year End Report & Changes Treasurer Jeff Kraai

As we approach our year end, I thought it would be a good time to update you, our Lions members, on some of the financial matters of our club.

The General Fund: This corporation is actually our operating corporation - hosting our lunches and parties and paying operational expenses. Dues are billed throughout the year based on a member's status. Currently the fund is financially pretty healthy mostly because one lunch a month is hosted by our Eyeglass Recycling Program at its Center.

One change that will become effective July 1, 2016 is that the Branch internet status membership will be merged into the Affiliate status membership and called the Branch Membership. The dues for the new, combined branch membership will be the same as the affiliate status has been for years, which is \$150 per year plus \$20 for lunches at the University Club. Since one of the trends has been towards this type of membership (Affiliate & Branch), this allows our club to remain financially healthy. A second change will be that all branch members will have a vote in the business of the club and can serve on the Board and any committee.

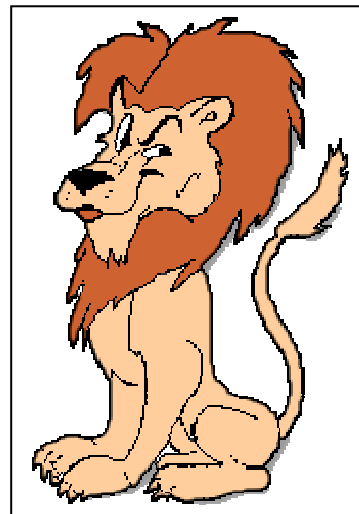
The Charities Fund: This is the corporation through which we run all our fund raisers, such as the Blind Dinner Date, Drive for Vision, the Calendar Raffle, the Used Eye Glass program and all donations. We also allocate the annual amounts we receive from our funds held at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. The Blind Dinner Date got back to its normal net profit this year. So, this year the fund should allocate around \$91,000 to charities related to vision and hearing issues.

Our balance of funds held at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation was \$696,922 as of March 31, 2016. The balance increased quite a bit this year due to a nice contribution received

from the Chuck & Zita Harris estates. Lion Chuck was a 60 year Lions Monarch who joined our club in 1955. The amount of spendable funds distributed to us by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation for this year should be around \$29,900. This is part of the \$91,000 allocation mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Thursday, June 9
Grand Rapids Lions Club Annual Meeting
6:00 – 9:00 pm

Seventy-two Lions and guests enjoyed the Grand Rapids Lions Club's Annual Meeting during the evening of Tuesday, June 9, 2016 at Blythefield Country Club. This includes incoming President Shawn Eyestone's family contingent and his sponsor from the Muskegon Northside Lions. After a lot of socializing and piano music by Jack Kimmell, Master of Ceremonies (MC) Rob Lalley opened the meeting with Mark Oberlin leading the singing of God Bless America. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the Innovation, the dinner (entrée's: stuffed chicken supreme, artichoke & panko walleye or vegan) was served.



After dinner, MC Rob Lalley remembered the sad news from this year: the passing of devoted **Lion Ralph Holewinski** and Mary Kimmell, wife of Jack Kimmell. White rose were given to Lion Diane Bergquist and Jack Kimmell. Betty Jean Fry was supposed to attend, but John Tobian took her rose to give to her. MC Rob then recognized 9 new Lions who joined over the last year: **Mary VanderLugt, Steve Shubert, Art Palmer, Pam Fox, Diana Bergquist, Steve Frendt, Renee Mika, Joshua Thorp and Anna Clifford.**

President Don Jakel reported on our service projects and fund raising events for the year. The Meijer Kids Shopping event helped VI & disadvantaged kids (45) shop for their families. Regular eyeglasses recycling sessions were held every Tuesday night, with two mission trip held this year – one to Jamaica and the other to Haiti. The Lions Club sponsored two field trips for VI students – one to hear the symphony & talk with a blind musician, and the other to Camp Tuhsmeheeta with 29 students from across Kent County. On June 11, VI Sports Day was held at Wealthy Elementary School. Lions' luncheon programs took place every noon from September to last week.

The Club's fund raising events, President Don said the calendar sales were great again; the Blind Dinner Date raised almost \$30,000 with the speaker the first blind MI Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein, a successful White Cane Drive and an expected "profitable" Grand Rapids Ophthalmology Drive for Vision June 20. In addition, the Grand Rapids Lions Club Fund (at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation) generated upward of \$20,000 that the club distributes to our primary charities and other charitable causes.

MC Rob began the Awards portion of the program by presenting Awards from Lions Clubs International (LCI), including:

- Gary Anderson – 4 membership awards (lapel pins and key awards) up to the LCI Senior Master Key Award for sponsoring 25 members (received in December 2015);
- Cheryl Anderson – 6 membership awards (lapel pins and key awards) up to the LCI Senior Master Key Award for sponsoring 25 members;



- Jamie Junod – LCI Membership Advancement Key, for sponsoring 5 members;
- Shelley Irwin – (not present due to MC'ing another meeting) – LCI Membership Key Award for sponsoring 2 Lions;
- Brent Spoelstra – (not present due to illness) – LCI Membership Key Award for sponsoring 2 Lions;
- John Rice – LCI Silver Membership Growth Award Pin – sponsoring a new member in October 2015;

Three LCI Monarch Chevrons were announced by MC Rob to recognize longevity of Lions service. Although none were present, they are Ray Weidenfeller (10 years), Jeff Dodson (15 years) and Paul Lytikainen (20 years).

MC Rob invited PID Gary Anderson to the podium to present the LCI Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards. PID Gary described what this award means. These individuals were selected by the Lions Board of Directors for their service to Lions from our Club's credits earned by our donations over the years to the LCI Foundation. As the individuals were not present, they will be presented with their plaques over the summer: Brent Spoelstra and John VanderHeide.



MC Rob turned the awards to those that were recognized by the Grand Rapids Lions Club in a variety of categories. He invited President Don Jakel to the podium to award several of them.

- ☞ **President's Appreciation Awards** - President Don began by recognizing 3 Lions that he chose to receive
 - **Lion Jamie Junod** – “for Exceptional Leadership and Devoted Service”
 - **Lion Craig Nobbelin** – “for Dedicated Service and Guidance in his Duties as Secretary and Editor”
 - **Jack Kimmell** – “for Making our Club Meeting More Enjoyable Through his Music”; in addition, the Lions Board of Directors voted unanimously to make Jack “a Grand Rapids Lions Club Honorary Lions Member.” Needless to say, Jack was very, very surprised.
- ☞ **Rookie of the Year Award:** Candidates are members who join Lions within the past 2 years and have demonstrated good attendance, shown initiative, motivated others by setting a good example and participated in Club projects. Last year's recipient, Lion Kyle Travis was given a replacement plaque for the **Joseph M. Trenshaw Memorial Rookie of the Year Trophy**. This year's Rookie of the Year Award was presented to a Lion who participated in many activities and stepped up to help with the website and communications: **Lion Ben Eavey**.
- ☞ The **Lion of the Year** was presented to an individual in recognition of stepping-up to Co-Chair the Blind Dinner Date – the most successful one to date: **Lion Rick Stevens**.
- ☞ The **Henry Voet Award for Outstanding Service to Lionism** is the highest award that the Grand Rapids Lions can bestow. The recipient of the 69th annual Henry Voet Award was selected by the Past-Presidents of the Grand Rapids Lions Club by secret ballot. Last year's recipient, **Lion Craig Nobbelin** was given a replacement plaque. In a renewed tradition made famous by deceased Lion Danny Palmatier, Lion Gary Anderson cruised around the room, pausing here and there, stopping in back of **Lion Scott Brady**.

President Don recognized the **current 2015-16 Board of Directors** and retiring board members:

- Lion Gary Anderson (2018)
- Lion Richard Boland (2018)
- Lion Erik Anderson (2019)
- Lion Bill Fleetham (2019)
- Lion Colleen Mulder (2017)
- Lion Ryan Smith (2017)
- Lion Scott Embree (2017), Membership
- Lion Jeff Kraai, Treasurer
- Lion Craig Nobbelin, Secretary
- Lion Shawn Eyestone (Vice President)
- Lion Don Jakel (President)
- Lion Scott Brady, Chairman of the Board *
** Retiring Board Member*

Past International Director Lion Gary Anderson installed the **2016-17 Officers and Directors** of the Grand Rapids Lions Club:

- Colleen Mulder (2017)
- Ryan Smith (2017)
- Lion Gary Anderson (2018)
- Lion Richard Boland (2018)
- Lion Erik Anderson (2019)
- Lion Bill Fleetham (2019)
- Lion Scott Embree, Membership (2017)
- Lion Jeff Kraai, Treasurer (annual app't)
- Lion Craig Nobbelin, Secretary (annual app't)
- Lion Ed Thauer, Vice President (2016-2018)
- Lion President Shawn Eyestone (2016-2018)
- Lion Chairperson Don Jakel (2016-2018)

President Shaun received his gavel and made closing remarks to conclude the Annual Meeting.

40th USA/Canada Leadership Forum September 15-17, 2016, Omaha, Nebraska

Last year as you may recall, the Forum was held in Grand Rapids for the 2nd time and Michigan Lions volunteers helped the Forum to be the highest rated in the last ten years. **PID Lion Gray Anderson** is the General Chairperson of the 40th USA/Canada Leadership Forum this year. So, from our perspective, the event should be a super learning experience.

If you want to attend, you need to register at www.lionsforum.org. The registration fee is \$295. You can register for hotels and learn more about the forum at this site. Attend as a part of your vacation out west or you can go with other Lions on a bus, which Michigan Lions are trying to arrange. Also, if you will be attending or you want to ride on the chartered bus, call or email Lion Gary Anderson.

VI Sports Day – A Great Success Saturday, June 11

The 15th annual Visually Impaired (VI) Sports Day was held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at Wealthy Elementary. Lions members arrived during the morning to get set-up to provide lunch for everyone who attended. The day was a beautiful day.

Ten Lions volunteered to prepare and serve lunch to 162 participants at the event. This included 35 VI kids, 112 family members, 15 other volunteers and the 10 Lions. The event brought in families from beyond Kent County. Thanks to Chair Scott Embree and the 10 Lions who prepared lunch for this large group!

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