



Recap – October 15, 2019 Luncheon Mtg
Tara Hernandex
Gerald R. Ford Airport Update & Future Plans

Meeting started at 12:9 by Pres Ed Thauer with the Pledge and prayer
Broke for lunch
Reconvened at 12:47pm (19 members & 1 guest)

Announcements:

1. 100th Anniversary Celebration is at 20 Monroe on Nov 6. We are happy to report that we have 30 sponsored tables with only a **few more available**. If you are unable to buy a table, then individual tickets are available at \$125/person. Otherwise, grab 8 other Lions/friends and buy a table for \$1000. Time is running out. **Deadline is in 2 weeks.**
2. Bowling Report given by Lion Jamie Junod. **SUBSTITUES are ALWAYS NEEDED**, pay as you play!!!! Just show up at 4:45 pm at Northfield Lanes. Bowl three games and end approx. at 6:00-6:15.
3. Calendar Update: Right now we have Cascade Roadhouse and Gilmore, working on a few others. Braans is out. FYI – Jamie Junod is having knee surgery so he will need help dispersing the calendars. Rob Lalley & Cheryl Anderson offered to help.
4. Crafting Vision is October 30 at the Creston Brewery. \$50-individual, up to \$5,000-sponsor, per ticket. Go to the website for more information; ABVICRAFTINGVISION.EVENTBRITE.COM
5. **Holiday Party on HOLD!!!** Anyone want to host??? Contact Pres Ed Thauer, edthauer@gmail.com
6. Holiday Shopping at the Cascade Meijer is Saturday, Dec 7, 2019.
7. Happy Bucks: several vacations, mission trip and Anne Baird's Birthday
8. Raffle and 50/50 – no white chip winner.

Program:

Ed Thauer introduced Tara Herendez from the Gerald R. Ford Airport. The main concern of the airport is for customer service and Safety. GRR is the 2nd largest airport in the state, after Detroit. There are 7 airlines: Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, Midwest, Southwest and United (Midwest being the newest airline) with 32 non-stop flights. Happy to report that Allegiant just made GRR



a “base”. By Base, Allegiant has ownership and will provide 100 jobs at the airport along with having planes at the airport. This will definitely impact Allegiant’s customer service at the airport b/c of having their OWN employees. Delta Airline is the largest airline at the Ford airport. Parking at the airport provides 53% of the revenue for the airport. The parking ramp has 5000 parking spots and from November until May, the covered ramp is almost always filled with cars. Last year, there were 3.2 million customers that flew out of GRR. GRR continues to be the fastest growing airport in Michigan since 2009.

Some of the current renovations of the airport were the new combined TSA area and the newly added restaurants. There are currently more restaurants being developed. The airport is putting down new floors, sitting areas and adding décor that will reflect Grand Rapids and not just look like any other airport. The newest transformation starting on Concourse A, will be adding 9 gates. (Currently there are only 8 gates.) Because it is an airport, the construction has to occur during the hours of operation. They are working as quickly as possible to get the construction done.

The Gerald R. For is an International Airport but mainly for the private jets that fly in. There is a struggle to get the Federal Inspection Station to provide staff to obtain international status with commercial flights. Some countries are working on a “pre-cleared” flight status. (Canada and working on others.) GRR was one of the first airports to get those big luggage security machines but also one of the last to get rid of those machines and install the conveyer belts behind the ticket counters. The next step, Project Elevate, is to build a new Control Tower, international opportunities along with the expansion and widening of Concourse A. In 5-10 years, the plan is to add a new wing. There is no more room to add on to the two existing wings, once Concourse A is completed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23

Respectfully Submitted,
Lion Cheryl Anderson
GR Lions Club Secretary