



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: Wally Andersen & Tom Lawrence

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

March 6, 2015

President Ethan Ray called the Service Club bi-weekly meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with the opening invocation given by Greg Winer, followed by the pledge.

Guests: Russ Ettinger (Nelson), John Price (Carruthers), Matt DenBoer (Carruthers) and Dorothy VanderPol (Keith VanderPol)

Birthday & Grateful Dollars were received. Congrats Henry Capogna on reaching the BIG 65.

Club News

- **Ethan Ray** announced that **Bill Phillips** has been named an Emeritus Member, having met the criteria as outlined in the bylaws. Bill will be recognized at a spring club meeting.
- **Ethan** called on members present to confirm by voice vote the action of the board to use up to \$2000 of General Funds toward purchase of a storage trailer to be used by White Elephant Sale. Approved without dissent
- **Greg Winer and Bill Streeter** reminded us to be at Plainfield WES site Saturday. [Update: Trailer needs unloading THIS Saturday].
- **Neil Topliffe** offered WES posters to put up at churches, businesses etc. Also said mailing to all donors goes out March 9. Print copies of member letters and inserts will be at WES site Saturday for those folks not able to print their own copies.
- **Tom Johnson** had 2 sets of garden show tickets for trivia winners.
- **Next board meeting** 3/26/15, 5:30p – Park Church (E. entry).

NEXT MEETING – March 20

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

Kevin Richards

“How to navigate and avoid W. Michigan Traffic Jams”

Come hear from the city's most celebrated traffic reporter who has guided radio/tv listeners past jams for nearly two decades.

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

*Happy
Birthday*

Tom Johnson 3/28



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



03/06/15

White Elephant Sale Donors Are Expecting Your Call

Folks, the letters have gone out to all prospective donors, telling them to expect a contact from a Service Club member. Have you made your contacts yet?

The Plainfield site is a huge space that needs all the donations of goods that we can solicit. Past experience says our contacts make a significant difference. Please send your emails/letters and make your phone calls before our next meeting.



BEST OPTION FOR PICK-UP REQUESTS?

Here are the TWO EASIEST-to-remember ways to have people request pick-up of WES donations:

1. **Facebook:** Go to “White Elephant Sale Grand Rapids”
 - a. Click on the tab “DONATION PICKUP”
2. **Web:** Go to our web site www.gryserviceclub.org
 - a. Click on “White Elephant Sale”
 - b. Click on “online pickup form.”

Yes, the direct link still works but it isn't easy to remember. If you email it to someone it will work fine: goo.gl/QGVJEF. If necessary, people can send their request to wes@gryserviceclub.org. We discourage this route because it puts burden on Bill Smith to track down details and slows process.

2015 Y Service Club Speakers

- March 20 **Kevin Richards** - How to navigate and avoid West Michigan Traffic Jams
- April 3 **Jerry Zandstra** – Vision for the Pyramid Campus
- April 17 **John Otterbacher** – Author & former state lawmaker
- May 1 **Chris Wilks** – Martial Arts grand champion
- May 15 **Jay Hankins** -- Habitat for Humanity
- May 29 **Rev. Gary Davis** “the Jerusalem of Herod & Jesus”

SPECIAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FOR OUR CLUB MEMBERS

Club members, we need you to register for our US Area Convention July 9-12. There will be special forums as well as key speakers and entertainment at dinners. Save \$75 for the whole event or register for one or two days at \$40 a block.

Download LOCAL Registration Form

[Click Here](#)

SAVE THE DATES



Y International Service Clubs US Area CONVENTION JULY 9-12, 2015

Hilton Hotel Airport
28th & Patterson

WE ARE THE HOSTS
In partnership with
MIDEAST REGION

**SPECIAL REGISTRATON
PACKAGE FOR YOU**
(See page 2)

Co-Chairs:

- Neil Topliffe
- Bob Williams

Treasurer

- Tom Lawrence

Registrar

- Chuck Marks

Program

- Henry Capogna

Hospitality

- Loyd Winer

At Large

- Jud Ross
- Pete VanHoesen



Being there for Children Facing Grief

“No one understood how I felt when my brother died.” - brother

“I was so sad about my mom dying.” - daughter

“At school everyone talks about their dad... At Ele’s Place I can talk about my dad and everyone understands me.” - son

“Ele’s Place is helping us figure out how to go on.” - mother



Our club speaker, Gerilyn May, knows first-hand that sense of loss and emptiness in losing a family member, experiencing those around you who aren’t sure what to say

or do and feeling like you have no one to talk to or who understands what you are experiencing.

It was following the loss of her teenage son that Gerilyn learned of Ele’s Place in Ann Arbor and Lansing. “This opportunity to be part of Ele’s Place in Grand Rapids was just the right fit for me in my life,” she explained.

Ele's Place is a healing center for grieving children and teens that opened in 2013 and directly serves 100 plus grieving kids weekly, along with parents. In addition, volunteers provide in-service sessions at schools where there has been a death of a student.

“Ele’s Place changes the lives of so many children who come to Ele’s Place with a broken heart,” May said. She explained that grief is a natural emotion but kids need help understanding this reality. “What’s most important is helping them know they aren’t grieving alone. We help them not be isolated in their painful feelings but encourage them at Ele’s Place to be supportive of each other,” she added.

The average length of stay for Ele’s Place kids is 18 months. There is an open enrollment process. They have licensed counselors on staff but make use of lots of volunteers. The organization is funded totally by contributions by organizations and individuals.