



OUR MISSION

Y Service Clubs International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on 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: Neil Topliffe
Pres. Elect: Ethan Ray
Secretary: Martha Beals
Treasurer: Ken Haines
Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson
Past Pres: Pete Chadwick

BOARD MEMBERS

Henry Capogna
John Duivan
Mark Radtke
Bob Smith
Bob Williams

ACTIVITY CHAIRS

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

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

October 18, 2013

Neil Topliffe, president, called the club together, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Don McWatters offered the invocation, including prayers of support for John Rupert at the death of his sister, and Rosalie George who was in the hospital. Lunch was served.

Guests were introduced: Jessica Webster-Huizen (Syd Baxter), **Kathy Benoit** (Kent Mudie), and **Lorrie Jaynes**. Total of 30 in attendance. Grateful Dollars were received.

Club News

- **Membership Dues are now past due** to Tom Johnson. \$250 annual or \$125 for half the year. Give your check to Tom or mail to him, DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave NW, 49503-2233.
- **Al George** circulated a sign-up sheet for help October 22 moving tables and Santa Claus Girls storage pallets from both the Plainfield WES site and the Lake/Robinson storage site to the Amway warehouse for Santa Claus Girls. A great contingent of 10 members signed up.
- **Bob Smith** announced that the Santa Claus Girls sorting and setting up of deliver routes work for our club members will begin November 6 at the Spaulding Ave. Amway warehouse. Contact Bob, 531-0199, for schedule and directions to site. Gifts Delivery Day will be December 19.
- **Neil Topliffe** called attention to 10/17 Board Highlights (see page 4).
- **Jessica Webster-Huizen**, who chairs the board of Camp Manitou-Lin thanked the club for its strong commitment and support of the camp program, particularly right now during the transition of leadership. **Neil Topliffe** noted, for those who missed the announcement in the last SPARKS, that Greg Dodd has ended his position as Executive

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the
duty that accompanies
every right*

Happy
Birthday

Don McWatters 10/13



Find us on
Facebook

[-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



Club News (cont'd)

Director and Karin Denman is now acting director. Neil shared the club board member's expressed appreciation of Greg's active participation and support of the Y Service Club, and that we would miss his spirit and friendship.

- **Andy Page**, YMCA VP of Operations and GR Y supervisor of Camp Manitou-Lin will be available following the **November 15** membership meeting to discuss with club members the change of leadership at the camp and plans for moving forward. Questions are welcome via email or phone to [Andy Page](#), 616-855-6622.
- **Next board meeting** Thursday, October 21 – Pinnacle Insurance.

**NOVEMBER 1 12:00 PM
LUNCH – MEETING - TOUR**

KENT RECORD MANAGEMENT – Al George, Host
1950 Waldorf NW, 49544 616-459-6681
(off Walker Ave NW, turn at Bissell offices)
([Map/directions](#) – www.kentrecords.com)

From the outside it looks like a huge warehouse. But inside it's an amazing place, with the latest of automation and marvels of document and records storage for major and small companies of West Michigan.

Don't miss hearing from Al and others how a moving company executive ended up with one of the largest secure records storage companies in Michigan.

Invite a friend to be as equally amazed as you on November 1.

Mudie and Baxter Step Us Through Run Assignments

Kent Mudie and **Syd Baxter** once again provided the details for our Run Thru The Rapids 5K and 10K Run/Walk that begins early Saturday morning. Almost 500 were registered with more expected in late registrations, they reported. (cont'd p. 3)



Awaiting the start



All ages compete



Here comes the crowd



Two of the Linda group



The kids join mom across finish line

Run Assignments (cont'd)

Kent, who handles logistics outside, made final assignments and gave members an overview of the route and process for the run. Syd who handles inside logistics primarily, including registration, food, presentation arrangements, also made last minute assignments.

Syd shared that one of the groups running this year under the name of “Linda’s Friends” were honoring their workout friend, Linda Riveria who passed away a few weeks earlier.

Run Thru the Rapids provides scholarship support to help young people in the Grand Rapids area attend Camp Manitou-Lin. The Event Sponsor again this year is Holland Bank.



Nancy Garner registers to run for her friend Linda Riveria.

All Ages “Run Thru the Rapids” 2013



Leaders of the pack included runners from Emmons Lake Elementary School, Caledonia.

The first wave of runners that raced by were young elementary school kids from Caledonia, plus seasoned marathon runners warming up for the big event on Sunday. A large group of woman in blue shirts and a big heart with the word “Linda” were spread out

throughout the pack of 540 participants in this year’s annual Run Thru the Rapids.

Twenty-three of those school kids were 3rd-5th grade members of the Emmons Lake Elementary School Eagles cross country club of Caledonia. The photos give you a small flavor of the cross section of our community participated, for fun, for personal goals, or to honor special persons in their lives. Photos also are available on the website at <http://img.gg/bHmNYGT>.



5K mens first place finisher crosses the line



5K womens first place winner exhausted at end



10K mens winner still in full stride



Congrats to Mary Baxter for once again taking on the Run with gusto.

October 17 Board Highlights

Here are highlights of our Service Club Board meeting.

- Bank balance September 30 is \$18,007.93
- 19 of 44 members have paid their 2013-14 dues so far
- Henry Capogna announced 2013-2014 meeting speakers to date
- Approval was given to a 2014 club budget along with WES and RTTR, subject to final adjustments: to be circulated at November member meeting – thanks to Ken Haines and Pete Chadwick
- YSC Endowment Fund: John Duiven will meet with Y Development Director Sara DeMann to finalize a letter to be mailed in November to members and friends encouraging a financial gift or year-end 401(k) tax-exempt donation to the Endowment fund. More information to come.
- Bob Williams to speak to members reminding them how important invitations of friends and colleagues are to reach new members
- Board members discussed transition of Greg Dodd ending his leadership as Executive Director of Camp Manitou-Lin, with expressions of appreciation for his active participation in the Y Service Club and support of our work.
- Al George and Bob Smith emphasized the need for six members to help move tables and storage items on October 22 from the Lake Drive storage area and Plainfield site. At least six volunteers are needed (three at each site) at 8 am Tuesday morning.
- Bob Smith announced that the work to sort Santa Claus gift bags at the Amway Ada site, same as last year, will begin November 6, alternating each week on M-W-F, T-Th schedules.
- Mark Radtke is working with Dan Miller to set up photo sessions before, during and after a November or December meeting, of every club member for use in a club directory. Watch for an announcement.