



# SPARKS

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Clubs International

Mid East Region

May 24, 2013

Pete Chadwick called the club together following a buffet lunch and offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Birthdays** were recognized.

**Guests were introduced: Anthony Pearlman** (Than Raye).

Grateful Dollars were given and the veterans were recognized.

## 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](#)

## Club News

- A special thank you was given for **Terra and Lorrie**, YMCA staff who get things ready for our meetings.
- **Bob Williams** handed out envelopes for the Time of Fast.
- **Tom Lawrence** reported on the passing of former president Bill Anzover.
- The **Koperski Fish Fry** and Potluck date is June 6<sup>th</sup> – fishing begins at 3pm or come later & bring food to share.
- **Greg Dodd** reminded everyone of the 100 year celebration at the Camp, June 8, 11 am – 4 pm.
- The **Induction Ceremony** for new members will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Mid-East Region training with **Debbie Redmond** (US Area President-elect) is June 22<sup>nd</sup> at our Y.
- **John Carruthers** reminded us about the upcoming Y USA Area Convention in Las Vegas.
- The **Endowment** is being worked on with the goal of mailing request to others this fall.
- The **Run Thru the Rapids** will be held on **October 19<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Next board meeting** June 26<sup>th</sup> at Camp Manitou-Lin.

**Speaker June 7: Bob Gillette** – Our own Bob Gillette will speak to us about his Mission Trip to Central America.

**We need Your Suggestions for 2013-14 Speakers**

Give your ideas to [Henry Capogna](#) or [Neil Topliffe](#)

## Support Time of Fast

The programs implemented under TOF are designed specifically to cater to the needs of the local community.

**In Burma**, TOF maintains safe childcare facilities allowing mothers to work and support their families. **In Togo**, food mills are developed by the people to help feed their community. **In Columbia**, work with handicapped children gives them new zest for life. **In Sioux communities**, programs help residents cope with depression and social abuses.



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[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

### Grand Rapids Y Service Club

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[www.gryserviceclub.org](http://www.gryserviceclub.org)  
[www.runthrutherapids.com](http://www.runthrutherapids.com)

is a member of  
Y Service Clubs International.

[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)  
[www.ysmenusa.com](http://www.ysmenusa.com)



## The Transformation of Grand Rapids

Henry Capogna introduced the speaker, Milt Rohwer, who has held many different offices in the community, including as the President of the Chamber of Commerce. He also was involved with the YMCA on the Board and Chair of the Child Care Committee. He started the Downtown Development Authority and spent twelve years with the city government. He also was with the Fry Foundation for many years. He now does consulting on the side.

Mr. Rohwer told us that Grand Rapids should be proud of the work the Downtown Development Authority does with developing the convention activity and making the central city the center of activity. "This aids the hotels and restaurants and keeps the area changing and growing," he said.

Young people now pick downtown Grand Rapids as a place to live and get a job, he added. He talked about the importance of people like Dick DeVos, Jay VanAndel, David Fry, Dick Gillett and others and what they did in the 70's to help make Grand Rapids what it is today.

Many sites use Downtown Development Authority money to buy land for future development such as The Ford Museum, DeVos Hall, parking, hotels and others. Mr. John Logie gets a lot of credit, noted the speaker, for the historic preservation of Heritage Hill area. Rich and Jay were given credit for the East Bank Towers and mentoring with DTA.

"As a result of all this you now have more opportunities in our downtown than other cities, such as Detroit and other major cities," he said. There are now 19 restaurants in place after the area was opened and activities developed. The downtown area is now the center of the entertainment community.

*(Thanks to Loyd Winer for these notes – ed.)*

### Next Meeting

**Jun. 21 Induction – New Members**

**Debbie Redmond – US Area President-Elect**

**THANK-YOU STEAK FRY at CAMP MANITOU-LIN**

**Wednesday, June 26 – 6:00 pm**

**It's a thank-you for all members and spouses**

**plus all volunteers who worked the White Elephant Sale.**