



# SPARKS

**Grand Rapids Y Service Club  
Y Service clubs International  
Mid East Region  
February 3, 2012**

## OUR MISSION

As Y's Men International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, in partnership with and supporting the YMCA, its mission is to strive through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all humankind.

## CLUB OFFICERS

**Pres:** John Duiven  
**Secretary:** Neil Topliffe  
**Treasurer:** Bob Smith  
**Asst. Treas:** Tom Johnson  
**Chaplin:** Neil Topliffe

## BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Radtke  
John Carruthers  
Ethan Ray  
Dan Miller  
Alex Kassel  
John Lang  
Past Pres: Henry Capogna  
Pres. Elect: Pete Chadwick

## ACTIVITY CHAIRS

**Run Thru the Rapids:**  
Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie  
**Santa Claus Girls:**  
Bob Smith  
**White Elephant Sale:**  
Gregory Winer, Chair  
**Sparks Editor:**  
Lloyd E. Winer

Welcome was given by John Duiven. The Invocation was given by Neil Topliffe and followed by the pledge to the flag.

President John told a story about the Power of Team Work.

Guests were introduced and birthday's recognized.

Grateful Dollars were given.

## Business:

- Syd Baxter introduced Jessica Westra who helped obtain Bank of Holland as a sponsor for the Race.
- All were reminded that the Holiday party is on Friday Feb 10 at KCC.
- Greg Winer Reported on the committee meeting of the WES and that it is time to work on your donors and seek other new donors. He also reminded us that we take gift cards and cash. There are things we can't accept be sure and look at the list. The next meeting is Feb 17, those who can attend. The space is secured (same as last year) and will be open for the first work day Feb 25.

## Program:

President John introduced our speaker today Chris Cameron, Executive Director of Silent Observer. She has made her name fending off and helping catch crooks, dope dealers, and killers for nearly 30 years. She had a power Point presentation showing there goal is to stop crime. The tip line is open 24/7. They have about 2000 tips a year. It started in 1972 with the Grand Rapids Police Department and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. People call in freely with no name given. The tipster remains anonymous. This is guaranteed by Public Acts 0557. they have awarded over \$460,000 over the years. If the tip works a reward is given and the tipster goes to CoAmerica Bank with an ID number to collect the reward. [www.silentobserver.org](http://www.silentobserver.org) for tips can be used It allows 2way dialogue. Also text messaging can be used encrypted with phone number deleted. Neighborhoods are more secure when people call Silent Observer. She gave samples for 2011. There were 1963 tips resulting in 90 arrests. There is also a Fast50 school program for

### **Did you know?**

The Minneapolis MN Y's Men purchased a tractor to be used to help people care for their victory garden during the WWII war years

### **Thought for the day:**

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.

Robert Louis Stevenson

### **SPARKS**

If you have anything I can put in the Sparks email me the [lwiner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwiner@sbcglobal.net)

I will be happy to include the information

kids to call tips and to report violence same number 774-2345. During 2010-2011 school year they had 180 tips with 86 students reprimanded.

Meeting closed with  
Greg Dodd giving the Benediction

### **A Special note from Bill Smith:**

DEAR SERVICE CLUB MEMBERS.

I REALLY APPRECIATE THE GREAT SUPPORT YOU HAVE OFFERED THESE PAST MONTHS AS JUDY BECAME ILL. THE FLOWERS, CARDS, AND PHONE AND PERSONAL VISITS HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN HER STRUGGLE ON EARTH UNTIL JANUARY 21ST AND HER PASSING TO ETERNAL LIFE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS AND CARDS AND WELL WISHES THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS. YOU ARE TRULY WONDERFUL FRIENDS.  
BILL SMITH AND FAMILY

**Next Meeting:**  
**Anny Donewald**  
**from**  
**Eve's Angels**

**It is time to be thinking about your WES donors, see if you can't think of more people or businesses that will make a donation or cash gift. Also seek out gift cards from businesses.**

**Let's make the best WES ever!**  
**Contact your donors and look for more sources of items or gift cards or cash for the sale.**