



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

May 16, 2014

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

Birthdays: Bill Garrett (4/17), Pete Chadwick (4/19), Loyd Winer (4/23), Greg Winer (5/2), Neil Topliffe (5/6)

Guests: Lee Hamilton (Neil Topliffe), Sandy Topliffe (Topliffe) Grateful Dollars were received.

Club News

- **Bill Streeter** provided White Elephant Sale update that all expenses need to be submitted to him or Lorrie Jaynes by the end of May. He also said that approximately \$5,000 will be coming from sales at M37 Auctions. Kent Mudie is working with Bill in hopes that we can store WES equipment at the site.
- **Time of Fast – Bob Williams** took an informal poll with the group majority supporting a TOF Goal for our club this year of \$6,375 – a 10% increase over last year. Letters are to be mailed to us with more information.
- **Nominating Committee** – Neil, Pete Chadwick, and Ethan Ray are taking nominations for officers and two director positions. Send recommendations to Neil, Pete or Ethan

NEXT MEETING – Patrick Miles, Jr – US Attorney Western District of Michigan (more on next page)

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 18, 4:30 PM

-- Camp Manitou-Lin

THANK YOU STEAK FRY

At Camp Manitou-Lin

Wednesday, June 18, 5:30 pm

RSVP KARIN DENMAN kdenman@grymca.org by 6/13

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

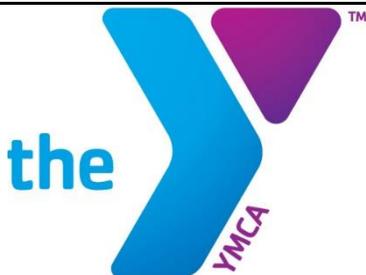
Don Kern (5/27)
Jon Hess (6/10)



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



May 30 MEETING

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

Patrick Miles, Jr, U.S. Attorney
for the [Western District of Michigan](#)
“Justice in our Midst”



We will welcome Pat Miles, Jr. to our next meeting, both as the son of our member, Pat Miles Sr, but also as a life-long third generation resident of Grand Rapids where he knows the community well. Pat is a graduate of Grand Rapids Public Schools, Aquinas College, and Harvard University where he earned his law degree. His professional career began with Varnum LLP. He is a frequent author and speaker to professional audiences on legal issues, professionalism, diversity and inclusion as well as to youth audiences on leadership and service.

First-Hand Aid to Cuba Began with Desperate Plea



For Marc Bohland, it was a commitment to make one trip to Cuba to take some medicine to a family of a Butterworth Hospital colleague and Cuba boat refugee. That journey, however, was the beginning of 86 trips to Cuba over 16 years and formation of Grand Rapids based [First-Hand Aid](#) that provides support to Cuban people on the fringes. Today it is a personal passion that leads the organization, one of only 21 medical humanitarian relief agencies approved by both the US State Department and the Cuban Government.

“I made the first trip to deliver some medicine to a family member of my new refugee medical technician friend,” Bohland told the Service Club members. “But once on land in Cuba in the small village area outside Havana, there were constant pleas by others for me to help them also. But, I was clear in my mind that this was a one visit trip.

“It was at the airport on the way home that it all changed. A father of a dying child, dropped to his knees and pleaded for me to get him medicine, not available in Cuba, yet common and readily available in the U.S. That was when my understanding of desperation and of compassion changed on the spot.”

Bohland, through First-Hand Aid, not only continues to provide medical humanitarian



assistance to those who, in spite of and because of Cuba's socialist system, are the poorest and most marginalized, but has taken hundreds of others to assist in the visits to Cuba and one or two other villages.

Marc provided us with a quick and informative history of Cuba and the setting that made it ripe for the Castro rebels to not only take over the country but maintain a narrow communistic control of the island.

First Hand Aid works with three Cuban hospitals, supports two pharmacies for the poor, supports a "Meals on Heels" seniors program for those whose families left



the island and who are unable to care for themselves. The organization also helps Cuban families in crisis, especially when there are children at risk.

Bohland leads small groups to Cuba several times a year to help with distribution of supplies, to help change attitudes, and to learn what it means "to give back." Visit the [First Hand Aid website](#) to learn more about the organization and to consider making a trip.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 13 –Annual Club Business Meeting

- By-Laws action
- Elect Board/Officers & Installation
- New Members Induction

June 18

- 5:30 pm
Steak Fry - Camp Manitou-Lin, Middleville MI

Did You Know?

Since the inception of the **Time of Fast** program in 1973, Y Clubs International has contributed close to US\$4.5 million to various YMCA and community projects and emergencies around the world, all sponsored by local Service Clubs or Ys...

Today 21 ongoing projects and 6 newly approved projects in a total of 16 countries are supported by TOF.



- During the three years (1999-2002) we supported a total of 25 projects in 15 countries dealing with "Building Peoples' Futures" at an average of close to US\$200,000 per year.
- Since 2002/03 we have supported 42 projects on "Building A Peaceful Future" in 15 countries (about 8 projects per year) at an average of over US\$ 150,000 per year.
- Since 2005/06 we are supporting 11 projects in 7 countries under the Unified Global Project (UGP) theme "HIV/AIDS Prevention – Y's Men's Mission" at an average of US\$ 180,000 per year.
- GR Y Service Club has been the largest giver annually from USA.



What's Happening at Camp? Over 300 Lowell High School 9th graders spent a day last week volunteering to get camp ready for summer. The place was buzzing! (from [Camp Manitou-Lin Facebook page](#))