



# Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2017-18, No. 16, March 31, 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*University Club*

*Downtown Grand Rapids*

*Luncheon Meetings begin at 12:10  
p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

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

Monday, April 2, 4:45 pm, Lions  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, April 3, Calvin College  
Mission Trips, John Ubels &  
Students**

Tuesday, April 2, 6:00 – 8:00 pm,  
Recycling Center Open

Monday, April 9, 4:45 pm, Lions  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, April 10, Christian  
Healthcare Centers, Mark  
Blocher**

Tuesday, April 10, 6:00 – 8:00 pm,  
Recycling Center Open

Saturday, April 14, District 11C1  
Convention, Paws with a Cause,  
Wayland

Monday, April 16, 4:45 pm, Lions  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes  
– Last Night of Bowling

## *In Memory of Newman William “Newt” Dawe July 21, 1925 – January 20, 2018*

Former Grand Rapids Lion Newman William “Newt” Dawe died peacefully on Saturday, January 20, 2018. He was 92 years old.

Newt joined the Grand Rapids Lions Club in 1982 and was a member into 2011, although he was less active in the later years. He was sponsored by Lion Gene Gober and was a 25-year Lions Monarch.

Newt was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, where he served as a 1st Lieutenant as a navigator in the Army Air Corp (Air Force). He was an engineer, working in the field of air conditioning and heating. At heart, Newt was an outdoorsman, spending many weekends hunting, fishing and doing archery with his sons, friends, and family. He was a member of the Conservation Club, where he enjoyed trapshooting, skeet shooting, and sporting clays. As those of us who knew him remember, he had a great sense of humor and was able to tell a great story.

Newt will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 42 years, Shirley Swan Dawe and his younger brother. Newt and Shirley had no children together, but he leaves behind several children and grandchildren from his first marriage.

**Tuesday, April 3  
Calvin College: An Eye Care Mission Trip to Mexico  
John Ubels & Students**

Every other year, our Eyeglasses Recycling Program works with students and faculty from Calvin College. We help them in

preparing for their mission trip to Mexico, which occurs during the January interim school session at Calvin. The students, led by retired Biology professor John Ubels and other eye care professionals, come and work at our recycling center in sorting, washing and preparing the donated glasses inventory they use to offer eye care to the underserved in Tijuana and San Quintin, Mexico.

A team of 12 students with Dr. Ubels and other doctors and professionals work with the Christian Reformed World Missions Church to offer eye exams and provide glasses to people who are without access to adequate eye care. Dr. Ubels and several students will report to us the results of their trip last January and share the impact they have had from previous trips and the data they have been able to collect and analyze since the inception of their program.

## **Tuesday, April 10** **Christian Healthcare Centers, Mark Blocher**

Christian Healthcare Centers (CHC) was established in 2015 to offer a different approach to healthcare for both doctors and patients. It operates independently of traditional healthcare insurance as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization. It focuses on patient's wellness – physically, spiritually, emotionally and relationally – through doctors working with their patients. CHC covers a range of services: basic medical, counseling, chiropractic, prescription services, etc., based on a monthly subscription model. This is a form of primary care.

CHC indicates:

- It is affordable, as little as \$30/month for students to \$180/month for a family of four, which provides unlimited access to medical care without co-pays or deductibles. It includes all in-office, telemedicine and virtual visits, routine labs, generic prescription medications, in-office x-rays, in-office counseling, and much more. (Note: It does not include hospital care.)
- It is convenient, providing same-day or next-day in-office appointments, 24/7 access to your doctor through telemedicine and virtual visits and arranging after-hours and home visits when needed.
- It is personalized, meaning that CHC's doctors and nurses spend the time necessary to build a strong, personal relationship with each patient with office visits scheduled to last 30 minutes or longer, depending on the needs of the patient.

Mark Blocker, President/CEO of CHC, will tell you about the service.

### **Grand Rapids Lions Board Elections**

Soon, you will be asking to vote by email on two (2) directors and a new vice-president. Current President Shawn Eyestone will move to the position of Board Chair while Vice-President Ed Thauer will become President. Don Jakel will retire as Board Chair. Voting will take place by email from the first week in April until April 15. The results will be announced shortly thereafter.

<b>Happy Birthday To Our April-Born Lions</b>		
Matt Hulswit	April	2
Patrick Keenan	April	3
Scott Embree	April	6
Craig Maghielse	April	9
Diana Bergquist	April	15
Jean Kraai	April	18
Gail Junod	April	24
Jacqueline Smart	April	24

## **Lions District 11-C1 Convention - Saturday, April 14**

Our Lions District Convention will be held on **Saturday, April 14** at Paws with a Cause in Wayland, MI - 15 miles south of Grand Rapids down US-131. It is close by, so let's have a good representation from our club. Our International Director from District 10, Jenny Ware, will be our guest speaker at the dinner. If you can't stay for dinner, at least come for the educational sessions in the morning and the business meeting in the afternoon. While it is late to register, any Grand Rapids Lion can still attend.

Our Club will pay \$25.00 for your registrations and the noon lunch. The all-day cost will be \$45 which includes the dinner. It starts with Registration at 9:00 am. Cheryl Anderson previously sent you an email about the convention.

**Please contact Craig Nobbelin (c.nobbelin@yahoo.com) or 616-458-0471 and Cheryl Anderson, District 11C1 Secretary, (andersoc@gvsu.edu) if you want to attend.**

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

*Our committee planning for the Lions 100th Anniversary has met several times. At this point, we are still trying to get VP Mike Pence, and he is being asked in person at the White House in April by Ed's contact. An alternative, if the VP can't participate, is George W Bush, our former President.*

*In a separate event, we are also following leads to get a named Musician, such as Kid Rock or Stevie Wonder, via management channels for a concert. We are asking the entire Lions membership (and their families) to present ideas to our committee for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as we are looking for more volunteers to work with us as we forward in planning this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year 2019! We are excited as to the possibilities!*

*Ed Thauer, Chair*

## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Blind Dinner Date a Success Presented by: RXOptical**

On March 9, 2018, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Blind Dinner Date was held at Thousand Oaks Country Club with over 170 attending. The company was great, the featured speaker, Jay Blake, held everyone's attention and the award recipients had earned their awards through compassion and care. Excelling again this were our Lion Hosts Shelly Irwin and President Shawn Eyestone. After welcoming remarks and the invocation, Shelley and Shawn (sounds like a stand-up comedy team or pop-duo), introduced the awards

After another delicious dinner, the featured speaker, Jay Blake, was introduced. His presentation was, "Power of Positive Thinking, Self-Determination and Teamwork". While working as the head mechanic of a transportation company in May 1997, Jay was involved in an industrial accident that caused him to lose complete sight, smell and taste. At the age of 31, he was faced with relearning how to live as a completely blind person.

He refused to give and aggressively participated in rehabilitation. With renewed self-determination, Jay began to follow his dream: owning a professional auto-racing team. He soon learned that even without sight, he was still able to do what he loved most – work on racing engines.

Turning his dream into a reality, Jay combined his renewed participation in drag racing with his desire to spread his true-life success by inspiring others to accomplish their goals through the Power of

Positive Thinking, Self-Determination and Teamwork. Follow a Dream currently reaches an estimated audience of over two million people at races all over the country and through on-site presentation at community schools, vocational institutes, colleges and speaking engagements with business groups, charitable events, car show and national automobile competitions. He was a very dynamic speaker with a message for not only visually impaired and blind individuals, but also everyone else.

The following (*next page*) individuals are the award winners:

- ◆ **Vision in Actions** (*non-medical individuals who have made significant contributions in their careers or through volunteer efforts to reduce avoidable blindness and/or provide quality of life support to those with vision loss*): **Carson & Carolyn Niefert** are deserving of this honor and have become role models. Instead of retiring quietly, slow day and traveling, this couple chose to take on the legal guardianship of three grandchildren who had been diagnosed with Batten Disease. These grandparents wanted to ensure that Carson, Willie and Violet received consistent care and love.

Batten is a rare progressive, degenerative disease that causes loss of vision and motor skills, as well as seizures and cognitive impairments. It is always fatal. All three children struggle to communicate, two need wheelchairs and only violet is able to walk with a cane. All tress continue to laugh, smile and love, no doubt because the care and love that the Niefert provide. They all participate in VI Sports and the Lions Holiday shopping at Meijer.

- ◆ **Dr. Mark Sheldon Lifetime Achievement** (*honors individuals who have made vision improvement and vision loss elimination their passionate life's work both inside and outside their profession. Their dedication and contributions have made a positive impact in reducing avoidable blindness, especially among those from economically challenged parts of our community*): **Dr. Gregory Patera** has "earned" this award for his 44 year history of passionately dedicating his life to saving and improving vision and commitment to the community. A graduate of Michigan State University, he earned his Doctor of Optometry from the Illinois College of Optometry.

Dr. Patera provides routine eye care for all ages and is certified in the treatment of external eye diseases, injuries and glaucoma management. His practice merged with Grand Rapids Ophthalmology in 2000. He has demonstrated dedication and unselfish contributions as a volunteer, board member, president and more. Highlight include being a Lion since 1974, Vision Consultant for the state's Medicaid program, Ferris College Trustee, united way, Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired Board member and chair of the Michigan State Board of Optometry. Notably, he was part of team that resulted in Medicaid's well vision services being reinstated after being cut in the state's lean budget years.

- ◆ **Visionary of the Year** (*honors an individual who has made distinguished contributions in their medical/professional careers by significant volunteer activities that have enriched the lives of those living with vision loss*) **John McElheron**, LMSW, has been a social worker professional for over 40 years, with a heart for service. He shows incredible passion, particularly for the visually impaired community. It is not unusual for him to a simple inquiry about his weekend with "Oh, I just took some men who are blind skiing." John has mentored and counseled countless people in his life, especially those who feel marginalized in or society, such as the indigent and recent immigrants. He spends personal time counseling prisoners and even has some "pen pals."

Since 2001, John has been a counselor and group facilitator at Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI). His work there has involved creating and sustaining twelve peer support groups in nine counties, expanding the program from just one when he started. Recognizing that vision loss affects the whole family, he incorporated family members and caregivers into his support groups. John's professional goal at ABVI was to enhance and create community, and to support active participation of people with vision loss in a full spectrum of expression in the arts and recreation. Examples include: In Touch with the Arts exhibits providing accessible arts for people with vision loss, weekly yoga, pottery classes and music appreciation. Many of these activates took place on his own time outside of ABVI responsibilities. John will be retiring this October, but, true to his character, he just cannot give up his support groups entirely.

The funds raised from the event benefit local children and adults in meeting challenges caused by their vision through the following organizations: Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic at Cherry Health, Ken-O-Sha Early Vision Program, Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Grand Rapids Lions Fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. The Lions Club would be remiss if we don't thank the Blind Dinner Date committee and its chair, Ben Eavey, for their hard work and leadership for producing a very successful event.

### ***Other News***

**Lions Annual Meeting:** Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>** for the Grand Rapids Lions Club Annual Meeting. It will be held at the Cascade Hills Country Club. More information will be forthcoming.

**Dinner on the Dark:** GVSU Campus Lions Club's annual "Dinner in the Dark" is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. More detail will follow in the next newsletter.