



# GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB

# Nuda Veritas

LATIN FOR THE "NAKED TRUTH"

Published for Members by the  
Grand Rapids Lions Club District 11-C-1



## OCT 2023

As we head into "harvest season" note the abundance of opportunities on the Lions calendar!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **OCTOBER 14: BUILD BEDS WITH SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE**
  - SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE IS CONDUCTING A "BUILD" ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 FROM 9:00 AM - 1:00
  - LOCATION: WOOD TECH | 670 76TH ST BYRON CENTER.
  - RSVP TO BRENT SPOELSTRA | [BESPOELSTRA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BESPOELSTRA@YAHOO.COM) | 616-283-0260
- **OCTOBER 17 - LUNCH MEETING!**
  - LUNCH MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB DOWNTOWN
  - 5/3 BLDG (TOP FLOOR) | 111 LYON ST NW | GRAND RAPIDS
  - RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13
- **OCTOBER 19 - HANDS ON SERVICE PROJECT AT VILLAGE WATER FILTERS**
  - 1-3PM AND/OR 6-8PM
  - PLEASE FILL OUT THE SIGN UP GENIUS...
    - [HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0E44ABAA2FA7FAC70-44594191-OCTOBER/13175402#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e44abaa2fa7fac70-44594191-october/13175402#/)
  - MORE ON PAGE 3
- **OCTOBER 19 - PROJECTS NIGHT**
  - ROCKFORD SPORTSMAN'S CLUB, 1115 NORTHLAND DRIVE NE, ROCKFORD MI 49341
  - 6:00 SOCIAL TIME, 6:15 DINNER, 6:45 "SPEED DATING" - AKA PROJECTS, 7:45 RAFFLE AND PARADE OF CHECKS. \$20/PERSON.
  - RSVP'S ARE MANDATORY BY 10/12. CALL EARL HOWELL 989-763-5441.
- **OCTOBER 24: FULL BOARD MEETING**
- **NOVEMBER 2-5: LIONS OF MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**
  - LEARN MORE AT THE LINK BELOW:
  - [HTTPS://WWW.LIONSOFMI.COM/INDEX.PHP/LEADERSHIP-INSTITUTE](https://www.lionsofmi.com/index.php/leadership-institute)
- **DECEMBER 2: HOLIDAY SHOPPING**
  - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON SHOPPING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 | SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS
- **JANUARY 30 - BLIND DINNER DATE: 6-9PM MEIJER GARDENS**
  - MORE INFO ON PAGE 4

# NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT: DR GARY ANDERSON



On October 19, at 6PM our district will be participating in Project's Night. This event is always an amazing evening of learning how we work together as Lions to have an amazing impact and truly put into action our Lions motto of **"We Serve."**

The new format will include a fun and innovative format of "Speed Dating" which will consist of 6 minute sessions where you can sit at a table and learn the nuts and bolts presentation of the project; including asking questions. The bell rings, everyone moves to a different table and spend 6 minutes learning about another project. There will be 8 sessions and 11 project presentations to pick from, so "pick the ones you might love". See you there!

LIONS, CHANGING THE WORLD,

Gary Anderson  
 President, Grand Rapids Lions Club 2022-2024  
 ga@andersoneye.com | cell: 616-460-2012

Description from our website:

"Beyond our local Lions Club fundraisers and service projects, our members are involved in events in our District (adjacent 6-county area) and state. All Grand Rapids Lions Club members are invited to participate in district and state events with the other 400 clubs across Michigan."

## PROJECT'S NIGHT INFO:

- October 19 - Projects night
- Rockford Sportsman's Club,
  - 1115 Northland Drive NE, Rockford MI 49341
- 6:00 Social Time, 6:15 dinner,
- 6:45 "Speed Dating" about Projects, 7:45 raffle and parade of checks.
- \$20/Person.
- RSVP's are mandatory by 10/12. Call Earl Howell 989-763-5441.
- Online Form:
  - <https://www.grandrapidslionsclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/PNLetterhead-registration-Project-Night.pdf>



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EDITOR: JOHN RICE 616-951-4663 OR E-MAIL: JOHNRIICEONLINE@GMAIL.COM

LIONS DISTRICT 11-C1: ALLEGAN, BARRY, IONIA, KENT, MUSKEGON, OTTAWA

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THURSDAY OCT 19

Help solve the global water crisis! We're Building Bucket Filters!

Family Friendly! Ages 4-104 are welcome.

This low-cost filter is easy to assemble, last 10 years and changes lives by improving health, education and income with every glass.

**\*\*WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOSE-TOED SHOES\*\***

We have 2 time slots available,  
1-3 p.m. or 6-8 p.m.

We are at the **NEW** location for Village Water Filters at

**4064 S Division  
Grand Rapids, MI 49548**

NOTE: Park in front or on the side of the building. Entrance is the door to the far right at the front (facing Division). This is a more accessible building.

### **Please use this form to sign up:**

Click "SIGN UP" AND the time slot that works for you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE44ABAA2FA7FAC70-44594191-october/13175402#/>

### **Do you have questions?**

Contact Kelly Phelps [kphelps1123@gmail.com](mailto:kphelps1123@gmail.com) or 616-260-9108 call/text



**VILLAGE WATER FILTERS**

*A Non Profit Corporation Providing Low-Cost Filters*



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# BLIND DINNER DATE

**The Grand Rapids Lions Club is excited to present the 18th Annual Blind Dinner Date!**

Dear Lion,

We are extending an invitation for you to join us for an impactful event at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park (1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525) on **Tuesday, January 30, 2024 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm** for an evening of celebration in a gorgeous venue filled with great appetizers, drinks, and music.

We are privileged to have Katie Mawby, a member of the USA Adaptive Water Ski and Wake Sports Team, as our featured guest. The evening will also highlight the commendable efforts of local professionals who are committed to improving the quality of life for individuals with vision loss.

80% of the information we take in each day is processed through our eyes. Too often, and without thought, the ability to see is taken for granted. Grand Rapids Lions is committed to partnering with organizations working to help individuals living with vision loss.

All funds raised through the Blind Dinner Date provide:

- **Eye care to all ages** through the Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic at Cherry Health, including children with special needs.
- **Rehabilitation services for individuals in West Michigan with visual impairment or blindness** through the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (ABVI).

We need your help supporting our mission! – Please review the sponsorship opportunities and participation levels that have been added to the website. You can click through to that information here:

<https://www.grandrapidslionsclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Lions-Copy-of-BDD-2023-Sponsor-letter-v5.pdf>

For more information, please contact Jim Schuyler, 2023 Blind Dinner Date Chair, at 616-325-6107 or [jimcschuyler@gmail.com](mailto:jimcschuyler@gmail.com).

To be included in the program, the form must be received by **October 31, 2023**.

Thank you for sharing our vision, and we look forward to seeing you there!



Jim Schuyler  
Blind Dinner Date Chair

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# TREASURER'S REPORT

## FY 2023 Treasurer's Report

Our year ended June 30, 2023. Since that time, Jeff Kraai has generously shared his time with me to educate me in the historical & ongoing finances of the Club. We have had to make some minor changes to our accounting software and the way we process payments that you may notice. And, since Jeff is no longer receiving payments, the Club's business address is now:

**Grand Rapids Lions Club**  
**5110 28th Street #1029**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49512**

None of these should have a material impact on the Club, but if you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to share them with me at [treasurer@grandrapidslionsclub.org](mailto:treasurer@grandrapidslionsclub.org).

The following is a recap of the financial highlights for 2023:

The General Fund – this is the corporation through which we host our lunches and social events. Dues are billed throughout the year based on a member's status. The fund typically runs small monthly deficits. Our primary revenue is from dues and was around \$29,000 with some other small sources of income. Our primary expense is meals/parking at the U Club and came in at \$10,200. Other costs are dues paid to Lions International/Michigan; wages to the Secretary, Treasurer & Editor; some social events (like the Installation Banquet & Summer Outing) and administrative expenses. The loss for the year was (\$2,012).

The Charities Fund – this is the corporation that sponsors our charitable events & fundraising, such as the Blind Dinner Date (BDD), Drive for Vision (DFV) and the Used Eye Glass program. The BDD netted \$13,200 and the DFV netted \$17,600. We allocate the proceeds from these events to The Association for the Blind & Vision Impaired, Cherry Street Eye Glass Center and the GR Community Foundation.

We have funds held at Grand Rapids Community Foundation. The balance at June 30, 2023 was \$1,117,052, of which approximately \$44,000 is spendable. These funds allow us to make grants to numerous charities. The total amount of donations the GR Lions made for the year from fund-raisers plus the foundation dollars was approximately \$73,000.

Additional information is available for any member who requests it.

Respectfully Submitted,



Drew Wessell

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## LIONS ROAR!: MEMBER UPDATE SECTION

Fellow Lions: Have something new in your life you would like to share? Time to shout it out! We are looking to be sure that if you have something you would like the Grand Rapids Lions Club family to know about - please let us know. Examples might be:

- New additions (kids, grandkids, marriages,)
- Business Happenings: Did you buy or sell a business? Retire? Start a new company?
- Awards, Career Updates, Illness or reason you need some extra support - we are here for you!!!
- Reach out and we can place in an upcoming newsletter.



 Call or Text: 616-951-4663

 Email: [JohnRiceOnline@gmail.com](mailto:JohnRiceOnline@gmail.com)

## DECEMBER 2: HOLIDAY SHOPPING

\*Volunteers needed for in-person shopping on Saturday, December 2, 2023\*

Meijer generously donates a \$30 gift card per child within a total limit of \$1500 for the event. The Grand Rapids Lions Club donates \$95 per child (up to \$4750 for 50 children) to set a budget of \$125 per gift card for children to spend on their family members. "Pass the Hat" donations through collections at Lions luncheons assist in supplementing the cost of having additional children participate. For each \$125 collected, an additional child is able to attend.

**WHAT:** The first shift is designated for the children with visual impairments and begins PROMPTLY at 7:15 a.m. The second group of children begin at 8:30 a.m. when the Base Camp Sabbath children arrive with their staff. \*\*\*\*Due to the large number of children who are being referred, we are looking for at least 35 volunteers or more, if possible, so the ratio would be no more than 2 children to every 1 volunteer.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 at 7:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Meijer on 28th & I-96 in Cascade



Members are welcome to make this a "family event" and include spouses, children or acquaintances who are interested in volunteering.

Contact: Anne Baird | [baird@surfree.com](mailto:baird@surfree.com) | 616-446-9496

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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTING A MEMBER OF THE GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB



**Name: Meagan Baker**

**Profession:** I'm an Optometrist and the Director of Vision Services for Cherry Health

**Years as a Lion:** 3 months

**Spouse/family:** My husband is Matt Hewson. We have 2 children, Wyatt and Lilyth. We also have 2 dogs, Luna and Lzzy.

**What is your favorite thing about being a Lion? OR a favorite memory you would like to share.**

**MB:** My favorite part of being a Lion is the ability to work on events and committees that directly benefit Cherry Health and my patients. The Lions philanthropic events have been a huge support to Cherry Health Vision Services and our patients. I'm thankful for the opportunity to participate and give back to the organization.

**What are the top 3 words that come to mind when you think of Lionism?**

**MB:** Vision, Community, Philanthropy

**Name your favorite movie, book, board game or all three:**

**MB:** My favorite book of late was Untamed by Glennon Doyle. I'm not a huge movie watcher but have always loved Top Gun and the sequel made me feel some major nostalgia. I like to play Euchre but typically only play board games with my 5 year old :).

**When not at Lions, what do you like to do for fun?**

**MB:** For fun, I like to play with my pups, watch my kids play sports, exercise, have bonfires and eat great food! We love going up north to the lake in the summer months too.

**What is a "secret" skill you have no one knows about?**

**MB:** I don't think I'd classify this as a skill but I know all the states in alphabetical order to this day thanks to my 3rd grade music teacher. I've developed some proficiency with Spanish after using Duolingo every day since March of 2020.

**Where is your favorite place to travel? What is the top place on your travel bucket list?**

**MB:** While we've been busy raising kids, we haven't traveled much. I have lots of places on my travel bucket list though! I'd love to check out many places in the US but also Australia, Ireland, Bora Bora, South Africa.

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# LIONS: BE IN THE KNOW

## DISTRICT 11-C1 NEWS

To find out more about news in our Lions Club District 11-C1 covering Lions in Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa visit on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115990828419557>



Curious about eyeglass recycling locations around town?

We have the perfect "site" to restore your sight ... For an

interactive map visit:

<https://www.grandrapidlionsclub.org/glasses-drop-off/>

## STATE LION NEWS

To find out more about news in our Michigan Lions visit:

<http://lionsofmi.com/>



## LIONS INTERNATIONAL



To find out more about news in Lions International visit:

<https://lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/lions-events-calendar>

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

— L.M. Montgomery,  
Anne of Green Gables

# Happy Birthday!

KEITH CRITTENDON 10/2

KATHY O'BEE 10/10

DAN CRANE 10/13

ANNE BAIRD 10/15

JASON BROWN 10/19



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