



DEC 2023 / JAN 2024

Early Happy New Year! As we wrap up 2023 and head into 2024, mark your calendars for these GREAT events and opportunities!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JANUARY 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- JANUARY 2 LUNCH MEETING!
 - LUNCH MEETING HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
 - ADDRESS: 310 PEARL ST NW, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504
 - RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29
- JANUARY 16 LUNCH MEETING!
 - **OUNCH MEETING HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN**
 - ADDRESS: 310 PEARL ST NW, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504
 - RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
- JANUARY 30 BLIND DINNER DATE: 6-9PM MEIJER GARDENS
 - TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED HERE:
 - <u>HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/GRAND-RAPIDS-LIONS-BLIND-</u> DINNER-DATE-TICKETS-736864871667?AFF=ODDTDTCREATOR



NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT: DR GARY ANDERSON







We finished up the 2023 year with a great Holiday party. Thank you to the social committee, Rob and Linda Lalley, Anne and Jim Baird, Kim Gary and Cheryl Anderson for your great planning. Thank you also to Ryan Smith for all the purchasing you did to make the Holiday Raffle such a successful part of the evening. The comradery of the evening with everyone interacting and even hanging around after the event ended was a highlight. Also, WELCOME to our newest member, Steve Oberlin, who was inducted after dinner. Steve is the 4th generation of Oberlin's to be a Lion member. That is a record for our club.

Now, to start 2024 in a big way, we have one of our largest fundraisers, the Blind Dinner Date on Jan. 30, 2024 at Meijer Gardens. Please check your email for the link to sign up for tickets through Eventbrite (or click on the link below.) It is a very easy process. Visually Impaired Water Ski Champion, Katie Mawby, will be our featured speaker and has a great story of accomplishments possible in the face of adversity. We are also presenting awards to the most deserving in our visual assistance community.

We can really use everyone's participation in this evening. It is a perfect opportunity to bring a guest to experience how we make a difference as Grand Rapids Lions.

Invite a guest. <u>Order tickets.</u> Make a difference. See you there. Blind Dinner Date. Jan. 30, 2024

The link for tickets is:

<u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grand-rapids-lions-blind-dinner-date-tickets-736864871667?aff=oddtdtcreator</u>

Lions Changing the World,

Gary Anderson

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

UPDATE: UGANDAN COMMUNITY WOMEN

In October the GR Lions Board approved money to be sent to Uganda for girls/women hygiene items. The total included money for material to make personal reusable pads) sewing machines & training on the machines

The non-profit "Days for Girls International" trained the Ugandan community women.. Over 75 women participated! They are so grateful!!

Lion Kathy Oberlin









UPDATE: READING GLASSES ARE A HIT!

Lion Gail Junod recently gave a wonderful testimonial to the power of our Glasses Recycling Project:

"While volunteering at In the Image today, a couple came in to ask for help. They were evicted from their apartment, locked out, every possession thrown away. She is dealing with Colon cancer. They are now homeless, living in a tent. As people were gathering items to keep them warm and help them survive outside, I for some reason asked if they needed reading glasses. The man replied that he was legally blind. Reading glasses and nice cases are always on hand because of the Grand Rapids Lions Club. I picked up a pair of men's 2.50 and had him try them on. The man said "I can see! Oh the power of a pair of reading glasses! Thank you to people in our club who sort, wash And support our eyeglass program. We have made a difference in many lives. (In the Image is giving out about 150 pairs of readers a month)"

Lion, Gail Junod

NEW MEETING LOCATION: HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN

Have you heard? We have a new location for our lunch meetings! The Holiday Inn downtown offers easily accessible parking, a private room, and storage for our meeting items. Thank you to Lion Bob Snyders and his team on the great work achieved to locate this new spot!

Below is a map of the location along with the address: 310 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTING A MEMBER OF THE GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB



Name: Jim Schuyler

Profession: I am a Solution Architect with US Signal

Years as a Lion: 2 years.

Spouse/family: Alison (wife), Triceratops (dog),

Scout, Penny, and Mike (cats)

Do you hold positions within the club?

I am currently on the board and chair our Blind Dinner Date committee

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

JS: Having so many opportunities to volunteer, and all of the excellent people I've gotten to meet.

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

JS: We Serve Often!

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

JS: Too hard to pick a favorite movie, Memoir from Antproof Case by Mark Helprin is one of my favorite books, and Wingspan is my favorite board game lately

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

JS: I like to do woodworking in my small shop.

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

JS: None that I can think of besides being pretty mildly decent at disc golf

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

JS: I traveled to Japan last year and enjoyed it quite a bit. We try to get to New Orleans whenever possible. Top place on my travel bucket list right now is Croatia.

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

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



Curious about eyeglass recycling locations around town?
We have the perfect "site" to restore your sight For an interactive map visit: https://www.grandrapidslionsclub.org/glasses-drop-off/

"Ambition is a dream with a V8 engine.."

— Elvis Presley

