



# Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club  
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2018-19, No.21, June 8, 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### University Club

#### Downtown Grand Rapids

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

### ----- We Serve -----

**Saturday, June 8, VI Sports & Activity Day**, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm,  
Wealthy Elementary School,  
*Volunteers Needed!*

**Wednesday, June 12, 6:00 – 8:20 pm**, Grand Rapids Lions Club  
**Annual Meeting: Guest Presenter – GR Mayor Roselynn Bliss**

**Monday, June 17, 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Drive for Vision Golf Fundraiser**

**Saturday, July 20, Cars for a Cause & Silent Auction** (to benefit the Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation), *Volunteers Needed* (so you can renew your Lion friendships mid-summer)

**Tuesday, September 3, First Tuesday Luncheon of the Fall**

September 19-21, USA-Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Spokane, WA

*Think about donating to the Lions Fund at the GRCF instead of going out to eat!*

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Grand Rapids Lions Club

### Visually Impaired Sports & Activity Day Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm *Volunteers Needed!*

The 18th Annual Visually Impaired (VI) Sports & Activity Day will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at Wealthy Elementary School, 1961 Lake Drive, SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506. This is a great volunteer event, whether you work with the children or help to set up and serve lunch.

The Lions' volunteers set-up, cook and serve the lunch. A few will be needed at about 8:00 am to set-up tables and chairs, the craft tent, registration table, etc. More Lions will be needed later in the morning for cooking and serving the food. Some members will also be needed to help tear things down by 2:00 pm. We usually serve between 150 – 200 families and volunteers.

The event is fun and meaningful for the kids and families. Lions and other volunteers join with GVSU Campus Lions Club members to help with the VI kids. When you arrive, please park on the street (Lake Drive or Wealthy Street) and leave the parking lot for participants and their families. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

This event attracts families from beyond Grand Rapids and Kent Country. Activities include a bounce house, "beep-baseball", sensory tables, swimming and a talent show and so forth. Families with children who are visually impaired look forward to this event every year.

Please volunteer soon so we know if we have enough volunteers! You can wear the same shirt you did last year. If you need a shirt or to volunteer, please contact Lion Bob Winchester at 616-942-2441 or [toadhuffy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:toadhuffy@sbcglobal.net), or Lion Scott Embree at (708) 309-0406 or [sembree@financialguide.com](mailto:sembree@financialguide.com).

**Wednesday, June 12**  
**Grand Rapids Lions Club Annual Meeting**  
**6:00 – 9:00 pm**

You should have made your *Reservations* for the Lions Annual Meeting by Friday, June 7! If you forgot, contact Renee Fries at the email address below to see if you can still RSVP. As a reminder, the event will be held on:

When: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Where: Cascade Country Club, 3725 Cascade Road S.E., Grand Rapids MI 49546

Times: 6:00-6:30 PM Social Hour-Cash Bar

6:30-6:45 PM Mayor Rosalynn Bliss

6:45 PM Dinner

Steak & Chicken Grille (or Chef Roel's Vegan Special of the Week)  
Mixed Greens Salad  
Green Beans with Julienne Sweet Carrots  
Mashed Red Potatoes with Herbs  
Bread & Dessert  
Choice of Beverage - cash bar

Program: Award Presentations  
Installation and Recognition of the Officers & Directors

Cost: No charge for Lions members & one guest (additional guests \$35 each)

RSVP: Attendance & entrée choice by June 7, 2019 to:  
[renee.fries@designunderwriting.com](mailto:renee.fries@designunderwriting.com) or 616-957-3380



**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grand Rapids Ophthalmology Drive for Vision**  
**Monday, June 17, 2019**

The 32<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Rapids Ophthalmology Drive for Vision Charity Golf Outing is on Monday, June 17, 2019. The event will be at the Quail Ridge Golf Club, 8375 36<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Ada, MI. This event benefits our two largest charities: Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI) and Cherry Health's Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic, plus a small share going to the Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation.

The day starts off with Registration/Lunch at 11:30 am, followed by golf with a Shotgun start at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$200/ player or \$800.00/ foursome (50% is a tax-deductible charitable donation). The title sponsor is Grand Rapids Ophthalmology. There are many events during the day, including four-person-scramble, hole-in-one, longest drive, closest to the pin, skins game, raffle prizes and dinner afterward (where you can collect any awards that you won).

For more information or if there is room for more volunteers, contact **Lion Kyle Travis** ([travis.kd@gmail.com](mailto:travis.kd@gmail.com) or (616) 635-4242). *The Committee says it's going to be beautiful day!*

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## **Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – January 1988 through December 1989**

*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 1988 through December 1989. (some editions missing)*

*The Tuesday weekly luncheons return to the Pantlind Hotel, now renamed the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel after it was remodeled. Here is a selection of the programs:*

- Dr. Marvin DeVries, Grand Valley State Economics Professor presented the Economic Outlook for both 1988 & 1989.
- Steel Taylor, retired President of the GR Steel and Supply Company, talked about his trip down the Amazon River.
- For Boy Scout Week, Eagle Scout Frank Castiglione talked to the Lions about his scouting experience.
- Jack Carter, President of Ferguson Hospital, presented “The Wacky World of Hospital Costs.”
- “Is Grand Rapids Ready for Baseball?” was the topic discussed by Dennis Becker (owner of a couple local businesses) in an effort to bring professional minor league baseball to Grand Rapids. At that time, he noted it was in the third inning.
- Gerald Helmholtz, Mayor of Grand Rapids, spoke to the club.
- “Gooooooooood Morning, Vietnam” was that greeting by Dan VanderMyde signed with for his 6 a.m. broadcast for the Armed Forces Vietnam Network Between January and September 1972. When he spoke to the Lions, he said, “I provided a service to the soldier. Guys could call in from the field and request songs. We thought that was the neatest thing in the world . . . brought news, music and memories of home.”
- District Judge Donald Johnston presented “The Popularity of the Courts and What We Can Do About It.” [A few years later, he was elected to the Kent County Circuit Court.]
- The Charity Golf Outing was held in June in both years, continuing what would become a long-standing fundraiser.
- At the Spring Sports Awards Program for girls and boys, Thomas Healy, Catholic Central Hockey Coach spoke.
- Dr. Peter O’Conner, Aquinas College President spoke at the Lions Academic Honors Convocation.
- Kicking off the luncheons in the fall of both 1988 & 1989 was Congressman Paul Henry.
- Cynthia Trenshaw, wife of Lion Joe Trenshaw, talked to the Lions about “Resources for Older Adults.”
- Ann VanDusen, Interim Director of A.I.D., Talking about the agency and “Health Care in Developing Nations.”
- Dr. Alfred Swanson, orthopedic surgeon at Blodgett Hospital, talked about his focus on crippled children, his world-renown work in research of artificial joints and other implants for joint reconstruction.
- Project Plant Hope, aiming to address the Hunger and Shelter Needs in Grand Rapids, was presented by Betty Zylstra, Program Director of GRACE. GRACE is an effort to tackle community issues by over 200 church congregations.
- In March 1989, Brigit Klohs, Executive Director of the Right Place Program, talked about their programs to bring businesses to come to West Michigan.

## When Jean sits down to play, everybody sings along

*(Exerpts from a Nuda Veritas article on September 19, 1989; It came from a GR Press article from 1972 that Lion Keith Crittenden had saved.)*

“Play it again Jean, a familiar refrain for Jean Miller . . . the best sing-along piano player in town, according to her friends and fans. The fact that 300 of them turned out to surprise Jean on her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last attests to her popularity.”

“From ‘*Brahms Lullaby*’ to ‘*Alley Cat*,’ Jean knows all the old tunes – and the lyrics. If the song has been heard before, she remembers it.”

She also knows the favorites of her oldest fans. Among them are members of the Lions Club for whom she been playing for more than 38 years. [This was in 1972!] . . . She’s the only woman allowed at our regular meetings and she is everybody’s favorite girlfriend,” said one senior member.

“Youngsters join with oldsters when Jean is at the piano . . . younger generations aren’t strangers to Jean. ‘I’ve known quite a few of them,’ she says with her Irish smile. She accompanies neophyte ballerinas and top dancers for years when Ollie Wood and Adeline McKenna conducted their dancing schools here.”

“At one time Jean had her own dance band. ‘There were four of us in it. We played together for 18 years at weddings, dances, and any other occasion we were asked.’ For five years, Jean played the organ for Sunday services at St. Jude Church. In the years in between, she also accompanied the Mother Singers for nine years.”

“Customers of Hillary’s, a bar formerly on lower Monroe Ave, also are numbered among Jean’s loyal fans. Since 1968, she has been the attraction for people of all ages for sing-alongs at the Silver Derby, Burton St. near Eastern Avenue SE. She is at the piano every Friday and Saturday night from early to late.

*. . . continued in the right box*

- The Sports Luncheon and Academic Honors program were combined [for the first time?] to honor two students from each of the 8 high schools. The Guest Speaker was Pat Sandro, Superintendent of the GR Public School District.
- Dirk Koning, Executive Director of GRTV, talked about the importance and operation of Grand Rapids Public TV.
  - “Pollution – Everybody’s Problem” was the subject of guest speaker Roger Przybysz. He is with the Attorney General’s Office and responsible for enforcement under Act 307 in the district, including 10 Superfund sites.
  - “Banking in the ‘90’s” was ‘forecast’ by Charles Conville, President and CEO of PrimeBank, FSB.
  - Greater Grand Rapids Hospice” was presented by Marsha Zanderger, Executive Director of the organization.

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

- The Lions Board of Directors chartered the Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation to raise funds that will help those less fortunate in perpetuity. Foundation Chairman Lynn Francis this “will be a living memorial from memorials or bequests from those who are departed” to help those in need.
- Lion volunteers staffed our booth at the GR Home Show on March 24-27, 1988.

“There is always a crowd around her and no request for a song is ignored. Tireless Jean gets to them all. When she plays, everyone in the place joins in.”

Her years at the piano have mounted up, but Jean’s happy face and talented fingers are as timeless as the songs she loves and plays so well.

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**Jean says, “*I don’t play the modern songs and there’s no rock for me, but you’d be surprised how many kids know the words of the old tunes, popular when their parents and grandparents were young.*”**

- White Cane week was held during both 1988 & 1989.
- Las Vegas Night on Saturday, May 20 was held at Holiday Inn East to raise funds for Lions charities.
- For the second half of bowling in 1988, Baker's Hyenas were the Champions with a record of 31-14. Ed Baker, Chuck Harris, Ray Drumm and James Miller were the team members. Two Lions tied for the individual high average: Jeff Kraai & Ed Veneklasen at 181.
- The summer golf outing & dinners were held at these country clubs: Candlestone, Deer Run, Silver Lake and Forest Hills in 1988 Forest Hills (twice), Silver Lake and English Hills in 1989.
- The Lion 4<sup>th</sup> of July Gala Carnival was held both years.
- The Lions Nut Sale continued in both years.
- The GR Lions Club increased its donations over a 4-year period from 1986 - 1989, largely due to the net revenue generated by the Lions Carnival: 1986 & 1987 = just over \$30,000 to over \$50,000 in 1988 & 1989.
- For the second half of bowling in 1989, Scholl's Kangaroos won the championship with a record of 41-19. The runners-up, Evan's Cougars, were only one game behind, 40-20. The individual Champ was Jeff Kraai, with an average of 188.
- White Cane Dive occurred in both years.
- The Charity Golf Outing continued for the second year during June at Deer Run Golf Course.
- Former President Gerald R. Ford was the Lions Guest of Honor and Guest Speaker for the Club's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Marriott Hotel on 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE.
- The Annual Holiday Social was a hit in both 1988 & 1989.

## Other Lion News

**Reserve Saturday, July 20 – Volunteers Needed:** *Cars for a Cause & Silent Auction* to benefit the Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation and children who are blind or have low vision. More information will be forthcoming in the next issue.

**Lion Member Yard Signs:** Have you picked up your yard sign yet? As part of a Lions District initial to celebrate 100 years of Lionism, our club wants every member to have a sign to display in his or her yard to help us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our own Club.

The signs read (across the top) "**A Proud LION lives here!**" with the "**Lions logo**" in the middle and (across the bottom) "**[www.Lions100years.com](http://www.Lions100years.com)**." The signs are one-sided, weatherproof plastic yard signs with aluminum stakes. We have them stored and available at the Eyeglass Recycling Center. So, volunteer to help recycle eyeglasses and pick up your sign at the Recycling Center at the same time.

### Happy Birthday To Our June Babies

Patrick Droste	June	4
Stephen Mulder	June	4
Frederick Martin	June	14
Jamie Junod	June	16
Richard Bolhuis	June	21



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