



# Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club  
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2018-19, No.10, January 5, 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*University Club*

*Downtown Grand Rapids*

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

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

*Every Tuesday, Recycling Center  
Open, 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

Monday, January 7, 4:45 pm,  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, January 8, Disability  
Advocates for Kent County,  
Dave Bulkowski**

Monday, January 14, 4:45 pm,  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, January 15, West  
Michigan Sports, Mike Guswiler**

Monday, January 21, 4:45 pm,  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, January 22, Grand  
Rapids White Water Project,  
Dave Marquardt**

Monday, January 28, 4:45 pm,  
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, January 29, 6:00 – 8:00  
pm, Eyeglasses Recycling  
Project, Jamark Labs**

# Happy New Year!

**Tuesday, January 8  
Disability Advocates of Kent County  
Dave Bulkowski**

Disability Advocates of Kent County (DAKC) was founded in 1981, long before the Federal law on disability rights was passed. People with disabilities sought to help themselves and other people with disabilities gain control over their own lives. It started as the Center for Independent living. Its mission is to work alongside people with disabilities as they seek to lead self-directed lives and to advocate for accessible and welcoming communities.

DAKC has maintained its status as a federally and state-recognized "center for independent living", as defined in the Rehabilitation Act. Over 50% of its board, staff and volunteers have always been people living with a disability.

Experienced and knowledgeable staff provides support in a variety of issue areas, including information about our community resources, housing, employment, transportation and veteran's assistance. They assist thousands of individuals each year.

Joining us today to tell us about DAKC will be Dave Bulkowski, Executive Director.

## Tuesday, January 15

### West Michigan Sports, Mike Guswiler

The non-profit West Michigan Sports Commission (WMSC) was founded in 2006 by a visionary group of business leaders, led by Peter Secchia. Its mission is to promote West Michigan as the premier venue for hosting youth and amateur sporting events, which enhance the region's economy and quality of life. It has an impressive record, with an economic impact over \$260 million in direct visitor spending.

In 2007, it hired our speaker for today, Mike Guswiler, as its first and only Executive Director. In 2008, it hosted its first major national event – [the Golden Gloves](#). In 2010, it hosted the inaugural [Meijer State Games of Michigan - Summer Games](#), now its signature annual event. In 2010, it kicked off the “Everyone Wins” campaign to raise \$7.5 million to build a championship-caliber baseball/softball complex in Plainfield Township near Rockford. The Grand Rapids and Rockford Lions Clubs each gave \$10,000 for “the miracle field” for handicapped individuals. This the Art Van Sports Complex opened in 2014 (eight baseball/softball fields, a covered championship field and a [Miracle Field](#)). In 2014, it added the [Meijer State Games of Michigan - Winter Games](#). From there, it added additional national, regional and Michigan sports events every year.

At least 50 sports venues have hosted 600 or more WMSC events, ranging from the Van Andel Arena, to state-of-the-art sports complexes at West Michigan colleges and universities like Aquinas, Calvin, Cornerstone, Davenport and GVSU. Most also are venues for the Meijer State Games of Michigan and 2017 State Games of America. Over 900,000 athletes and visitors have participated or attended.

### A Great Time for Everyone – Lions Club Kids Holiday Shopping Event at Cascade Meijer Chairs: Anne Baird, Don Jakel & Mike Thibodeau

As all the volunteers on this day know, the Kids Shopping event took place in December. We would like to send out a **BIG THANK YOU** to all those who participated in helping with the Kids Holiday Shopping Event on Saturday, December 8 at Meijer at Cascade.



Forty (40) smiling kids went home with large Santa Bags packed with gifts for their families. Eleven (11) kids were visually impaired from KISD and referred by their teacher consultants. Twenty-nine (29) were from the center-city based program of Saboath Ministries. All were referred as having financial need.







The overwhelming response for "helpers" made it all possible. Because each of you were important in the role that you provided (i.e., shoppers, drivers, gift wrappers, clean-up), we have chosen not to name all 49 who came and helped, because you know who you are. It was great teamwork and once again, we would not have been able to do it without your help. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! The following is a list of numbers of those who participated and all the various programs that were represented:

- ✓ 17 Grand Valley State University Lions Students
- ✓ 24 Grand Rapids Lions Club Members
- ✓ 1 Cherry Health Heart of the City Health Center
- ✓ 5 Kent Intermediate School District - Teacher Consultants for the Visually Impaired
- ✓ 2 Volunteers
- ✓

### **49 Total Volunteers**

We appreciate your taking time out of your busy holiday schedules to spend a morning bring joy and the spirit of Christmas to 40 young kids whose families will benefit from shopping with them and helping them know the meaning of giving.

Note: The \$100 gift cards costs were contributed were contributed by the Lions Club (\$4,000) and Meijer (\$1,000). Other donations were from pass the hat donations (\$357), wrapping supplies (260.63), Breakfast sponsorship (\$100) and an individual (\$25). Santa Bucks and Meijer M-Perk code were used to stretch the kids' purchases further.

Editor's Note: ***Let's give the Chairs a Big Thank You for the great job they did!***



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## **Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – January through December 1974**

*As we celebrate 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 January through December 1974. (some editions missing)*

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

- The year started off with the traditional Directors New Year's Day Reception on January 1, followed the next Tuesday with a buffet luncheon and, "Come Early . . . Lion Keith Crittenden will provide appropriate songs."
- "What's Right? What's Wrong? What Now?" for the economy in 1974 was the presentation by Dr. Marvin De Vries, Dean, Seidman School of Business, Grand Valley State College.
- Director of Speech Pathology, Charles Hillary, from Mary Free Bed Hospital & Rehabilitation Complex, talked about "Rehabilitation at work."
- "FBI's Role Today and into the Future" was discussed by FBI Agent James Sturgis, Jr.
- Eagle Scout John Scholten spoke from experience about the Boy Scout Program.
- Development Director of Calvin College and Seminary, Sydney Youngsma, spoke about the Role of Small Colleges in America.
- "Stock Market – 1974" was the topic of "A panel of genial Lions [to] endeavor to answer questions on the pros or cons of today's investments." The Lions were Lions DeShane, Goodard Veneklase, Fitzgerald & Grant.
- For our St. Patrick's Day program, Father John McGee talked about "Ireland Today" while Jim Hillary (the "Irish Tenor") joined pianist Jean Miller to provide Irish tunes for the Lions enjoyments.
- Menswear Fashion Show by Klein's: Bill Klein was a long-time Lions member by this show was arranged over many hours by Lion David Mandel. "Business wear, sportswear and clothes for travel [were] modeled [and reflected the] advantages styles and types of fabrics in the fashion trend of the day."
- "YOU Can Make a Difference" in the millage renewal for the Grand Rapids Public Scoots. Phillip Runkel, Superintendent, talked about "why we should vote yes on Monday, April 1."
- The 1973 Master's Golf Film was should on August 2. The Master's was won by Tommy Aaron by two strokes over Jack Nicklaus.
- For the Eater Program, Lions Chaplain Edwin Arnold presented a meditation, while the St. Andrew – St. Joseph Children's Choir provided additional entertainment.
- A barbershop quartet called, SPEBSQSA, entered the Lions after lunch.
- A "New City Center Plan" and slide presentation was presented by Richard Fosmoen, GR Director of the GR Planning Department. The new planning proposals would redo the southern half of the present downtown area of Grand Rapids.
- Circuit Court Judge John VanderWal made a presentation for Law Day [May 1], presented "a few actual cases involving humor as well as the serious side and meaning of Law Day."
- "Gloria Burley Slykhouse is the editor and publisher of GLORY ETC., an area magazine now in its fourth year of publication." She talked about "Changing Lifestyles – Where are We Going?"
- "Kent County Landfill – What it means to You!" was discussed by Kent County Commissioner John Boerma, who was chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioners Board of Public Works.
- On the staff of The Grand Rapids Press since 1947, Rene Pelissier [night and city editor] talked about the "role of the newspaper in modern society, as a source of information beyond the news – newspaper credibility and freedom of the press.
- The June 25 Installation of 1974-75 Officers installed the Honorable Judge John Letts as President, Rev. Ed Arnold as 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Bob Jamo as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

- In July and August, the GR Lions Club met every other week - - - on the golf course. Non-golfers joined the golfers for a Lions dinner meeting. The four golf outings of 1974 were at Silver Lake, the Elks, Green Ridge & Forest Hills.

## **A Letter from The White House**

September 10, 1974

Dear Mr. Starr:

I can't tell you how very pleased I was to receive your warm message of congratulations. It is heartwarming to receive the good wishes and prayers of so many of my good friends "back home."

As I have said publicly, I do indeed need prayers of all of our citizens and with God's help I will continue to serve our great country to the very best of my ability.

Needless to say, the wonderful people in Grand Rapids and the rest of the Fifth Congressional District of Michigan will forever have a very special place in my heart.

Thank you again for your kindness and friendship, and warmest personal regards.

Mr. James B. Starr  
Secretary  
The Grand Rapids Lions Club  
6055 Meadowlark Lane N.E.  
Rockford, Michigan 49341

- Kent County Circuit Court Judge Stuart Hoffius talked about the incident of Edward Kennedy and Chappaquiddick.

- Edgar Foster, Executive Vice President of the United Fund and Community Services, spoke about the organization.

- R. H. Shackford, the prize-winning journalist and diplomatic correspondent, spoke on "America's New Open-Door Policy Towards Red China." He "had corrected judged 10 years before it became public policy that China would be the key to United States relations with the rest of the world . . . He is concerned with the effect secrecy, deception, and manipulation of public opinion has recently had on American life. He believes that the press has no monopoly on seeking the truth. "I think there's a tremendous role, not just for the press", he states, "but for the academic world, historians, all kinds of people who should demand or try to get as close to the actual truth as they can." [This sounds amazing like today!]

- On October 1, President John Letts and Director Fran Mitchell reported on the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Lions International Convention.

- The changing dynamics and requirements for education funding and the male – female funding balance was discussed at the lunch. Joining the discussion were GR Public Schools staff Rus Postumus (Director of Athletics), Joe Leonardo (Assistant Director) and Tutti Wagner (Coordinator of Girls' Athletics).

- Richard Vander Veen, who was elected as 5<sup>th</sup>

District Representative to fill the seat after Gerald R. Ford became President, updated the Lions on events in Washington.

- A film from Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, "Energy from the Arctic", "shows men risking their lives as they seek to build a 2,500 mile gas pipeline through a vast [Alaskan] wilderness . . . [and] mountains that jolt the imagination and caribou surging across a desolate plain . . . wolves pursuing a heard of moose . . . rare birds revealing their secrets . . . streams alive with fish that bite on any lure."
- The Lions guests at this luncheon were the West Catholic Falcons, City League Football Champions. Ray Smith, Head Coach at Hope College gave them encouraging words.
- The Thanksgiving program this year featured the West Catholic Madrigal Singers and a message from Father Jim Fellows.
- Dr. Marvin De Vries joined to for the second time this year to present, "Inflation . . . Can We Control It?"
- The Bethel Pentecostal Church Choir, directed by Rev. James Abney, and "A Christmas Meditation by Chaplain, Rev. Ed Arnold for the Lions Christmas program.

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

- The Grand Rapids Chapter of the Coffee Dunkers of America, Inc Contribution \$430 for the Welcome Home for the Blind (1/3 of the contributions to their December show).

- For the past year, the Lions Club Blind Committee reported the club gave 130 eye exams & purchase of glasses, swim lessons for 15 blind children, purchasing a Braille watch for a Welcome home resident, purchased White Canes, provided food & medicine for several blind people, distributed 31 food baskets at Thanksgiving and again a Christmas, provided dinners for guests at Welcome Home at Thanksgiving and Christmas, gave each guest a \$5.00 bill for Christmas and donated \$200 for a Christmas Party for the blind children as Brookside School.
- For the first half of bowling, Hemmes' Zebras edged Mocher's Kangaroos for the championship with a record of 33-12 versus 32 <sup>1/2</sup>-12 <sup>1/2</sup>. Ed Venekase had the high average score, 188, followed by Chuck Harris with 186.
- White Cane Week was April 28 – May 4. After the funds were counted, the activity raised a total of \$4,937.83.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Race Track Outing was May 9.
- The Scout Expo '74, sponsoring by the Grand Rapids Lions Club was held on Saturday June 1 at the Pantlind Hotel. "This was a gigantic event in a booth-type walk-around show featuring the display of nearly 200 Cubbing, Scouting and Exploring Activities." Over 5000 participated
- The second half of bowling ended in a tie, 29 ½ - 15 ½, between Grant's Wildcats' and Lewis' Bears. A rolled was won by the Wildcats! For individual averages, Ed Venekase averaged 187, followed closely by Chuck Harris (185) and Bill Morrissey (184).
- In 1974, the 57<sup>th</sup> Lions International Convention was held in San Francisco. The Club's contingent were Lions President John Letts and Director Fran Michell and their wives.
- The Fall Dinner – Dance was held at Blethefield Country Club on October 11, 1974.
- The Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians Concert was held on November 19.
- 23 food baskets were delivered by Lions members on Thanksgiving Day.
- The Ladies Nigh Christmas Party on December 7 was joined, by popular request, by the famous "Singing School Teachers".
- On December 13, two or more Lions had work assignments for the Salvation Army Drive at 26 locations downtown and around Grand Rapids.

## Other Lion News

**Welcome our New Member, *Lion Joe Annoreno*:** His wife is Brianne. They live on Rolling Hills Drive SE in Grand Rapids. He is a Senior Business Analyst for MPIE, a company providing medical professional liability coverage, claims handling and risk reduction, and patient safety services for healthcare providers. His email address is [joe.a.annoreno@gmail.com](mailto:joe.a.annoreno@gmail.com). His mobile phone number is 708-692-8266. His sponsor is Kim Gary.

**Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation & Second Century Success Campaign:** The Second Century Success campaign continues. *We urge you to **donate or pledge by the end of December**, for any amount – no matter how small - so we reach **100% of member participation**.* Please direct questions

### Lions January Birthdays

Richard Nelson	January 4
John Rice	January 4
Michael Thibodeau	January 4
Colleen Mulder	January 9
Wayne Beuschel	January 15
Joe Annoreno	January 20
Molly Fleetham	January 21
Mary VanderLugt	January 21
M. Lynn Dandridge	January 24
Donald Jakel	January 31
Robert Winchester	January 31

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).

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