



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

December 20, 2013

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](#)

President Neil Topliffe called the Service Club bi-weekly meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with the opening invocation given by Jud Ross, followed by the pledge.

Grateful Dollars were received, particularly for Bob Smith and his great organizational work for Santa Claus Girls this year.

Club News

- David D Hunting Y preschool children entertained us with Christmas Carols. Thanks to Miss Kathy and her assistants.
- Gene Gess, our newest member provided a brief introduction of himself to the club (see page 2)
- **Ethan Ray** polled the group on dates for **Mid-Winter Dinner Party**. [ed note – It will be February 7 at the Firerock Room at StoneWater Country Club]
- **Bill Streeter** reported that we continue to search for a site for the WES. Any suggested options should be sent to Bill or Kent Mudie who is coordinating the search with Bill. The first WES planning meeting is set for **Wednesday, January 8, 5:30 pm** at Park Congregational Church. This meeting is open to all willing to help with the planning.
- **Next board meeting** 1/16, 5:30p – Henry Capogna office.

NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 10

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

CAMP MANITOU-LIN REPORTS

Karin Denman – 2013-14 Program Highlights

Andy Page – Strategic Planning Update

2014 is a significant year for the camp as it builds on the strength of past programs, completes the 100th year Capital Campaign, and focuses closely on a strategic plan that helps determine future leadership and growth of Manitou-Lin. Karin and Andy will fill us in & answer questions.

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

Syd Baxter 12/9

Wally Andersen 12/28

John Carruthers 1/10

Kent Mudie 1/18

Ron Bickel 1/27



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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.runthrutherapids.com

is a member of

Y Service Clubs International.

www.ysmen.org
www.ysmenusa.com



BOB SMITH PREPARES US FOR SANTA CLAUS GIRLS

With the usual detail and efficiency demonstrated over the years, Bob Smith led us through the tasks at hand for members and volunteers who were distributing Santa Claus Girls gift bags to route drivers on Saturday morning, December 21. This year there were only a couple hundred fewer families and children than in the past, Smith reported, in spite of the fact that the Grand Rapids Press only has three days a week home delivery to get the word out to the community.

About 350 drivers were expected at the Amway warehouse on Saturday morning to deliver the gift bags to approximately 13,000 children and more than 500 families. Assignments were given out, with arrival times at the warehouse being 6:00 and 7:30 am. Don Kern joined Bob in explaining details for outside workers lining up the cars that start arriving shortly after 6 am.

Again this year it all paid off with the routes and gifts out the door for delivery in a little more than 2 hours.

Meet Gene Gess, our Newest Member



We welcome into our club Eugene (Gene) Gess. In a brief introduction of himself, Gene noted that he handled finances for many years for retirement homes and hospitals before becoming Finance Manager five years ago at First (Park) Congregational Church.

Gene is an accomplished musician, having played the flute while in the service, with the W Michigan Flute Association, at church and elsewhere. He and his wife, Carol, a retired High School choral director, sing in the church choir and Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids.

Together they have two children and grandchildren. Recreational biking, travel, music and time with grandkids keeps him busy, in addition to his work at Park Church

WES PLANNING MEETING WEDNESDAY

January 8, 5:30 pm – Park Congregational Church

RSVP to Bill Streeter

streetwear@tds.net - 443-1609

Our first planning meeting for 2014 White Elephant Sale. Department Heads and committee chairs are urged to be there. All are invited.

NEWS NOTES

- **OUR SYMPATHY** to **Mary and Syd Baxter** in the loss of son Tom Radosevich on Dec. 19. Prayers go to Mary, Syd, wife Erin and children Wyatt and Lili. [Read Obituary here.](#)
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to the four 100%ers who made it to all six meetings this fall: **Gary Mescher, Kent Mudie, Jud Ross, Bill Smith.**
- **THANKS** to five members and friends who gave \$1,150 in year-end gifts to the **YSC Endowment Fund**. Thanks also to those who made phone calls to the 60 friends who received letters.
- **THANKS** for the one gift to the Endowment Fund in memory of Carl Mescher, Gary's father.
- **MEMBER DUES** of \$125 should be **paid by January 31**, for those who did not pay the full year already. Give your check, "GR Y Service Club," to Tom Johnson, or mail to DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave NW, 49503-9511.

Board Meeting Highlights – December 19

Here are highlights of our December 19, 2013 Service Club Board Meeting.

- A gift of \$13,000 for the Camp Manitou-Lin scholarship fund was approved. Another \$1,000 gift was designated to David D Hunting Strong Kids Campaign as a thank you to the staff who provide support for the Run Through the Rapids as well as all our club meetings.
- The board made minor revisions to the 2014 Budget so that the General Fund projections reflect a slight net positive balance. Also the projected gift to Camp Manitoulin in 2014 is \$50,000 from the White Elephant Sale and \$12,000 from the Run Through the Rapids. Copies of the revised budget are available from Ken Haines.
- White Elephant Sale continues to search for a new location. Board agreed that the date of April 26-27 would not be changed. A planning meeting will be held on January 8. Kurt Mudie has agreed to coordinate efforts in finding a new location, working closely with Bill Streeter. It was strongly encouraged that we find an assistant to work with Bill Streeter.
- Approval was given to purchase gift cards for Tara Julien and Lorrie Jaynes as a thank you for all the extra effort they go to in support of our meeting setup and financial bookkeeping.

2014 Y Service Club Meetings & Speakers

January 10	2013-14 Camp Manitou-Lin Program Highlights
January 24	Mary Ann Weaver, Michigan Disability Alliance
February 7	Rick Stevens & Larry Dodge, ABVI
February 21	
March 7	Rev. Randall Bertrand, Street Kids on the Edge
March 21	Dan Gaydou, GR Press / MLive
April 4	Cindy Brown, Exec. Dir., Hello, West Michigan!
April 18	Bill Heneveld, "True Success"
May 2	Dale Robertson, Exec. Dir. Van Andel Museum