



## 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:** Ethan Ray

**Pres. Elect:**

**Secretary:** Martha Beals

**Treasurer:** Ken Haines

**Asst. Treas:** Tom Johnson

**Past Pres:** Neil Topliffe

## BOARD MEMBERS

Henry Capogna '15

John Carruthers '17

John Duiven '16

Chuck Marks '17

Bob Smith '16

Bob Williams '15

## 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

September 19, 2014

President Ethan Ray called the Service Club bi-weekly meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with Bob Williams offering the prayer, followed by the pledge.

**Guests: Tom Drenth, Mike Warren, and Kurt Weaver.**

**Grateful and Birthday Dollars** were received.

## Club News

- **Ethan Ray** noted that the meeting agenda would be emailed the evening before each meeting rather than a printed agenda at the meeting.
- **Ethan Ray** reminded members that our member dues need to be paid - \$250 for year or \$125 for one half with balance due the first of the year.
- **[Run Thru the Rapids](#)** – **Kent Mudie** gave an update saying they were ahead of last year with registrations. He circulated a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer for the event and reminded the group to let him know if they wanted a shirt this year.
- **[Santa Claus Girls](#)** – **Bob Smith** gave the location this year, 4300 36<sup>th</sup> St SE, behind the Knoll Inc. building with discussion of site alternatives, still to be worked out.
- **2015 US Area YSC Convention** – **Bob Williams** updated the club on our hosting responsibilities next July for the Y Service Club International US Area Convention next July 7-12 to be held at the Hilton Hotel. One hundred plus guests are expected. "Many hands will be needed to help with the convention."

**NEXT MEETING – October 3 - [Tennyson DeWitt, World Race Organization](#)**

**Next Board Meeting – Thursday October 16, 5:30 PM**  
-- Park Congregational Church

## Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty  
that accompanies every  
right*

*Happy  
Birthday*

Don McWatters (10/13)



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](http://www.gryserviceclub.org)  
[www.runthrutherapids.com](http://www.runthrutherapids.com)

is a member of

Y Service Clubs International.  
[www.ysevice.org](http://www.ysevice.org)  
[www.ysmenu.com](http://www.ysmenu.com)



## Experience Grand Rapids Comes Alive

Henry Capogna introduced our speaker, Lisa Verhil, of [Experience Grand Rapids](#), the marketing organization for Grand Rapids and Kent County.



Lisa grew up in the Detroit area, went to Central Michigan University and received her Masters from MSU. She has always been a believer in “Radical Hospitality” and now works with Experience GR because of her energy to welcome people to our community.

Following videos on “Pure Michigan” and “Experience Grand Rapids,” Lisa explained her organization as a three legged stool – The Convention Center, DeVos Place and the hotels.

They have programs to train people to recognize and welcome people to Grand Rapids. They have a three ring binder full of information to help sell Grand Rapids. She noted that presently she has over 1200 people who have been certified by her program.

There also is a program “GRCITY.Twist,” [citytwist.experiencegr.com](http://citytwist.experiencegr.com) to help train people to properly present Grand Rapids. They have 12 people at the airport welcoming newcomers to help make them happy on getting to know the area.

She suggested that the members should go to [www.10best.com](http://www.10best.com) and vote for Grand Rapids - you can do it more than once. She also told us about Brewers Grove in which local brewing companies are planting trees. “The brewers have done a lot to promote the city,” Verhil said. She told of the impact of Art Prize and Laugh Up on the economy of Grand Rapids. This all happened when the hotel tax was increased by 1%. “This is all about collaboration,” she concluded.

*[Ed. Note: Thanks to Loyd Winer for taking notes at last meeting]*