



## Sparks

### Grand Rapids Y Service Club Y Service clubs International Mid East Region March 16, 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

Buffet lunch. Welcome and opening prayer by *John Duiven* and pledge to the flag. We had 20 members present plus three guests and speaker *Jim Haskins*.

*John Carruthers* introduced guest *Jonathan Pope*; *Bob Williams* introduced *Dick Howard*; *Henry Capogna* introduced *Dave Scott* who plans to join the club.

Birthdays were *Henry Capogna* and *Tom Johnson*. Several grateful dollars were given.

#### BUSINESS –

*Bob Smith* gave a FINANCIAL REPORT – no changes from last meeting. WES update – push the calls. *Ethan Ray* and *John Duiven* mentioned success in obtaining gift certificates.

*Greg Dodd* reported how WES money has been used at the camp: About \$8500 went to scholarships, about \$35,000 to mortgage on house and property, renovation to some cabins, equipment for dining hall including PA system, and lifeguard equipment.

#### Announcements:

Next Club meeting is Friday, March 30, 2012 with speaker *Carlos Hidalgo* with PowerPoint program on Cuba – the way it was and the way it is now. Next WES meeting is Monday March 19 at 4:00 pm, downtown Y. Next Board Meeting is Wed., March 21 at 5:30, Pete Chadwick's office. WES workdays every Saturday, 9-12 at the site.

#### PROGRAM – Jim Haskins – Commissioner of the OK Conference

The OK Conference is the largest conference in the State of Michigan and third largest in the nation. We are often used as a model for other conferences. The conference was first organized by five schools in 1958 – 54 years ago. Those five schools are still in the conference and have been joined by 46 other schools.

We had 51 schools in the conference until this past Monday when Wyoming Park and Rogers consolidated. Our now 50 schools have expanded from the original Ottawa and Kent counties to include Muskegon, Montcalm, Barry and Allegan counties. The schools have 35,000 students of which 16,000 are physically involved in athletics.

There have been three executive secretaries over the years until 2005 when a Commissioner was hired. The office, located at Grandville High School, also has three assistants. We are responsible for organizing and

## **Did you know?**

When Y'sdom observed its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, India held the distinction of being the most rapidly expanding area of Y'sdom in the world with 330 chartered clubs and 4,774 members

## **Thought for the day:**

The most delightful surprise in life is to suddenly recognize your own worth.

Maxwell Maltz  
American Plastic Surgeon,  
Motivational author

## **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

events for the 50 schools, budgets, trophies, hiring officials, handling the problems and complaints. High school sports are big business.

We work by committees – mostly the 43 school principals and 51 athletic directors (AD's). Our forefathers established a solid groundwork for us to operate. The original handbook had 12 pages. It now has 289 pages.

We have 26 recognized varsity sports for boys and girls of which a school must have a minimum of twelve to stay in the conference. The top three schools have 33 sports. The fastest growing sports are (1) competitive cheer for girls, (2) lacrosse for boys and girls, and (3) bowling – which has brought in a whole different type of students and parents.

We are not only responsible for sports but also fine arts, music and forensic debates.

By-laws require every four years a review of school enrollments, requests of schools asking to join, and to make necessary realignments. This year was a difficult one.

Education and studies are always pushed. We have special programs on how to approach the game – champions of character program, five values of character, special speakers - for kids AND parents – parents create most of our problems. The DeVos and Meijers' Group help sponsor these programs.

Our concerns at the moments: character, AAU sports, girls sports, raising money, how pay for and what to cut – travel, etc.; Title IX decisions on boys and girls basketball and volley ball have hurt us at the gates. Football is our biggest program, but some teams won't play each other because of money or needs.

We sign 500 contracts every week from a data base of 1400 officials. Older ones close to retirement and need young ones to take their place.

*Gary Davis* closed us in prayer.

Minutes by Gary Davis

**It is time to keep 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.**