



SPARKS

Grand Rapids Y Service Club
Y Clubs International
Mid East Region
February 1, 2013

OUR MISSION

As Y's Men International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on the Christian teachings, 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: Peter Chadwick
Pres. Elect: Neil Topliffe
Secretary: Ethan Ray
Treasurer: Bob Smith
Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS

Brad Howell
Mark Radtke
Harry Capogna
Bob Williams
Past Pres: John Duiven

ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chaplin: Gary Davis
Run Thru the Rapids:
Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie
Santa Claus Girls:
Bob Smith
White Elephant Sale:
Gregory Winer, Chair
Sparks Editor:
Neil Topliffe
[Sparks Editor](#)

President-Elect Neil Topliffe called the club together. Loyd Winer offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Birthdays were recognized and **Grateful Dollars** were received. **Guests:** Rod Gale (Wally Andersen), Bob Sack, Cornerstone University marketing director.

Club News

- **Holiday Party:** Neil Topliffe encouraged any not already signed up for the February 8 Mid-Winter Dinner to do so today. [31 diners enjoyed an evening of fellowship at the Watermark Grill.]
- Greg Winer confirmed that the White Elephant Sale will return to our Plainfield location and volunteers are needed Saturday February 9 to unload a truck and clean up the space.
- Next meeting is February 15, Nadira Kharmai, the Manitou-Lin 100th anniversary video producer, speaking
- **Board meeting:** February 20, 5:30 pm at Pinnacle Insurance.

White Elephant Sale Schedule

3460 N. Plainfield Ave – same as last year

Workdays Saturdays 9 am

Sale April 26-27

Chairperson: [Greg Winer](#)

Vice Chairperson: [Bill Streeter](#)

It's time to contact your donors and volunteer for committees. See email with attachments sent by Greg on 2/13 with contact lists and information.

Did you know?

There will soon be a **new name for the international organization**. When votes are counted we expect it to be **International Association of Y Clubs**, popularly referred to as **Y Clubs International**.

Internationally we have 1,573 clubs in 70 countries.



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[-White Elephant Sale](#)
[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

475 Lake Michigan Dr NW
Grand Rapids MI 49505
www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrurapids.com

is a member of
Y Service Clubs International.
www.ysmen.org
www.ysmenusa.com



AD Develops Champions of Character

Our guest speaker on February 1 was Dave Grube, Athletic Director of Cornerstone University. Grube grew up in the south where he was a multi-sport athlete in high school and college before moving on to coaching. Prior to his Cornerstone position he headed up the Grand Rapids Hoops of the CBA pro basketball league.

Dave thanked the YMCA where as a kid growing up he was influenced significantly not just in his skills but more particularly in “my understanding of what it meant to be an athlete, learn from my coaches, and learn values that have carried me in life.”

The AD identified his great concern that today’s sports model is broken when it comes to instilling core values in athletes. Over his extended career in coaching and leading sports he noted that the change in respect by athletes, coaches and parents has been dramatic.

This fact led Grube and Cornerstone University to become sponsors of a nationwide program “Champions of Character: Game Plan for Character Development,” that is built around five core values: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Servant Leadership and Sportsmanship.

One example of the program at Cornerstone that he shared was rather than seniors expecting freshman athletes to do the grunge work for a team, that all the team assumed responsibility, with the seniors taking the lead to set the example and teach the new student athletes. “The result has been,” the AD noted, that the freshmen are now asking the seniors, ‘how can I help you’.”

Cornerstone is reaching out to the community with the values program, with 2,000 athletes each year participating in camps that bring in top pro athletes for training and reinforcing both skills and values.

Upcoming Speakers

- Feb. 15 Nadira Kharmai** – Camp Manitou-Lin video producer
- Mar. 1 Dan Behm** – President, Open Systems Technology
- Mar. 15 Mike McCarthy** – President, DDM Marketing
- Mar. 29 Dan Gaydou** – President, Mlive Media Group
- Apr. 12 Elizabeth Topliffe** – Stepping Stones Montessori