



### FEB/MARCH 2024

As we wrap up February and move into March, join us as "We Serve" together!

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- FEBRUARY 27 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 8PM
- MARCH 5 LUNCH MEETING!
  - LUNCH MEETING HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
  - ADDRESS: 310 PEARL ST NW, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504
  - RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, MARCH 1 2024
  - NOTE: IF YOU RSVP AND THEN NEED TO CANCEL, SUNDAY NIGHT IS
  - THE LATEST TO CANCEL & THE CLUB WILL NOT GET CHARGED
- MARCH 17 HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY!
- MARCH 19 LUNCH MEETING!
  - **OUNCH MEETING HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN**
  - ADDRESS: 310 PEARL ST NW, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504
  - RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, MARCH 15 2024
  - NOTE: IF YOU RSVP AND THEN NEED TO CANCEL, SUNDAY NIGHT IS
  - THE LATEST TO CANCEL & THE CLUB WILL NOT GET CHARGED
- MAY 16-18TH MULTIPLE DISCTRICT CONVENTION SAVE THE DATE!
  - LEARN MORE HERE:
    - <u>HTTPS://WWW.LIONSOFMI.COM/INDEX.PHP/MD11CONVENTION-23/MD11-STATE-CONVENTION-MAY-2023</u>





JOIN US!

WE SERVE!

#### NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT: DR GARY ANDERSON







Wow, what a busy month February has been.

Our vision mission team has just returned from a week-long mission to Suriname, South America. Our team consisted of myself, Dr. Adam Carlson, Dr Michelle Bullion, Dr. Donna Wicker, Cheryl Anderson, Brent Spoelstra, Jamie Junod, Gail Junod, Pam Gary, Ann Zoellner, Jackie Ball, Justin Faber, Rich Carlson. 2,200 patients, 1,800 pairs of glasses and 200 sunglasses dispensed. 260 medical referrals made for glaucoma and cataracts. Lives changed and enhanced. The 60 volunteers from the Lions of Suriname provided the teamwork needed to make this mission possible in country. BUT, the 10,000 Lions of Michigan who collected used eyeglasses all year long and our local Lions who worked tirelessly in the final recycling process are really the "fuel" that made the end result of providing vision care to those in need possible. Thank you all and a special thank you to Scott Brady for being the indispensable behind the scene organizer for the vision mission and eyeglass recycling.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, Drive for Vision, is undergoing some great revisions. The new format starts with the title, Grand Rapids Lions-Drive for Vision. This will help highlight to the public that this is a Lions event. The golf day will be simplified with a morning start, faster play and more opportunities for our Lions members to volunteer if they are not golfing.

Jaime Junod has agreed to return to chair the event for one year as we reformulate our event. We are looking for a vice-chair to work under Jaime's tutelage and take over as chairperson next year with a new vice-chair. We have a strong committee in place to support the leadership. If you have any interest in golf and would like to have a great leadership experience, please contact me ASAP as plans for our June 17, 2024 event are starting right now.

The desire to make a difference in the lives of those in need is a major reason why we are Lions. Please look at the club service activities calendar and your emails for those opportunities. Our Service Committee plans a service project every month and we need YOU. Think of bringing a friend who has not had the joy yet of making a difference. They may want to join us.

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

# **SAVE THE DATE: DRIVE FOR VISION JUNE 17 2024**

Save the date for the Grand Rapids Lions Club Drive for Vision 2.0 June 17 2024, Quailridge Ada MI.

Sponsorship and participation options will be available soon on: driveforvision.com



# 2024 USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM

SEPTEMBER 5-7 2024 LOUISVILLE, KY

The USA/Canada Forum is touted as "the largest and best Lions Club Leadership training event in world." With 1000s of Lions in attendance, this fun environment offers over 70 seminars on various leadership topics to assist and develop Lions Clubs in the US and Canada. Early Bird registration discounts and more info at: https://lionsforum.org/







#### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

HIGHLIGHTING A MEMBER OF THE GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB



Name: Randy Hamstra

Profession: I began my working career in 1977 for Batts Inc in Zeeland MI working my way up to General Manager of their Graphics Division. After Batts closed in 1999 I landed with Artex Label & Graphic and headed up that company until 2007. After a short stint as a consultant with a software company in Milwaukee I became a partner in Visual Entities, a architectural sign manufacturer in Wyoming MI. I retired from Visual Entities June of 2022. Although retired my partner and I continue ownership of the company.

Years as a Lion: 5-6 Years (5/1/2018) Spouse/family: Joan Hamstra

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

**RH:** This is a very outstanding and inclusive group. I have felt welcome and included since day one.

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

RH: Service, Fulfillment, Belonging

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

**RH:** I have always like old movies but my favorite is North by Northwest with Cary Grant.

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

**RH:** Joan and I have sailed for many years but more recently I have picked up Fly Fishing.

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

RH: No real skills.... I do swim a mile three times a week to keep active.

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

RH: Joan and I have frequently talked about a riverboat cruise in Europe.



# 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:

<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/115990828419557">https://www.facebook.com/groups/115990828419557</a>

# **STATE LION NEWS**

To find out more about news in our Michigan Lions visit: <a href="http://lionsofmi.com/">http://lionsofmi.com/</a>



# LIONS INTERNATIONAL @

To find out more about news in Lions International visit: <a href="https://lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/lions-events-calendar">https://lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/lions-events-calendar</a>



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

"Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat."

- Laura Ingalls Wilde

