



Nuda Veritas

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

Tuesday, January 22, Grand Rapids Whitewater Project, Dave Marquardt, Tim Kelly & Matt Chapman

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

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

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

Tuesday, February 5, The State of Self-Driving Cars, Bonnie St. Amour

Monday, February 11 4:45 pm,
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

Tuesday, February 12, To be Determined

February 19 – 24, Vision Mission Trip to Izamal, Mexico

Tuesday, January 22

Grand Rapids Whitewater Project,

Dave Marquardt, Tim Kelly & Matt Chapman

Grand Rapids Whitewater (GRWW) emerged from [Green Grand Rapids](#), a city-wide green infrastructure master planning process that began several years ago and focused on six topics for quality of life and the physical development of community infrastructure as it relates to greening. This greening connects natural systems, the Grand River, recreation and public health. GRWW became champions for the restoration of the Grand River rapids.

One focus of Green Grand Rapids was how to “capitalize on the Grand River as an asset for economic development and quality of life by encouraging a change in the land use along the riverfront.” Extensive community engagement with nearly 2,000 people gave their time, energy and insight in shaping the content of the Plan.

GRWW is non-profit 501(C)3 organization formed by [Chip Richards and Chris Muller](#) to lead the vision of revitalizing a 2.5 mile stretch of the Grand River running through downtown Grand Rapids. The process for GRWW involves multiple local, state and federal partners throughout the planning and implementation process. Implementation could be done by 2025. Among some of the key benefits associated with the restoration of the Grand River include:

- Creating a Downtown recreational amenity that will attract both users and spectators;
- Serve as a catalyst for Downtown economic development;
- Improve safety and accessibility for fishermen and other river users by adding stabilized water access points;
- Improve the community’s connection to nature within the city;
- Improve river conditions for selected threatened and endangered species;

- Enhance in-stream fish habitat and naturalizing river edges and;
- Inspire community wide stewardship of the Grand River for generations to come.

Please welcome our speakers and guests: David Marquardt, Director, City of Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation for Grand Rapids for 4 years; Tim Kelly, President & CEO, Downtown GR, Inc; and Matt Chapman Project Coordinator with WWGR.

Tuesday, January 29
Eyeglasses Recycling Project
6:00 – 8:00 pm, Jamark Labs
[No Meeting at Noon at the University Club!](#)

Lions January Birthdays
Belated Happy Birthday!

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



The glasses have been shipped for the next Vision Mission Trip. So, we will work on recycling glasses for our next trip later this year. This Eyeglass Recycling Session/Dinner Meeting will be Tuesday, January 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm. Please come and bring a guest or a prospective member to our work session to show them how we serve. Everyone is welcome!

The Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is at Jamark Labs at 4282 Brockton SE, Suite D, Grand Rapids. It is approximately 1/2 mile east of Broadmore Avenue, about 1 block north of 44th street at the first traffic light and on the east side of Brockton. It is the northern-most suite in a series of connected businesses. Parking and the entrance are in the front of the building. If you have questions or want more information, please contact **Lion Scott Brady** at scottbrady2120@gmail.com or 616-283-0260, or one of the other committee members.

***Note:** The Recycling Center is open every Tuesday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm from September through May*

**Grand Rapids Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling
 & Vision Mission Trips (a 3-part article)**

This is the first of a 3-part article on the Grand Rapids Lions Club’s eyeglass recycling and vision mission trips: This article shares some of the history of eyeglass recycling and the mission trips. The next newsletter will report on last fall’s trip to Jamaica. The third part will describe the most recent trip coming up to Izamal, Mexico.

An Overview

Lion & Past International Director (PID) Dr. Dennis Cobler and the Lions of the Muskegon Northside Lions Club started the used eyeglass recycling program by processing donated eyeglasses in 1987. The title, Michigan Vision Mission Team, represents *all* clubs who help make this possible.

Our Club had been involved with the Lions of Michigan Vision Mission Team since 1995 when **Lion & PID Dr. Gary Anderson** went on his first trip, which was the sixth trip taken by the Muskegon Northside Lions Club. They have made 22 trips in 22 years to Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador,

Peru, Panama, and Mexico. In the last 31 years, the Vision Mission Team has gone on over 40 mission trips throughout Central America, South America and Caribbean countries.

In 2009, we began helping the Muskegon Northside Lions Club and in 2010, we took over the entire program, in part because our club was larger, and it was a great service project which fit in with our mission:

“Vision 2020: A Right to Sight --- Making a difference in this community through leadership and collaboration to prevent vision loss and provide resources for those with vision impairment.”
(2003 Strategic Plan)

Since 2010, we have made 14 trips, plus support for a Jamaica medical trip and for Calvin College mission (3 trips to Mexico) and our trips (8 to Mexico, 2 to Haiti, 3 to Jamaica, and 1 to the Dominican Republic.

Here is the run down on our annual mission trips:

Year	Destination Town	Country	Year	Destination Town	Country
2009	Comatain	Mexico	2015	Playa Del Carmen	Mexico
2010	Santiago	Dominican Republic	2016	Boral	Haiti
2010	Merida	Mexico	2016	Ocho Rios	Jamaica
2011	Aguascalientes	Mexico	2017	Campeche	Mexico
2012	Port au Prince	Haiti	2017	Negril	Jamaica
2013	Texuitlean	Mexico	2017	Campeche	Mexico
2014	Vera Cruz	Mexico	2018	Negril	Jamaica

Our Club has offered services to over 24,000 patients and referred over 2,300 patients for follow up treatment or surgery. We also supported other mission trips to Jamaica with the ISSA Family Foundation and to Mexico with programs offered by Calvin College.

Over the last 10 years of processing donated eyeglasses, we have sorted over 1.5 million pairs of eyeglasses. Most of these have come Lions Clubs around the state which have collected for our program, and from vision professionals in the Grand Rapids area which our club’s Lions have pick-up.

Within the donation boxes or bags, we find a variety of other items. Not counted in the donations above are eyeglass cases, lenses, hearing aids, cellphones, watches, TV remote controls, teeth, keys and many other items. For everything we collect, we try to find a home. Readers and cases go to local missions; Hearing aids go to a special recycling vendor in Grand Rapids. And some of the most unique vision tools we receive go to ABVI and they are very valuable.

Staffing the eyeglass recycling center 2017 recorded 2,500 Lion members hours and 600 nonmembers hours up from 2012 Member volunteers have doubled and non-member volunteers have more than tripled. Hours are up but number of members is down. Can you say burn out?

Recycling & Mission Trips

What do we ship on our mission trips? When we first began to run the recycling center, what came in, went out. Now, we are selective on the powers and styles of eyeglasses because of the quantity coming into the center and the experience in understanding the types of frames that people we serve want. We originally started shipping almost 10,000 pairs of eyeglasses on each trip – prescription,

sun and readers. Now, we are down to around 8,000 pairs of eyeglasses but hoping to go lower than that.

With the software that the club developed, we analyze and compare the trips. To improve the misconceptions that we had about the cities where we worked - size, elevation, etc. - as to why some cities required were more “add” (far-sighted) and some more minus (near-sighted) eyeglasses. Now, we know it was our inventory that was the problem and we have adjusted the inventory based on where we are going.

We get some eyeglasses made to our RX based on the exam at the mission clinic, which supplements what is donated. Because of a “stable” arrangement, eyeglasses are made for Jamaica kids because we get so few useable kid’s glasses. Also, because of the accommodations in Jamaica (no cost), we arranged for the resort employees to be examined.

We have recycled over 60,000 pounds of unusable eyeglass frames (30 tons), primarily with a recycling company in California. Gold glasses are sold for the gold content locally through a Lions’ member. We have received over \$100,000 which helps offset the cost of running the recycling center.

Lions Make a Difference

We need help at the recycling center – Please commit to one night a month to work on this club project. In addition, the recycling committee is expanding and looking for additional committee members to help learn, teach and supervise work stations (buddy system for coverage). Please contact Scott Brady: scottbrady2120@gmail.com or (616) 915-9614.

Lastly, **the Club thanks the Recycling Committee members** for their dedication and hard work in guiding the project, working at the Recycling Center and participating on many, many vision mission trips! The team members are (in alphabetical order): **Lions Gary Anderson, Scott Brady, Bill Fleetham, Jamie Junod, Gail Junod, Jean Kraai, Steve Mulder and Brent Spoelstra.**

Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – January through December 1975

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 1975. (some editions missing)

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

- Samuel Fox was our first speaker in 1975. His presentation, “Petroleum – Supply and Demand” was about a year after the Arab petroleum boycott started, which was very real for our country. “Opinion [has] covered the spectrum from anticipated disaster to equanimity and back again. Generally speaking, spokesmen for business are not in favor of a petroleum crisis or much discussion of its l, but it does not seem to go away.”
- District Governor of 11-C, Ray DeWitt, visited the club and gave an update of activities in the District.
- The Club hosted the “First” Girls All-City Basketball Team. Among the players was Sara Smolenski, daughter of Judge Lion Bob Smolenski.
- The person who “came to Grand Rapids in 1949 to ‘Promote and build a Zoo’, Fred A Meyer, Director, John Ball Zoological Gardens, spoke to the club. After a young career working with Marlin Perkins of Wild Kingdom fame, his first step when after arriving was “the formation of the John Ball Park Zoological Society and this group has been actively engaged in aiding the Zoo ever since. In 1971, our club purchased a

lion club which was presented to the Zoological Society. The Club also sponsored a 'name the cub' contest. Ra-Mu was the name chosen from the hundreds submitted by the Grand Rapids elementary school children."

- Charles McCallum, President of the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Club. He was an attorney with Warner, Norcross & Judd and a prior Fullbright Scholar.
- Director W. D. Frankforter, Director of the Grand Rapids Public Museum for many years, presented slides of his visit to Teotihuacan, the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, and various other sites while in Mexico.
- Francis McCarthy, Administrator of GR Junior College was our speaker on February 25.
- James Bogdan, Interim Dean of Instruction at GR Junior College "reviewed the history of storm and strife which has characterized Mideastern Countries for more than 1000 years."
- Father John McGee talked about Ireland, their Irish songs, dances and humor during the annual St. Patrick's Day program. Of course, there was always Irish music.
- The 1974 Master Golf film was shown. Gary Player won this tournament with a final score of 278.
- A White Cane Program, presented by Greg Matthews and his Leader Dog "Teddy", explained the program.
- "The Philosophy of Jurisprudence as viewed by a Mid-Western Populist" was presented by Lion A. Dale Stoppels, Judge of Probate in Kent County.
- Attorney William Reamon spoke about his views on malpractice insurance.
- "My Year in Russia" was presented by George Penrose, PHD, Assistant Professor of History and Russian Language at Hope College. "Members of the Visitation Committee who heard Prof. Penrose speak at the Zeeland Club earlier this year, unanimously agreed his observations were made under circumstances not often afforded a visitor from the United States."
- A buffet luncheon at the Pantlind kicked off the fall season on September 2.
- Carl Eschels, Manager of Corporate Planning was appointed Executive Director of Grands Rapids Bicentennial-Ses-quintennial Committee. This committee was in charge of celebrations for the nation's 200th Anniversary and the City's 150th.
- Former Circuit Court Judge John Vander Wal spoke on "Cases that I have Known from a Lawyer's Point of View."
- He graduated from South High School in 1962 and the University of Michigan before entering the service, "He was a pilot for three years, was shot down over Northern Laos and spent many months in the hospital. With a temporary release from the hospital, he earned his master's Degree at Western Michigan and returned to the hospital for further surgery. He talked about his experiences.
- Mayoral Candidates Harold Dekker and Abe Drasin made presentations on the major issues in the race. They then answered questions from the audience.
- The City League Football Champions, the Union High Red Hawks, were honored at the luncheon on November 11. Gordon Hunsberger, Director of Athletics at the GR Junior College, spoke.
- Lion "Buck" Wooldridge talked about the Michigan Eye Bank, which is a project of Michigan Lions.
- The 1975 Thanksgiving Day message was presented by Lion Rev, Tom Zollman, joined by the Bread of Life Singers from Bethel Lutheran Church.
- Tom Lee, a native of Grand Rapids, talked about the "History and Current Problems of the American Indian." "At 25, [he] has distinguished himself as a writer and lecturer in a number of areas, including contemporary art, African history and Native American History and Culture."
- Classical guitarist, Brian Roberts, a native of Grand Rapids shared the stage with Rev. Ed Arnold for the Christmas message,

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

- The Lions Directors continued the tradition of throwing a New Year's Day Reception.
- On December 19, the Brookside Blind Children's Christmas Party was again sponsored by the Grand Rapids Lions Club, under the direction of the Blind Committee and its Chairman, Charlie Merrill. Sixteen children were treated with a personal pizza, and gifts & wearing apparel.

- Ronda's Giraffes were the Champions (35-10) of the first half of the bowling season. Hoover's Tigers were runners-up. Chuck Harris was the individual Champ with a 193 average, followed by ed Veneklase with a 177 average.
- The Michigan Society of Planning Officials presented Lion Don Oakes with the MSPO President's Award.
- The net proceeds from the Clubs Boy Scout Circus Fund were over \$11,800 in 1974.
- The Club raised \$3,500 when staffing the kettles during the Salvation Army Drive in December.
- The White Cane Dive occurred on May 2nd & 3rd and raised \$2,103.
- Starr's Hippos won the 2nd half of bowling with a record of 30½-14½. Dr. Jerry Wisneskii won the individual honors with an average of 183.
- Two busloads of Lions and guests (99 people) made their safari to the Detroit Race Course on May 22.
- Summer golf outings were at these country clubs: Green Ridge, Elks, Silver Lake and back to Silver Lake.
- The standing committee chairs were all lined up before the start of the new year (July 1).
- Ladies Night Dinner – Dance was held on September 13 at Green Ridge Country Club.
- The Fred Waring & the Pennsylvanians Concert raised a net of \$3,848.15 for Welcome Home.
- The Ladies Night Christmas Party was held in the Ballroom of the Pantlind Hotel on December 6.
- Coffee Dunkers [of America, Grand Rapids Chapter], met 7:29 am at the Pantlind Hotel Ballroom to raise funds for 3 charitable causes, one of which was Welcome Home for the Blind. Donation \$2.76. The meeting was a humorous take on national, state and local news.



Other Lion News

Welcome our New Member, *Lion Joe Annoreno, sponsored by Lion Kim Gary*: He is married, and 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. His mobile phone number is 708-692-8266.

Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation & Second Century Success Campaign: The Second Century Success campaign continues. *We urge you to **donate or pledge for any amount, so we can achieve 100% member participation**.* Please direct questions about the campaign to Kim Gary at kimgary55@gmail.com or 616-291-5438 (mobile) or to Pat Mullen at: pmullen@mullencoins.com or 616-272-4402 (mobile).

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