



Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2017-18, No. 19, May 12, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

University Club

Downtown Grand Rapids

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

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

**Tuesday, May 8, Reinvesting
Yourself in Retirement, Neal
Dionne**

Tuesday, May 8, 6:00 – 8:00 pm,
Recycling Center Open

**Tuesday, May 15, Student
Recognition Day – Starts at
NOON!**

Tuesday, May 15, 6:00 – 8:00 pm,
Recycling Center Open

**Tuesday, May 22, Kids Food
Basket, Ben Nyhoff & Ashley
Diersch**

Tuesday, May 22, 6:00 – 8:00 pm,
Recycling Center Open

Tuesday, May 29, Noon, Lions
Board Meeting, ABVI.

**Tuesday, May 29, 6:00 – 8:00 pm,
Eyeglass Recycling Work
Session Only, Jamark Labs**

Tuesday, May 15 **Student Recognition Day** **(Note early start time at NOON)**

Let's have great attendance at the 20th annual Grand Rapids Lions Club's Student Recognition Day is a long-standing tradition. At today's meeting, Grand Rapids area senior students will be recognized to show the accomplishments of our talented youth. We will celebrate their achievements that will recognize their over-all abilities. In previous years, it had focused only on sports.

Each school's leadership selects two students based on the student's all-round contribution during high school, not just in sports or academic achievement, but also for their leadership, and school & community involvement. The principal or guidance counselor from each school will typically present the students. Parents and Superintendents are invited and may attend.

Nine Grand Rapids schools will be represented:

- ☆ Grand Rapids Public High Schools:
 - Central
 - City
 - Ottawa
 - Union
- ☆ Two Catholic High Schools: Central and West
- ☆ East Grand Rapids High School
- ☆ Christian High School

Students will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Grand Rapids Lions Club and a gift certificate from Schuler Books, paid for jointly by the bookstore and the Lions Club. Pictures will be taken with **Lions President Shawn Eyestone**. **Lion Ryan Smith** organized this event again this year.

It is better to say a Good Thing about a bad fellow
than to say a Bad Thing about a good fellow.

Tuesday, May 22

Kids Food Basket, Ben Nyhoff & Ashley Diersch

Kids Food Basket: "Providing a simple evening meal to children living at or near the poverty level is a powerful act alone. When we rally our community together to make that meal possible through service, education, and urban agriculture, we are able to attack childhood hunger in two critical ways: providing nourishment to children now and equipping them with the education needed to make healthy food choices lifelong."

Sack suppers, volunteers driving its success, kids helping kids and urban farming & experiential learning are key strategies of the Kids Food Basket. Joining us to talk about their programs are Ben Nyhoff and Ashley Diersch.

Ben Nyhoff, Development Specialist, is a West Michigan native and Grand Valley State University graduate with a degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration, focusing on Nonprofit Budget and Finance. He spent two years in the AmeriCorps VISTA national service, and realized his passion for hunger relief after spending several years with a Feeding America food bank in Colorado and returning home to lead advocacy efforts for the Food Bank Council of Michigan. In 2014, Mr. Nyhoff began building expertise in corporate and donor relations with the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region. In 2018, he joined Kids' Food Basket as a Development Specialist. He enjoys talking with community members and discovering what they're passionate about. He lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Kristen and one-year old son, Lucas.

Ashley Diersch is Development Director with Kids Food Basket. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Communications, specializing in Public Relations and Journalism. In 2009, she completed her non-profit management and leadership graduate certificate program at Lawrence Technological University and in 2012 her Masters of Science Administration in Leadership at Central Michigan University. Ms. Diersch spent 8 years with Special Olympics Michigan in fund development, specializing in event management and marketing, volunteer recruitment and management, corporate sponsorship, donor relations, and peer to peer fundraising. She joined Kids' Food Basket in December 2014 as the Senior Manager of Corporate and Foundation Relations and brought her experience from Special Olympics Michigan to Kids' Food Basket, focusing on growth and strategy with corporate and foundation partners in West Michigan. In 2016, she moved to Senior Development Manager and in January 2018 was promoted to Development Director. She lives on the Northeast side of Grand Rapids with her dog, Teddie.

Coast to Coast Raffle --- There is Still Time!

You still have time this month to purchase a chance for a vacation in the *Choose Your Coast Raffle* is here again! It's your opportunity to purchase a 2018 raffle ticket (or many tickets) to travel to one of the great cities along the coasts of our great land. With each raffle ticket purchased, you will have a chance for two to travel to New York, San Francisco, Orlando or Seattle for a four day – three-night trip.

Tickets are still only \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Only 600 tickets will be sold! The drawing will be held on June 8, 2018. Ticket holders need not be present to win. The proceeds of the raffle benefit the **Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired**, one of our major charities. Please contact Lion Rick Stevens at ABVI to order your ticket(s): 616-458-1187 or rstevens@abvimichigan.org. (Raffle License: R46058)

Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – July – December 1961

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 July through December 1961.

A Tribute to Melvin Jones

In the last issue of the Nuda Veritas, the announcement of the Lions Founder, Melvin Jones, death was reprinted in its entirety. Here is the Tribute that accompanied the announcement on June 20, 1961:

“Lions throughout the world mourn the recent death of Melvin Jones. He was the founder of Lions International. From a humble beginning in 1917 when 25 Lions Clubs held their first convention in Dallas, Texas, he saw the organization grow to the point where it has in excess of 600,000 members represented by over 15,000 clubs in all the free countries of the world.”

“Mr. Jones was born at Fort Thomas, Arizona, on January 13, 1879. His father was a United States Army officer and his boyhood was spent in the thrilling setting of Indian raids, counter pursuits, and long journeys with immigrant trains. He was educated by private tutors in Arizona and in the public schools of Missouri. After finishing high school, he attended the Union Business College in Quincy, Illinois and later studied law at Chaddock College in Quincy.”

“At the age of 21, he went to Chicago, Illinois where he entered the office of Johnson and Higgins, insurance brokers, later founding his own business known as the Melvin Jones Insurance Agency. While in Chicago, he studied voice and for many years was in great demand as a tenor singer.”

“After founding Lions International, he found it necessary to devote all of his attention to his work and from the early 1920’s, the balance of his life was devoted and dedicated to this organization.”

“In 1939, he was awarded the National Merit of Carlos Manuel de Céspedes by the Cuban government, the highest award which can be made to a civilian not the head of his nation, and has been honored by other countries with awards and citations of various kinds. At the Chicago Convention of 1958, by official action of the delegates, his title of Secretary-General and Founder for life was confirmed.”

“In 1909, Melvin Jones married Rose Freeman. She was one of the country’s foremost golfers, and President of the Women’s Western Golf Association in 1938 and 1939, [an organization] in which she remained active until her death in June 1954. Melvin Jones lived in Flossmoor, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, with his [second] wife, the former Lillian M. Radigan of Flossmoor. They were married in June 1956.”

“The Grand Rapids Lions Club has had the pleasure of his company on a number of occasions. When the International Convention was held in Grand Rapids in July of 1934, he was very much in evidence and was in part responsible for making that Convention a huge success. In December of 1944, when the Grand Rapids Lions Club celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary, he was an honored guest and speaker at the banquet, which was held at the Pantlind Hotel.”

While Lions International is not the oldest service club in existence, it today enjoys the distinction of being the largest service club in existence and being represented in most countries of the civilized world. A great deal of credit should be given to Melvin Jones for this achievement. He was truly a dedicated Lion. He will be missed by all who had the opportunity of meeting and knowing him”

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

- Summer meetings (& golf) were again held every other week during July and August, at Green Ridge Country Club, Grand Rapids Country Club, Green Ridge (again) and Cascade Country Club.
- Dr. Joseph Lentini [who was a Lion] introduced Dr. Kenneth Johnson, who spoke on “Medicine’s Future and What It Means to You.” He was a practicing physician and had been involved in state-level policy and advocacy.
- Samuel Jones, head of the speaker’s bureau of the Michigan Trucker’s Association in Dearborn, spoke about the importance of trucking in Michigan and “believes his members of his organization don’t blow their own horn often and loud enough . . .”
- Chaplain Gene Carter invited Don Baughman, a missionary in Nigeria, to talk about his experiences there. His ministry was located in the western region of Nigeria, 25 miles from the Capitol, Lagos, where the Yoruba tribe lives, the third largest tribe in Nigeria. He gave a vivid description about living in an area called the High Forrest, “so dense that the sunlight rarely reaches the ground,” and with snakes everywhere.” He taught English there, preparing for the ministry. He and his family were looking forward to returning to Nigeria.
- Chaplain Eric White gave brief remarks during Thanksgiving week, but featured the 85-voice Senior Capella Choir of Grand Rapids Christian High School, under the direction of Mrs. Trena Haan, “This group has gained State-wide recognition in the field of vocal work.”
- John Hoekje, Union Bank & Trust Company, spoke on the important matter of “Wills and Trusts”. [Do you have a will or estate plan yet? It is never too soon, no matter what your age.]
- Another choir sang for the Christmas program, preceded by our Chaplain Gene Carter’s message. South High School Choir with 81 voices provided the Lions lunch crowd with “a musical treat.”

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

- The new Boy Scout Service Building on North Monroe was about 90% completed by August. From our Club, 222 Lions members contributed to or solicited funds to build the facility. For the dedication of the building on October 15, 1961, an editorial on radio station WMAX recognized the Grand Rapids Trade Council for donating their after-hours and spare time to building the structure – “a labor of love.” It also recognized the Grand Rapids Lions Club as a zealous advocate of scouting for a long period of time, and other friends of scouting, gave some \$40,000 toward furnishing the building . . . [About 20 years ago, the boy scouts moved to a new building near Walker Ave & US I-96.]
- Lion Harold Pendergast’s plea for yarn for the ladies at Welcome Home for the Blind was answered by Miss Ann Koopmans, secretary to another Lion, who “provided 3 large containers of all colors of yarn.”
- The Lions Family Picnic was held at Townsend Park (Canonsburg) on August 15 beginning at 3:00 pm. The meal was “fine charbroiled chicken and roasted corn on the cob . . . [and] refreshments, all of which will be tailored to the little boys and gals. Oddles of Joppe’s fine Ice Cream, paddle pops and liquid refreshments by Chuck Duffy, all flavors and kinds.” There were “wonderful prizes . . . for the afternoon sports for the boys and girls.” Each family was asked “to bring a ladies’ gift, suitably wrapped, and every wife of a member will share in the loot. Makes for fun.” Lions members were instructed to leave their playing cards at home . . . “since this is kid’s day . . .”
- Bowling resumed on September 11.
- The annual Duck Lake Outing was held on October 7 & 8, but instructed not to arrive too late to dine on a steak Saturday night. Lions were instructed to bring their own liquid refreshments, “a sleeping bag, if you sleep, fishing gear, if you fish, guns, if you shoot, swim suits, if you swim, or any other equipment, if you equip . . . also \$10.00 entrance fee.”
- A “Big Bazaar” at Welcome Home for the Blind, 227 Charles Ave SE was held on November 15 & 16. Knitted and woven articles, suited for holiday giving were sold.

- The Holiday Party, “Night in Arabia,” later offering prints (for \$1) for “those who had a picture taken in ‘native garb’ at the party through Robinson Studio, the official photographer of the Grand Rapids Lions Club.

Other News

VI Sports Day: VI Sports Day will again be held this year on **Saturday, June 9**. The Lions are responsible for the lunch for all participants, parents and volunteers. Lions and their spouses & their families and friends can also help with the visually impaired and blind individuals as they participate in their activities.

Lions Annual Dinner Meeting: Remember --- Wednesday, June 13th for the Grand Rapids Lions Club Annual Meeting. It will be held at the Cascade Hills Country Club. More information will be forthcoming soon.

31st Annual Drive for Vision – Mark your Calendars: With primary sponsors Grand Rapids Ophthalmology with partner with Blue Sky Vision, the 31st Annual Drive for Vision will be held on **Monday, June 18, 2018** at Quail Ridge Golf Club. The Drive for Vision committee is seeking additional sponsors at different levels. For more information, please contact Kyle Travis at travis.kd@gmail.com or (616) 635-4242 (mobile).

Summer Activities: *Stay tuned* for announcements for Lions Summer Activates. There may be a work session or two at the Recycling Center, other activities or a picnic.

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Lions District 11-C1: Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa