



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](#)



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

February 21, 2014

President Neil Topliffe called the Service Club bi-weekly meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y. Bob Williams offered the opening prayer, followed by the pledge.

Birthdays were recognized: Ethan Ray (3/28).

Guests were introduced: David Smith (Bill Smith) and Grateful Dollars received.

Club News

- **Bill Streeter** gave the schedule for moving White Elephant Sale equipment and merchandise from the Plainfield location and arrangements for setting up at our new location on Eastern at 52nd Street. He asked us to use a new email address to him for all WES communications, weschair14@gmail.com.
- **Neil Topliffe** asked for examples of how members made their WES donor contacts: **Bob Williams** takes donuts to repeat donors and even takes some of his donors to the WES site to see magnitude of the event; **Bill Phillips** sets a morning to sit down and make phone calls to all his donors. **Board Highlights:** Neil noted highlights listed in agenda flyer and received affirmation from members for us to help host a US Area Y Service Convention in early summer 2015.
- **Tom Johnson** raffled off 5 tickets to the Boat Show. Thanks Tom.

NEXT MEETING – Rev. Randall Bernard, Hastings – Reaching Kids on the Edge

Next Board Meeting 3/20, 5:30 pm – Park Congregational Church.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE WORKDAY

Saturday 3/8, 8:30 am - Noon

Unload truck, set up departments & sort goods

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

*Happy
Birthday*

Ben Lundquist (3/1)
Henry Capogna (3/12)



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[-White Elephant Sale](#)
[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

Grand Rapids Y Service Club
475 Lake Michigan Dr NW
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www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrurapids.com
is a member of
Y Service Clubs International.
www.ysmen.org
www.ysmenusa.com



NEXT MEETING – March 7

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

Rev. Randall Bertrand – Reaching Kids on the Edge Woodgrove Brethern/Christian Parish, Hastings

Randall, an avid cyclist, has become skateboard park “chaplain/friend” to youth in Hastings during the summer and playground volunteer at a local elementary school. A great storyteller out of these experiences, don’t miss the inspiring, sometimes humorous, and poignant tales and challenges of what it means to serve some of the “least of these...”

Jon Hess Expands our Understanding of Kent County Sheriffs Department

“The Sheriff’s Department staff all work for you, the people of Kent County,” not only was the opening point made by Under Sheriff Jon Hess but also an obvious refrain as he stepped us through the work of the department in providing police services to the county and management of the Kent County Correctional Facility. The sheriff is an elected position that connects him and his staff with the wishes of the county voters on a regular basis.

The department today includes a variety of services, including honor guards for funerals and special events, a 911 dispatch center, command unit, citizen’s academy and police work outside the large municipalities that have their own police. Hess has been with the Sheriff’s Department 34 years, 14 as Undersheriff.

A primary responsibility of the department is management of the Kent County Correctional Facility. The jail can house up to 1,400 inmates in pods with a current population of about 1,100. The average person has been in the jail nine times. Unlike other prisons, though, the stays can be relatively short. Jon noted that 51% of inmates are at the jail for less than 23 hours, with 59% less than 47 hours and 87% less than 30 days.

Who goes to jail? “People just like you and me,” Hess observed, often because of substance abuse problems and other traffic or domestic issues. “Ninety-nine percent return to the community,” he said.