



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

January 10, 2014

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 and offered the opening prayer, followed by the pledge.

Birthdays were recognized: Wally Andersen (12/28).

Guests were introduced: **Lorrie Jaynes** (our YMCA bookkeeper), **Kevin Morrison** (Camp Manitou-Lin staff). **Grateful Dollars** were received.

Club News

- **John Duiven and Bill Smith** circulated a Get Well card for **John Peterson** who is in Blodgett Rehab center. [Update: John is doing better and they hope he will be able to return home in a week or so. Feeding tube is to be removed on Monday.]
- **Ethan Ray** reminded everyone to make their reservations for **Mid-Winter Dinner Party** February 7 at the Firerock Room at StoneWater Country Club. Make checks out to "GR Y Service Club and send/give to Ethan by January 24.
- **Bob Smith** gave a final report on Santa Claus Girls noting that 5,134 families and 13,102 kids had received Christmas gifts this year. Thanks were extended to club members who helped.
- **Bill Streeter** updated group on White Elephant Sale site search – nothing definite yet. The next WES planning meeting is **Monday, January 20, 5:30 pm** at Park Congregational Church. This meeting is open to all willing to help with the planning. -continued on next page

NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 24

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

Mary Ann Weaver – [Michigan Disability Sports Alliance](#)

Mary Ann has been a board member of Grand Rapids Eagles where her son has been a team-member for 10 years. She has been on MDSA board 3 years. MDSA sponsors Michigan Disability Games at MSU annually.

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

John Carruthers 1/10
Kent Mudie 1/18
Bob Gillette 1/21
Ron Bickel 1/27



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



MID-WINTER PARTY

FEBRUARY 7, 6:30-9:30 PM

STONEWATER COUNTRY CLUB

7177 Kalamazoo SE (south of M-6 & Kalamazoo)

\$35 PER PERSON (Cash Bar)

RESERVATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 24

PAY TO "GR Y Service Club" and give to Ethan Ray.

MENU: Smothered chicken, Napoleon Vegetables, or 6 oz. Sirloin
with chocolate cake or cheesecake dessert

Club News (continued)

- White Elephant Sale Breaking News: **Bob and Marge Smith** have agreed once again to make food and provide necessary ambience to ensure a successful eating experience for White Elephant Sale volunteers, reported Bob Williams. Daughter Julia Boyd and husband Mike have agreed to help.
- **Neil** told us that the endowment fund for camp topped the \$12,000 mark.
- **Next board meeting** 2/20, 5:30p – Park Congregational.

CAMP MANITOU-LIN UPDATE

Our guest speakers were **Karin Denman**, Interim Director of Camp Manitou-Lin; and Andy Page, V.P. of Operations for the Grand Rapids Metropolitan YMCA.

Karin told us that Manitou-Lin had a successful 2013 season with 10 weeks of programs for the overnight program and the day camp. She was pleased to report that it was "smooth sailing," in that no injuries were sustained by campers.

75 counselors were hired last summer to serve 1,657 campers. That was an increase in the number of campers, but Manitou-Lin fell short of budget by 3% according to Karin. She mentioned that horse camp numbers were up dramatically but that day camp attendance was down. On the plus side, camper retention went from 37% to 48% from 2012 to 2013.

Positive comments came back to camp staff from a survey given to parents. Day Camp got very high marks, most of the respondents said they would highly recommend it to other parents for their children. Karin said that 88% of kids come for
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NEWS NOTES

- **MEMBER DUES** of \$125 should be **paid by February 15**, 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.

THANK YOU TIME OF FAST

"Thank you for your very generous donation to Time of Fast. Your gift helps YMCA's around the world improve education, health, job skills and fellowship in their communities. These benefits are felt both now and for a lifetime. Thank you again for your generous donation!

Sincerely, Sue Pearce,
ASD Time of Fast
(Grand Rapids Y Service Club donated \$5,795 in 2013 to TOF)

"It's not the number of things we acquire, but how many lives we touch along the way."

CAMP MANITOU-LIN (continued)

just one week. A major goal for 2014 is to get these campers to come back for a second week during the summer.

Karin said that the YMCA raised rates in 2013 for the first time in nearly six years. Parents were also given an option to have money taken out of their bank account monthly rather than in one lump sum. She added that parents are being urged to register their kids early for the 2014 season – with 250 registrations already on the books.

Manitou-Lin offers a variety of experiences for kids, including gluten free options, an opportunity for kids who have suffered burns to be part of camp, and something for kids who have a parent in the military. This is called "Camp Corral," sponsored by Golden Corral Restaurants.

Andy Page began his remarks by thanking our club for its sustained commitment to Camp Manitou-Lin, paying particular attention to 50+ year volunteers **Don McWatters** and **Al George**. Andy told us that Manitou-Lin is going through an evaluation and transition period to help ensure that it succeeds for another 100 years. The Task Force will be forwarding recommendations to the Camp Board, including one on a new camp director. Karin, said Andy, will likely stay on as interim camp director through the 2014 season.

Andy told us that a Task Force is in place and has been working on long term planning and review of information from two consultants brought in from the Rochester, New York YMCA. Andy said Manitou-Lin is a resident camp first and foremost and that fact should be the focus going forward. "We want to transition day campers to resident campers," he said. Other ideas include the possibility of extending the camp week into Saturday and/or Sunday.

The camp staff was saluted by Andy, who said it goes over and above the call of duty on a regular basis, but especially in December when the camp was hit by an extended power outage.

On the fund raising side, Andy said that Bob Williams is leading the Capital Campaign effort with a goal of \$1 million.

A SHORT THOUGHT

The traffic at 7:45 am is always a hurly-burly around my house as parents drive their youngsters to school at Northeastern Elementary (Hastings) and Wednesday was no exception so I couldn't figure out why the Ford Explorer across the intersection was just slowly, VERY slowly, edging out to make a left into the unstopping, unrelenting, traffic of Wilson Street...

I dashed across during a brief gap while walking to Men's Breakfast and when I drew even with the passenger side glass it all became crystal clear ...

Her window was completely covered with a layer of thick opaque wind-swept snow... She couldn't make the left turn toward the school because SHE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING coming from her right side!

I reached up with a warm mittened-hand and wiped away the snow. She smiled like an epiphany had been delivered!

So... Before you go where you think your current "mission in life" is leading you; make sure you have taken the time to get a clear view of what might broadside you.

Randall Bertrand
our March 7 speaker

WES PLANNING MEETING MONDAY

January 20, 5:30 pm – Park Congregational Church

RSVP to Bill Streeter

streetwear@tds.net - 443-1609

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

Board Meeting Highlights – January 16

Here are highlights of our January 16 Service Club Board Meeting.

- Treasurer Ken Haines reported we had a balance of \$10,247 in our checking account on December 31. Our Fund balances were: General - \$11,528 ; Run Thru the Rapids - \$1,913 and White Elephant Sale – \$(3,195). The Endowment Fund balance was \$11,468.
- The GR Y Service Club Endowment Fund account was moved on January 1, 2014 from the money market holding account to the YMCA Heritage investments funds. Neil Topliffe reported that members and friends of the club made donations of \$1,900 at year end toward the Endowment Fund.
- Bill Streeter reported that they had narrowed the search for a White Elephant Sale site to two or three locations. The planning committee will meet January 20, 5:30 pm at Park Congregational Church. Neil Topliffe is updating the Donor Contact List and should have it completed in the next week to pass out to members to begin their contacts. Ethan Ray and Lorrie Jaynes are looking at an option for credit/debit card sales using iPads.
- A new publicity flyer designed by the Y marketing team was reviewed. It is anticipated to be ready for distribution in the next few weeks.
- Mid-Winter Dinner reservations are coming in slowly. Members need to make their reservations with Ethan Ray by January 24.
- Neil Topliffe will appoint a By-Laws committee to review and possibly update our bylaws.
- Gary Mescher has agreed to explore a Y International Brother Club request from Lusaka, Zambia. We discovered we already are Brother Club partners with clubs in Kottayam and Coimbatore, India.