



# Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club  
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2018-19, No. 2, August, 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*University Club*

*Downtown Grand Rapids*

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

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

### **Tuesday, September 4, Voters Not Politicians,**

Tuesday, September 4, 6:00 – 8:00  
pm, Recycling Center Open

Monday, September 10, 4:45 pm,  
1<sup>st</sup> Night of Bowling League This  
Year, Northfield Lanes

### **Tuesday, September 11, Legal Aid of Western Michigan, Karen Merrill Tjapkes**

Tuesday, September 11, 6:00 –  
8:00 pm, Recycling Center Open

Monday, September 17, 4:45 pm,  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

### **Tuesday, September 18, To be Determined**

Tuesday, September 18, 6:00 –  
8:00 pm, Recycling Center Open

Monday, September 24, 4:45 pm,  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

## **Tuesday, September 4 Voters Not Politicians,**

Gerrymandering congressional and legislative districts has always been a problem. Both political parties have done it to benefit their party's candidates as we elect our representatives.

U. S. Federal law has 3 rules when it comes to redistricting:

- District maps must be drawn every 10 years when new census data is available to reflect shifts in population across different states.
- Districts must be drawn to reflect equal population.
- Districts must adhere to the Voting Rights Act that protects from racial discrimination in voting.

Other than following those three rules, states are allowed to draw election maps however they want. Michigan is one of 37 states that gives all of this power to the state legislature. In order for final maps to pass, a simple majority of each chamber of the state legislature must vote yes. The governor has the power to veto the redistricting plan. However, when 1 party controls all of these areas, they effectively have full control over the redistricting process with zero input from other parties.

Instead of giving politicians the power to draw our voting districts, who ultimately stand to benefit from their decisions, Proposal 2 on November's ballot proposes an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission of registered Michigan voters to draw voting districts. Guidelines that ensure fairness to all will be established.

Proposal 2 will change the State Constitution and result in:

- An Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) in charge of the redistricting process. (made up of 4

Democrats, 4 Republicans, and 5 voters who affiliate with neither party with representation from across the state.

- Public hearings with detailed public reports.

A representative from their Speakers Bureau will present and answer questions.

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*Reminder: Carried over from last spring, the luncheon raffle pot now is about \$1,800 with three chips remaining – two red and one white. The chances are certain there will be a winner at the 1st or 2nd meeting In September, and that person will win about \$800+. Be sure to come to these meetings and buy boat-loads of tickets!*

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## **Tuesday, September 11**

### **Legal Aid of Western Michigan, Karen Merril Tjapkes**

Legal Aid of Western Michigan (LAWM) is a nonprofit law firm providing free legal advice and representation to low income individuals in a broad range of areas, including consumer cases, family matters, housing problems, government benefits and more.

LAWM is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of 21 lawyers and representatives of the low- income community. They are committed to guiding the program in its efforts to provide high-quality legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to obtain legal counsel and ensures that LAWM is accountable to its clients. Funding for LAWM comes from a variety of federal, state and local government sources, foundations, and other private sources and, along with donations from attorneys and other individuals.

LAWM has a staff of over 30 attorneys located in 5 offices in West Michigan. In addition to our staff attorneys, over 100 private attorneys volunteer time to assist LAWM clients every year. The Pro Bono Program of Western Michigan was established in 1982 to increase the availability of needed free legal services to low income individuals and families in our community. The Program provides a network through which individual attorneys and law firms can donate their expertise and resources to provide legal representation and justice for those in need.

### **Happy Birthday to Our September Lions**

Jeaune Allard	September 10
Carla Bolhuis	September 10
Adam Carlson	September 13
Shelley Irwin	September 23
Thomas Murphy	September 28
Johngerlyn Young	September 30



An attorney with LAWM, Karen Merril Tjapkes, will talk with us today. She earned her BA from Michigan State University and her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University in Chicago.

### **Second Century of Success Campaign as our Lions Club Enters its Second Century**

Two months have passed since Lions Pat Mullen and Kim Gary announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century of Success Campaign and letters were mailed asking members for 100% participation. The campaign has already resulted in 23 pledges for a total of \$184,575!! This means the Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation now has cash and pledges of over \$1,000,000! For those still considering your pledge, please direct questions about the campaign to Kim Gary at [kimgary55@gmail.com](mailto:kimgary55@gmail.com) or 616-291-5438 (mobile)

or to Pat Mullen at: [pmullen@mullencoins.com](mailto:pmullen@mullencoins.com) or 616-272-4402 (mobile). Please help us get to 100% participation!

## **Lions Bowling League Kicks-off Monday, September 10**

The Grand Rapids Lions Club Bowling League kicks-off on Monday, September 10 and runs through December at Northfield Lanes. Lions, spouses or significant others can test their bowling skills no matter what the skill level is. This is a non-competitive league, so all are welcome to join in the socializing and fun. Some Lions go out to dinner after bowling, but you don't have to bowl to join the bowlers for dinner, or vice-versa.

Northfield Lanes is located at 2222 Plainfield Ave. The cost is \$160.00 (?) per person and includes a banquet at the end of the second half of bowling. Shoes are available for rental. Practice starts at 4:40 and bowling starts at 4:45. It usually finishes by 6:15 pm. If you can't bowl full time, substitutes are often needed. You are also welcome to come to the alley to heckle the bowlers and get to know the other Lions. Past bowlers have been contacted but ne bowlers who want to sign up or ask questions, please contact Fred Martin at [fmartin@allegragr.com](mailto:fmartin@allegragr.com) or 901-0578.

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## **Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – July through September 1969**

*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 September 1969. This time-period is shorter than others because Dr. Stanley Larson wrote in some detail about the 1969 Lions International Convention in Japan over a few issues and some is of his writings are reproduced here.*

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

- “Crises in Urban America” was the topic for the first on September 9, presented by Edgar Foster, Executive Vice President of United Fund and Community Services.
- Dr. Robert Streelman, a dentist in Wyoming, talked about his medical team’s experience in the land of Papa Doc Duvalier (Haiti), a land of unbelievable poverty and superstition.
- A film, “Trapshooting with the Remington Pros”, provided “detailed instructions and illustrations on proper foot position, gun hold and lead on targets for each of five shooting stations at 16-yard, handicap and doubles targets,”
- Richard Gilmore, executive coordinator for Project Rehab, explained the work of the agency. He started “his ‘on the job training’ as part of the drug problem in the streets of Brooklyn. As a child he became a gang leader, not by choice, but as a practical matter of either ruling or being ruled; he preferred ruling . . . Somewhere along the line the value of education and religious values came through stronger than the ‘kicks from drugs.’”

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

- On July 1, Judge Robert Smolenski turned over the tools of Lions President to Dale Chesser as Bob become the Board Chairman at the installation of officers’ dinner. At the same meeting, Dr. Joseph Lentini announced as Lion of the Year (Now the Henry Vogt Award).

- Lion Satya Agarwal from the North Calcutta India Lions Club joined the installation dinner. He had just completed a course at Davenport College.
- Summer golfing was at Green Ridge, Silver Lake. Elks Country Club and Forest Hills that summer.
- 57 Lions advertised their businesses in the Nuda Veritas to help support the printed and mailing costs.
- The Family Picnic took place on August 20 at Long Lake Park north of Sparta.
- A Lions International Convention "Tokyo Report" by Dr. Stanley Larson provided descriptions of the trip, the convention held in Tokyo and the Lions' living arrangements over several issues of the newsletter. This group of Lions stayed in the town of Atami, about 60 miles from Tokyo. One note was the Japanese hotel rooms "devoid of very much Western Style." There were wonderful descriptions in detail about the Japanese décor and style of guests being served.
- Part three continued the story in Japan. The Lions took a bullet train from Atami to Tokyo – costing at that time 2,130 yen – about \$6.00 one way. "Riding in trains and observing people in rail stations opens up a whole world of its own. It's no different in Japan. These people were so orderly . . . so well mannered . . . so well groomed . . . so disciplined." He described, in some detail, the rice paddies, the people working them, and the one-hour ride on the train. In Tokyo going from the train station to the New Otani Hotel, he described the traffic and the throngs of cabs. He said, "It's no place for a passenger with faint heart." [On his R&R, your editor had met his parents at the New Otani about 11 months after the Lions Convention.]
- Part four highlighted more about the convention in Japan. When arriving at the registration headquarters, activity and refreshment stands were everywhere. We returned to the Ginza and downtown Tokyo "where many of our Michigan Lions were quartered . . . We tried a variety [of food] and thoroughly enjoyed both Japanese cuisine and the good Western style restaurants. We felt the Japanese diet has excellence balance and, perhaps, in some aspects superior to ours . . . We were not taken back, so to speak, by the raw fish of the Japanese menus. In fact, it is more than likely that one who likes rare steak may enjoy the raw fish which is well seasoned and floundered in unique sauces. They use a great many different vegetables as well fruits." Dr. Larson continued, "As for the highly publicized Kobe steaks which are to have come from massaged, beer fed cows, they're good but no better than home, we believe. We were told that hamburgers and hot dogs are coming into vogue --- too bad. We'll vote for sukiyaki, tempura and sushi." Then back to the hotel in Atami.
- Tokyo Report continued: This was the day for Lions parade and ". . . on which we will see Emperor Hirohito and the Empress of Japan --- a rare appearance for the nobility of Japan." "There were 170 participants in the Michigan delegation [in the parade] . . . spearheaded by our District Governors who carried a banner 20 feet long and four feet high titled MICHIGAN --- USA." The delegation arrived early at a massive building, Budokan Hall, in order to get seats toward the front. International President David Evans came in and everybody rose to their feet. Shortly after the Emperor and his wife, "with dignitary escort, across the stage to properly bow and meet and greet President and Mrs. Evans. The Emperor wore an informal suit and his Empress wore a suit of a light color, pearls and hat --- surely, today they were clothed to the Western eye. He spoke Japanese in a medium tone . . . was brief in its purpose of welcome and wish you well." The formalities continued, with a highlight of Boy Scouts marching with the flags of each nation in Lionism.
- The next two days consisted of convention assemblies, followed by a few days of various tours of Japan in the time they had left. They boarded a bus for Hakone and Mt. Fuji. A "short, personable, adroit and smiling young woman, Chizuko Nishizawa, would be their escort. She said it would be easier to call her Suzie. Time didn't permit Dr. Larson from talking about all their experiences, but he did share a few. "We'll remember the huge Buddhas and attending monks. We'll remember the gardens --- not like ours. There was one with raked crushed rock for surface with just jutting boulders. This was a garden? It seemed to us this was abstract and we couldn't help but think of the new sculpture of Calder, back home in grand Rapids. We enjoyed the elegance of the International Hotel in Kyoto. She was the shrine city. She was the

city of culture. Here were the beautiful creations of damascenes --- those artists squinting close to metal, tapping with chisels and tamping gold and silver. Here we saw the closing of the day in a department store as a Japanese lad or lass stood at the foot and head of each escalator and every door, bidding every customer, 'thank you and good day. How warm and different.' We spent time in Hawaii for a few days.

- "Statistics of the convention reveal that 43,000 Lions registered of whom approximately 20,000 came from outside of Japan. Eight thousand marched in the parade represented 55 countries and all 50 states of the USA. It was the largest Lions International Convention in history and the largest convention Japan has ever served."
- A "Golden Anniversary Pennant" for the Grand Rapids Lions Club 50-year anniversary was unfurled in the summer and was hung behind the rostrum in the fall.
- A call went out to find golden retrievers to train as leader dogs for blind women and our Lions Board responded. [See side story about golden retrievers.]
- There was "scarcely a dull moment at Welcome Home . . . escorted to the Godwin swimming pool, the Quota Club sponsoring an Ox roast at a Sparta farm, with a hayride through the orchards . . . harvesting ."

### Golden Retrievers

Consultation with breeder of golden retrievers, Earl Lambert with the Lions.

"The original blood strain of the Golden Retriever was first seen in Russia and was known as the Russian Tracker. A great English sportsman observed these dogs in Russia and was extremely impressed with the ability of the dog to protect sheep. In the late 1880's, twelve of these Russian Trackers were brought back to England. These dogs were crossed with the English Blood Hounds with the resulting strain of Golden Retriever. The English guarded this new dog very closely and refused to permit any to leave the country until about 1921 when fifteen dogs were brought to the United States. They were widely distributed and because of this fact, nearly became extinct in this country. However, it became known, finally that there were a very few available and success was attained in an effort to begin breeding. Further, careful breeding 'polished the dog down' with the elimination of some of its more coarse characteristics."

Earl Lambert "repeated emphasized their capacity for learning. However, because of their kind temperament, he stated they are never used for police work or war duty. They are a very devoted dog and would down its life for its master."

## Other News

**USA – Canada Lions Leadership Forum:** There is still time to register for the best Lions Club Leadership training event in world, the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. With over 50 specific training sessions related to developing quality Lions Clubs, thousands of Lions Leaders share their experiences. It is within driving distance (about 5 hours) this year in Columbus, Ohio. The Forum is on September 20 -22, 2018. To find out more information or make a reservation, go to [www.lionsforum.org](http://www.lionsforum.org). If you plan to go, check with members of our club to see if you can carpool to Columbus with Lions coming from West Michigan.

Grand Rapids Lions Club, Website: [www.grlions.org](http://www.grlions.org)

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