



# Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2017-18, No. 12, February 3, 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**University Club  
Downtown Grand Rapids  
Luncheon Meetings begin at 12:10  
p.m. unless otherwise noted.**

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

February 5–9, All Week, Vision  
Mission Trip to Cabo San Lucas,  
Mexico

Monday, February 5, 4:45 pm,  
Lions Bowling League, Northfield  
Lanes

**Tuesday, February 6,  
Opportunities Unlimited for the  
Blind, Gwen Botting**

Tuesday, February 12, 6:00 – 8:00  
pm, Recycling Center Open

**Tuesday, February 13, Cherry  
Health, Tasha Blackmon &  
Renee Mika**

**Wednesday, February 14,  
Remember Your Loved Ones on  
Valentine's Day!**

Monday, February 19, 4:45 pm,  
Lions Bowling League, Northfield  
Lanes

Tuesday, February 20, 7:30 am,  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning  
Meeting, Ed Thauer's Office

## Tuesday, February 6 Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind Lion Gwen Botting

Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind (OUB) is a small non-profit near Grand Rapids that our club has supported for several years. OUB provides 4-6 weeks of summer camp experiences for children and young adults who are blind or have low vision from all over Michigan and the Midwest. Gwen Botting, Executive Director of OUB, provides its leadership for its staff of young adults who are also blind or have low vision. Employment with OUB gives them job training and an opportunity to work in a positive environment and get real job experience. OUB's blind or low vision staff provides exceptional mentoring for our campers as they learn they are capable of much more than most people think they are!

OUB's camp is unique in several ways. Lion Gwen says, "The camp teaches gardening, cooking and nutrition - something parents are often afraid of and teachers don't have time or resources to teach. Campers cook every day and embrace being outside and active. We go on an Adventure Trip each year – like a giant family camping trip that many of our campers have never experienced."

OUB accepts campers from age 7-19. 80% of campers are low-income, and all campers come for only \$25 per family. All their camps include the usual camp activities of swimming, boating, rock climbing, hiking, nature, environmental science, arts and crafts, campfires and more, plus important skill building opportunities to help them navigate in a sighted world.

Lion Gwen Botting is the parent of a young adult who is blind and a college graduate. She lives in Ionia, MI and was recently awarded a recognition award by the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

## Tuesday, February 13 Cherry Health, Tasha Blackmon & Renee Mika

Cherry Health is an independent, non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with a primary focus of providing high quality health services to those who have little or no access to health care, regardless of income or insurance status. The range of services provided include primary care, women's health, pediatrics, dental, vision, behavioral health, mental health, correctional health, five school based health centers and employee assistance for employers. Cherry Health provides services to all individuals, and a [sliding fee payment scale](#) based on income and family size is available to those without insurance. Medicaid and Healthy Michigan are accepted, as are many other forms of insurance.

Established in 1988, Cherry Health is the largest FQHC in the state of Michigan serving Barry, Eaton, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Wayne counties at more than 20 locations, 14 of which are primary care Federally Qualified Health Center sites. Cherry Health employs over 800 employees and a network of over 60 physicians and mid-level providers specializing in primary care/family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, optometry, oral health, behavioral health and substance use disorders. Additionally, Cherry Health runs a school linked program active in 70 public schools offering both vision and dental care.

Cherry Health provides comprehensive adult and pediatric vision services Grand Rapids, the Montcalm area and Wyoming. Services include dilated eye exams, diagnosis and treatment of ailments, chronic eye problems, refractions and dispensing of eye glasses, as well as case management services for those with diabetes.

The eye care program has been in operation at Heart of the City Health Center since 1988, originated through the efforts of Dr. Mark Sheldon with Grand Rapids Ophthalmology. The clinic was renamed *The Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic* in October 2011, in honor of the Lions' generosity in the expansion of vision services. Equipment and services have been furnished with the support of Grand



Rapids Ophthalmology, Grand Rapids Lions Club, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness.

Tasha Blackmon, President of Cherry Health, will be joined by Lion Renee Mika, OD, to talk about Cherry Health and the vision program. Ms. Blackmon has more than 20 years of experience in business operations. Blackmon is responsible for providing administrative and operational oversight to Cherry Health. She has led numerous development projects and large scale renovations and expansion projects during her 12-year tenure with Cherry Health. She serves on multiple local, state and national committees and has volunteered with many organizations.

Dr. Mika practiced in Big Rapids and taught at Ferris State College before coming to Grand Rapids to take the role of Director of Vision Services at Cherry Health. She joined the Grand Rapids Lions Club in 2016.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Blind Dinner Date

Have you made your reservations to attend the Lions Club Blind Dinner Date on March 8, 2018 at Thousand Oaks in Grand Rapids? If not, call and mark March 8 on your calendar. This event raises awareness and funds to help some of our children and adults alleviate and treat some of these challenges. The event will recognize the achievements of several professionals within the eye care community in West Michigan. Funds raised will benefit the Vision Clinic at Cherry Health, the health of children with special needs through the Eyeglass Program at KISD and assist individuals with blindness or severe low vision through the Association for Blind and Visually Impaired.

The Club also invites you or your company to help sponsor the event at several levels: Title Sponsor - \$10,000; Platinum Sponsor - \$5,000; Gold Sponsor - \$3,000; Silver Sponsor - \$1,000; and Bronze Sponsor - \$500. **For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Lions Benjamin Eavey at 616-719-9799 or Rick Stevens at 616-458-1187. Don't delay!**

## Michigan Lions Form in Grand Rapids! Saturday, February 17, 2018

The Michigan Lions Forum is at the Crown Plaza at 5700 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Grand Rapids this year. The educational sessions will be on Saturday, February 17, 2018. This is a great opportunity for new and older Lions alike to meet other Lions from around the state and learn about Lions and other issues affecting vision. A brochure about the event will be sent separately. Here is a list of the sessions:

- Understanding Lions Protocol
- Bridging the Generation Gap
- A Layman's Guide to Diabetes
- Lions as Leaders: Moving up the Ranks
- Leader Dogs for the Blind
- Time Management
- Global Action Team (GAT)
- Learning Opportunities for Lions
- The Art of Recognition (Understanding Awards)
- Lions Orientation
- Eversight
- Keynote Address: Ann Guzdzial, Special Olympics

You can register by sending in the registration form with your check or on-line at [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com). If you attend, our Lions Club will reimburse the \$45.00 registration fee (includes lunch).

## Help to Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Lions Yard Signs

Help to celebrate 100 years of Lionism! Originally approved by the Lions Michigan District 11 Council of Governors for LCI's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, our club will use the signs as one of the ways to generate enthusiasm and interest in the Grand Rapids Lions Club and our service in the community.

The signs will read (across the top) "A Proud LION lives here!" with the "Lions logo" in the middle and (across the bottom) "[www.Lions100years.com](http://www.Lions100years.com)." The signs are one-sided, weatherproof plastic yard signs with aluminum stakes. We will pick them up at Michigan Lions Forum on February 17 and have them available at the Eyeglass Recycling Center. There will be a sign-out sheet to sign so we can tell who has the signs. Note that our club pushed the signs for you.

You can participate on planning committee for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for our club by contacting Ed Thauer: at [ed.thauer@designunderwriting.com](mailto:ed.thauer@designunderwriting.com) or 616- 957-3380. The next meeting is at 7:30 am on February 20 at Ed's office.

## Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – 1954 & 1955

As we approach our 100th anniversary in 2019, and as the club looks forward, this series of articles looks back on the activities of the club, this time drawing upon *Nuda Veritas* editions that we have in our archives from 1956 (only 6 issues) & 1955 (only 12 issues).

The following newsletter article excerpt, “The Personal Story of Radio News Director Dick Cheverton” described his harrowing experience with some other Lions and family on a trip to Europe:

In his presentation, Lions’ member Dick Cheverton described “the unvarnished word picture of a fatal air crash in Moscow.” A few Lions and family, including Dick, began a trip “in anticipation of seeing some of the great historic parts of the old world . . .” Starting out on Capital Airlines Viscount, before switching to KLM for the overseas flight to Prestwick, Scotland.” After enjoying Scotland, England and Amsterdam, with excursions to Volendam and the Isle of Marken, the itinerary called for proceeding to Poland and the U.S.S.R.

“The voyage came to an abrupt ending when the Aeroflot plane was forced down in a terrific storm and crashed into a sea of mud a fraction of a mile before landing in Moscow.” It resulted in two deaths (of Grand Rapids travelers), “terrible injuries to Mrs. Tremper [wife of a Lion], minor injuries to daughter Michele [Tremper and a few broken ribs and dozens of bruises to our speaker, Dick Cheverton.”

“After many weeks in a Moscow hospital, Mrs. Tremper was finally transported back to her own city [to Grand Rapids Osteopathic Hospital] . . . Michelle soon recovered, as did Dick Cheverton and today Dick is in a position to tell all – the trip, the crash, the time spent in Moscow before being released and eventual trip home to Grand Rapids terra firma.”

The Tuesday weekly luncheons continued at the Pantlind Hotel. Here are a few programs:

- In April 1956, Governor G. Mennen Williams spoke to the club “bringing State Government directly to the People.” The *Nuda Veritas* stated: “Accordingly, we order all Democrats to be present and Republicans to be not only present, but on their good behavior!”
- A program, “Keeping Alive As Long As You Live” on the philosophy of education was presented by Dr. Guy Hill from Michigan State University.
- In September 1956, Congressman Gerald R. Ford, Jr. return for his annual visited and report on the State of the Nation. The article noted that he “has never skipped a year since his election in 1948.”
- Carl Johnson, president of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, talked pioneering “the hunting of bears with hounds . . . and numerous bear hunting expeditions.” He once took a bear that weighed 628 pounds.
- Donald Bouma, professor of sociology at Calvin College and very active in the community, told the club “a great about our own city that may never have occurred to the average citizen.”
- “A Frontier, Education – A Resource of Brain Power” was presented by Dr. John Tirrell, dean of the Grand Rapids Junior College.
- “Profit Sharing and Your Retirement” was the topic at one of the lunches, presented by James Durkin, special representative of Prentice-Hall, Inc. out of New Jersey and New York. He talked “about the growth of such plans and funds that have been greatly enhanced since 1943, when legislation then passed, provided distinct tax advantages and other benefits for qualified plans. Pending legislation, if passed, will make certain

of these provisions available to self-employed professional people, to assist then in building somewhat similar retirement benefits.”

- Fred Perry, Public Relations Representatives of Consumers Power Company talked about the state of energy today in Michigan. The article noted he was a Major in the Army Field Artillery with the Third Army in Europe and had eight years in the grain elevator business before joining Consumers Power.
- Rev. Harold Englund spoke to the club about “The Arab in World Affairs.” Having traveled widely, he has become ‘a noted speaker on the subject of Arab culture.’
- Grand Rapids Lions Club chaplain, Chaplain Martenson, gave the Thanksgiving address to the club.

- Our Chaplain and his noted Park Church Chancel Choir “took the spotlight” for the Lions’ luncheon concert.

*The Nuda Veritas also had numerous interesting comments, observations, and facts on Lion issues, including:*

- In 1956, becoming a grandfather meant a donation to the Lions fund - \$10.00 each for the 4 grandfathers. [Perhaps our Tail Twister should try that!].
- “We received a cordial invitation to attend the OPEN HOUSE at the Knape & Vogt Manufacturing Co. . . . to commemorate the occasion of 58 years as builders of fine store fixtures. We delved into the history from the Lions Club point of view, and found 57 years in combined memberships of two officials . . . John Knape has 29 years to his credit and Joe Knape 28 years.
- In 1956 and 1957, the four summer golf outings were at Greenridge, Grand Rapids, Blythefield and Cascade Country Clubs.
- A painter promised to paint Lions club signs for the city limits. [like the official LCI signs you can see when you enter a lot of towns these days] The final paragraph of the article noted: “We gave this job to a local sign painter about a year ago, but he must have been a Rotarian. He probably painted all the Rotary club signs and forgot about the Lions.”
- “President John Smolenski, accompanied by his wife Mary, is now in San Francisco to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> annual International Convention of Lions International. [He was a member of this Club who was 38 years old at the time. He died in 2010 at age 91 years.]
- When the program chair for last year was taken sick, one member, Bill Smith, stepped in as the 1956 Program Chair. “Bill did a wonderful job . . . without fanfare and saw us thru many anxious moments. . . . its guys like Bill that make our Lions club a great club.” [just like today – Lion members never change.]
- In August 1957, there were 300 members of the Grand Rapids Lions Club. This is a limit set by the Board, the article stated, “although there are enough application for membership presented to bring the total to considerably over 300. So now its first come, first served. Transfers from other clubs, if classifications are acceptable, will have preference.”
- The Lions Club received a check from the Coffee Dunkers of America, representing 1/3 of the proceeds. The Coffee Dunkers had an annual event, which lasted until 2010, raising money for different local charities each year. A number of current Lions attended these events.
- At the 1957 Lions State Convention in Lansing, “We got a tremendous bang out of the sincere speech of Bob Smolenski, inviting the 1958 Convention to Grand Rapids. He acted as though his name was Brunette, the Convention Manager himself. The other 22 Grand Rapids delegates perked up immediately threw out their chests and re-sold on Grand Rapids as three greatest convention city in the U.S.A. . . . There being no opposition, we were accepted as pretty good hosts because of former performance . . .”
- Grand Rapids Lions Joe Van Blooys was elected District Governor of 11-C, Lions of Michigan for 1957-58. He then appointed our own Lion Phil Vicari as District Secretary “to do all the work for him. . . . Don’t know of a better man Joe could have appointed.”
- Apparently, the Grand Rapids Lions Club held an annual picnic at Townsend Park [That year was August 27, 1957.] They gathered at 4 pm, had “a wonderful picnic supper at approximately 6:30. By 8:30, we should all be safely home and by 9 all kidlets should be in bed and asleep.”
- Plans for the [9<sup>th</sup>] annual Boy Scout-Lions Circus on June 6 & 7, 1958 were outlined.
- The annual outing to Duck Lake that has been described in the Nuda Veritas was actually “the fine Boy Scout Camp Shiawondossee.”
- One article noted that “Our Thanksgiving Baskets [were] well received . . . distributed more than 30 well-filled baskets of food and goodies a day or two before Thanksgiving.”
- President Smolenski called on Dr. Joe Lentini for few remarks “just to remind you that it’s almost time to man the kettles” for Salvation Army collections at Christmas time.

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## **Other News**

**Sight Seer Radio & Ruth Van Prooyen Death:** One of the guiding lights of the Sight Seer program, Ruth Van Prooyen, age 91, died on Monday, January 22, 2018 surrounded by her family. She and her husband Ken were spirited individuals who led the program. The Sight Seer is a non-profit organization created for people who are blind, visually impaired, or physically unable to hold or read print material. For 28 years, the printed word has been read to people who are unable to access it on their own via the radio and, more recently, the Internet. Our Lions Club and other Lions across West Michigan have consistently supported the Sight Seer program. We shall miss her vibrant personality in leading this program.

**Lions District 11-C1 Convention:** This year's District 11-C1 Convention is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2018.