



# SPARKS

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Clubs International

Mid East Region

June 7, 2013

Pete Chadwick called the club together following a buffet lunch, with Jud Ross offering the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Birthdays** were recognized (Don Kern).

**Guests were introduced: Marie McWatters** (Don's wife) and **Lois Feichtenbiner** (Bill Smith). Grateful Dollars were given.

## 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

- **Bob Williams** gave an update on **Time of Fast** – 32 have donated for a total so far of \$3,810.
- The **Koperski Fish Fry** was another successful event with 20+ members and WES volunteers enjoying fresh caught blue gill and fixins'.
- **Syd Baxter** reminded everyone of the 100 year celebration at the Camp, June 8. (Ed note: We were highlighted several times in video and by Ron Nelson and Greg Dodd.)
- The **Induction Ceremony** for new members will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Election of officers and new board also.
- Mid-East Region training with **Debbie Redmond** (US Area President-elect) is June 22<sup>nd</sup> at our Y.
- The **Run Thru the Rapids** will be held on **October 19<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Steak Fry @ Camp Manitou-Lin is June 26<sup>th</sup>**. Make reservations with Greg Dodd. Officers installation also.
- **Next board meeting** June 26<sup>th</sup> at Camp Manitou-Lin.

## June 21 Meeting: Elections, Area President & Inductions

We need YOU to be sure to attend this Friday's meeting. There's lots happening for us as a club:

1. **Election** of New Board and Officers – we need YOUR Vote
2. **Debbie Redmond**, our Area President will bring brief remarks – we need YOUR support
3. **Induction** of New Members – we need YOUR affirmation.

## Meet Pat Miles, Sr.



Our newest member is retired from Steelcase and married to Shirley, a retired Grand Rapids teacher. They have two children, Angela who lives in Chicago, and Pat Jr., US District Attorney for Western Michigan and also a Grand Rapids resident. Pat Sr. is an active leader in Grand Rapids Christian Church and enjoys golf.



Find us on  
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[-White Elephant Sale](#)  
[-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)

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Y Service Clubs International.  
[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)  
[www.ysmenusa.com](http://www.ysmenusa.com)



## Gillette Knows the Power of Medical Mission Trips

It was quickly evident as Bob Gillette began talking about the many medical mission trips to a tiny village in northern Nicaragua organized by his wife, Nancy, how much impact it has had on his life, giving him a new understanding of the word “mission.”

Gillette drew upon an excellent slide presentation to invite those of us present on June 7, into the lives and needs of people in this Central American country. It all began for the Gillettes in 1998 in response to a horrific hurricane in Nicaragua. On that trip the medical needs became very apparent and Nancy came home to organize a trip with medical and other volunteers along with some medical supplies. The result has been 1-2 trips every year since by 13-16 volunteers.

“One in five kids die of simple things in the outlying areas,” Bob explained, which is why they have focused their work in the mountainous rural area. “It didn’t take long to learn how brilliant the Nicaraguans are which makes it very easy for us to work and support their leadership.” Gillette went on.



It is normal in one week for medical staff to treat 1,100 residents. Team members include doctors, nurses, optometrists, dentists, plus other volunteers who help write prescriptions, lead kids in games, organize patients, lead in prayers and help with general organization.

Each person making the trip carries one piece of personal luggage plus one suitcase filled with medical supplies, toys for kids and other needed materials. Two wheelchairs a trip is normal as well. Costs for the trip are paid for personally by each volunteer.

Bob concluded by saying, “There is so much need for what we do you don’t ever wonder why you are there. We literally save someone’s life every trip we make.”

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

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

### 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.