



GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB

Nuda Veritas

LATIN FOR THE "NAKED TRUTH"

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



NOV/DEC 2023

As we wrap up the year, we have a strong finish with our Holiday Shopping and Holiday Party. Note the change to the lunch meetings for December. Watch your email for updates on the January meeting location,

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **NOVEMBER 28 - BOARD MEETING**
- **DECEMBER 2: HOLIDAY SHOPPING**
 - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON SHOPPING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 | SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS**
- **JANUARY 2 - LUNCH MEETING!**
 - **LUNCH MEETING - LOCATION TBD WATCH EMAIL FOR UPDATES**
 - **RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**
- **JANUARY 16 - LUNCH MEETING!**
 - **LUNCH MEETING - LOCATION TBD WATCH EMAIL FOR UPDATES**
 - **RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12**
- **JANUARY 30 - BLIND DINNER DATE: 6-9PM MEIJER GARDENS**
 - **TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED HERE:**
 - [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/GRAND-RAPIDS-LIONS-BLIND-DINNER-DATE-TICKETS-736864871667?AFF=ODDTDCREATOR](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grand-rapids-lions-blind-dinner-date-tickets-736864871667?aff=ODDTDCREATOR)

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT: DR GARY ANDERSON



As we reach the end of our 2023 year, I look forward to seeing ALL of you at our Holiday Social dinner on Saturday Dec. 16 at Wallinwood Springs Golf Course. We are moving our Holiday Raffle, that is normally held at our Dec. lunch meeting, to be held at the Holiday Social. There will be several other special activities happening that evening, so please RSVP when the invitation comes out. A great evening out for us all together and free parking !

We will also be celebrating a new meeting place for our two Tuesday lunch meetings a month. The University Club is closing for good at the end of November. We have a committee searching for lunch meeting options for the start of 2024 and will have an announcement of a new location soon.

Thank you all for your dedication to Grand Rapids Lions Club activities this year. Prayers for healing to every one that is suffering health and family issues.

In service and friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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



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GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB, WEBSITE: WWW.GRANDRAPIDSLIONSCLUB.ORG

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

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

IMPORTANT UPDATE TO OUR CHARITY FUNDS

Over the years our club has been building a fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation (GRCF). As of June 30, 2023, we have approximately \$1,200,000 in this fund. Each year the fund generates approximately \$45,000 in spendable grant making dollars. The Board uses this spendable amount to support many charities annually such as Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired, The Cherry Health Lions Club Vision Clinic at Heart of the City Health Center, Michigan Service Foundation, Bear Lake Camp, Leader Dog, Lions Club International Foundation and many more worthwhile charities. Some of the funds from GRCF help support the used eyeglass program. The arrangement with GRCF has served us well over the years but has some drawbacks. When funds are sent to GRCF, they are "in perpetuity" gifts and become the property of that foundation. The advantage of a "in perpetuity" gift is it will continue to provide annually for our charities for generations to come. A disadvantage is it provides no flexibility for use of funds for special club projects. We believe a self-managed fund can add some flexibility, improve the rate of return on investments and reduce the high costs that typically are present in a community foundation. We would like Lions members to have both options available.

Starting 6/30/23, at the request of the Board, donors will have this second option on where their donation will be held. While the GRCF "in perpetuity" gift options will remain, our club has set up a second option within the Grand Rapids Lions Club Charities corporation to hold and invest these donations. The intention of this new fund (called the Flex Fund) is to be close to a permanent foundation with an exception that will allow the Board to spend up to 25% once every 5 years of the assets on special projects that will help serve the visually impaired individuals or other community endeavors that Lions typically support. There will also be a 5% annual spendable allocation similar to the GRCF program. The advantage of this fund over the GRCF will be the assets remain under the ownership of the club and provide some flexibility as to use. The hope is that return on assets will be higher and costs to operate the fund will be lower and thereby generate more annual spendable grant dollars.

An example of how this might work somewhere down the road is let's say Cherry Health Lions Club Vision Clinic needs to renovate the vision clinic. They have requested our club support this endeavor to the tune of \$100,000. The Board could authorize say \$25,000, if assets are available, to be spent from this fund and have a fundraising drive to raise another \$25,000. Then the club would request a matching grant from Lions Club International for a total of \$100,000 toward this special project.

If you are considering a donation to the club or are setting up a will, trust or estate, you will be asked if you want your donation to be an "in perpetuity" donation and go to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation or if the donation will be held in the Grand Rapids Lions Club Flex Fund account. Guidelines on how the fund is operated are available to anyone who asks.

Importantly, for those of you who have already made commitments to "Legacy gifts" that are part of your wills and/or trusts, any such designations dated prior to June 30, 2023 will automatically go to the GRCF unless you provide clear guidance that you prefer your donation stay within the fund held by the club.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jeff Kraai



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UPDATE: NOV PROJECT AND HENRY VOET AWARD

Monday, Nov 13, 2023 at the November Service Project event, twelve Lions were at the recycling center sorting and washing readers to be prepared to be taken around the Grand Rapids area various shelters. Little did these Lions know that at this service project event, Bob Winchester was going to be presented the GR Lions prestigious Henry Voet Award from President Gary Anderson. This award is usually given out at the annual dinner, which Bob was signed up to attend. However, something came up last minute and Bob was not at the dinner. Before Bob left GR for the winter, we needed a time to present him with his award. Bob does not attend the luncheon meetings but he is always at recycling, so no better place for him to receive this award.

Congratulations Bob!!! Well deserved :-)"

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Anderson

[Click here for the online pdf of the pictures.](#)

A few select pictures are below.



GREAT JOB!

Well Done!



Congratulations, Bob!

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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

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 | 616-446-9496

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTING A MEMBER OF THE GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB



Name: Shelley Irwin

Profession: Host/Producer

Years as a Lion: over 10

Do you hold positions within the club?

First Female President! (trivia question)

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

SI: The service events (miss the Pancake breakfast and VIP Sports for the kids!)

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

SI: Service, Leadership, Friendship

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

SI: Who Moved My Cheese book, Top Gun book!

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

SI: Compete in races!

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

SI: Ventriloquist.

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

SI: Went to multiple countries for half marathons: Iceland, Madrid, Ireland, Vancouver, Jamaica, recently hiked Tuscany, The Camino, Bike and Barge in Germany and Holland, Croatia in 2024.

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/>

<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

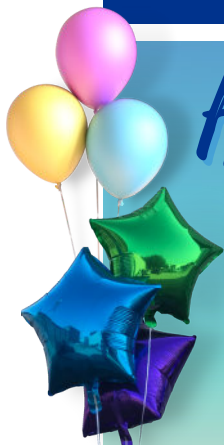


To find out more about news in Lions International visit:

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

"Wisdom comes with winters."

— Oscar Wilde



Happy Birthday!

BRENT SPOELSTRA 11/3

LYNN FRANCIS 11/4

BOYD GRISWOLD 11/9

THADDEUS PHELPS 11/9

ERIK ANDERSON 11/10

RICK WALKER 11/14

RAY WEIDENFELLER 11/29

RENEE MIKA 12/1

KYLE TRAVIS 12/4

EDDIE KLEINFELD 12/6

PAM VAN OVERLOOP 12/9

TOM DANDRIDGE 12/21

JIM SCHULYER 12/27

AARON PLAFKIN 12/30



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