



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

February 7, 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 Duiven
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. Martha Beals offered the opening prayer, followed by the pledge.

Birthdays were recognized: Syd Baxter (12/9), Kent Mudie (1/18), Gary Messcher (2/9).

Guests were introduced: Darrel Singletary (Jon Hess), Sue Winer (Loyd Winer).

Grateful Dollars: Loyd Winer invited others in joining with with Grateful dollar contributions in honor of John Peterson for his 31 years of leadership. \$127 was received and designated to the Y Service Club Endowment Fund that supports Camp Manitou-Lin.

Club News

- **Tom Johnson** provided 5 tickets to the Auto Show at DeVos Place to those who could name the two non-presidents on U.S. bills (Hamilton - \$10 and Franklin - \$100).
- **Ethan Ray** reported that 38 folks have made reservations for the **Mid-Winter Dinner Party** tonight at Firerock Restaurant.
- **Bill Streeter** shared that we were close to finalizing our White Elephant Sale site in a former Family Fare at Eastern Avenue and 52nd Street.
- **Ethan Ray's** mother, Frances Ray, passed away January 31. Our condolences go out to Ethan and family. A memorial service is scheduled for July. [Obituary link here.](#)
- **NEXT MEETING** – Jonathan Hess, Kent County Under Sherriff
- **Next board meeting** 3/20, 5:30 pm – Park Congregational.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE WORKDAYS

Tuesday 2/18 & Thursday 2/20 – 10 am

Meet at Plainfield old site & unload at new site

SATURDAY WORK DAY at 5270 Eastern Ave SE

February 22, 9 am - Noon

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

Ethan Ray (2/28)



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



NEXT MEETING – February 21
12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

Jonathan Hess – Under Sheriff
Kent County Sheriff’s Department

Dodge and Nolan Open our Eyes to Seeing Challenges

Larry Dodge and Nick Nolan, guest speakers at our February 7 meeting opened up for those in attendance the challenges and hopes for those in West Michigan dealing with loss of some or all of their eyesight.

Dodge is Development Director of the [Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#), which began in 1913 and remains one of the longest serving organizations in our area and the only one currently serving those with eyesight challenges. Their services address clients dealing with Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, Cataracts, Corneal Visual Problems, Macular Degeneration, and Retinitis Pigmentosa.

The ABVI works with patients to create an individual plan for using devices, provides counseling for home settings and provides social gatherings for the patients. They work with students in Ottawa and Kent County schools, helping the youth gain skills and confidence in doing day to day activities that can lead to getting jobs. “Seventy percent of visually impaired people are unemployed,” said Dodge.

The organization also provides Low Vision Clinics, Prevention Screenings and Rehab services with trained counselors to help visually impaired persons maintain their independence and social connections.

Nick Nolan, is an ABVI volunteer and client who suffers from Macular Degeneration. He shared how a few years ago, he failed the Drivers Vision Test and lost his license. “I went to ABVI, down in the dumps knowing my wife wasn’t well and I was the sole source of transportation for our family,” Nolan shared. “The folks at ABVI gave me hope and a lot of guidance, including access to special glasses that ultimately made it possible for me to get a restricted license.

“Thank God for the ABVI that I now can live a normal life and get around on my own,” he added.