



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: Wally Andersen & Tom Lawrence

Pres. Elect: Jon Hess

Secretary: Martha Beals

Treasurer: Ken Haines

Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson

Past Pres: Ethan Ray

BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Bartling '18

John Carruthers '17

John Duiven '16

Chuck Marks '17

Bob Smith '16

Keith VanderPol '18

ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chaplin: Gary Davis

Run Thru the Rapids:

Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie

Santa Claus Girls:

Bob Smith

White Elephant Sale:

Bill Streeter

Greg Winer

Sparks Editor:

Neil Topliffe

[Sparks Editor](#)



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

September 11, 2015

Co-President-Elect **Tom Lawrence** called our first meeting of the new year of the Service Club bi-weekly meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with the opening invocation given by **Jon Hess**, followed by the pledge. In recognition of those who lost and sacrificed their lives on this day in 2001, **Rick Bartling** led us in singing America the Beautiful

Birthdays & Grateful Dollars were received, totaling \$100.

Club News

- **John Duiven** will follow up on having the Camp Scholarship kids visit us with a report if arrangements can be made.
- **Tom Johnson** reminded us that Member Dues should be sent to him this month - \$250 for the year or \$125 for the first half. Give your check to Tom or mail to him, DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave NW, 49503-2233.

Next board meeting (3rd Wednesday) - 10/21/15, 5:30p – Park Church, 10 E. Park Place NE.



NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY OCTOBER 9

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

Col. Denny Gillem

Talk Show Host, National Security, Iran Treaty, Benghazi, etc.

"Denny Gillem is the real deal - a straight shooter ... As a radio host, he's smart, informative & engaging" (Phil Tower WOOD Radio). After graduating from West Point, Colonel Gillem served 22 years in the Army. He hosts the nationally syndicated "Frontlines of Freedom" program.

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

John Osborne 9/25

Bob Smith 9/28

Bill Smith 9/29



Find us on
Facebook

[-White Elephant Sale](#)

[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

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Grand Rapids MI 49505

www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrutherapids.com

is a member of
Y Service Clubs International.

www.ysmen.org
www.ysmenusa.com



First Meeting of Year Provided Club Updates

We began our year by focusing the September 11 meeting on club activities with plenty of time for reconnecting with each other following a summer hiatus. What follows is an update on the July U.S. Area Convention and our fund raising projects.

U.S. Area Convention

Co-chair **Neil Topliffe** praised the club members for their participation and help during the July convention at the Doubletree hotel. He passed out a summary and convention evaluation results that showed we had more than 100 people from across the country attend one or more sessions and dinners.



Ron Nelson was Friday evening keynoter sharing the vision that has transformed what the YMCA has become in Grand Rapids and around the country

There were 54 out-of-town registrations including one from Hawaii, out of 78 total registrations. 17 Grand Rapids members participated and 7 from Muskegon. Special thanks was extended to the Hospitality volunteers and to **Gail Bickel** who staffed the check-in desk on Thursday and Friday morning.

All convention events, speakers and workshop leaders got high marks from participants with local members and speakers particularly appreciated. Ford Museum and Meijer Gardens received rave reviews but the tour of David D. Hunting Y, along with the strong partnership between our club and the GR YMCA left visiting conventioners in awe.

Under the leadership of **Bob Williams** and **Neil Topliffe**, co-chairs; **Chuck Marks**, Registrar; **Tom Lawrence**, Treasurer; **Loyd Winer**, Hospitality; **Henry Capogna**, Program; **Jud Ross**, **John Carruthers**, and **Pete VanHoesen**, the convention not only was a fellowship and program success but financially, we expect to send \$6,000 plus to the U.S. Area Council for support of future conventions.

IN MEMORIUM



Robert G. Metzger

5/29/1928-7/15/2015

Bob Metzger was one who exemplified what it means to be part of the Grand Rapids Y Service Club. Bob was a long time member who continued to help out with wife Shirley even after retiring from the club. He served in leadership positions with Santa Claus Girls, Run Thru the Rapids and White Elephant Sale.

A memorial service was held at his home congregation, Park Church, on September 12. Prayers of care and support go to his widow, Shirley.

Full obituary: [click here.](#)



Security Detail: Guarding back door during 2013 White Elephant Sale!

Run Thru the Rapids – October 17

Co-chairs **Kent Mudie** and **Syd Baxter** reminded us all that we are being counted on to take up our assignments the same as prior years for the annual Run Thru the Rapids. Anyone new or without an assignment should speak to Kent or Syd. We will be notified of times and places to meet prior to the 5K/10K run that begins at the David D. Hunting YMCA.

The Bank of Holland (Chemical Bank) has pre-paid the \$5,000 key sponsor donation. Most registrations are being done online again this year. Onsite registrations will accept credit cards. DDM Marketing is again providing support for the Run website and Facebook page.

Kent noted that we are benefiting from the support of the Grand Rapids Marathon, with **Don Kern** assisting with the promotion of our event on the Marathon website. **Syd** mentioned that Gazelle Sports is including our event in a special training group that had 90 people in the initial sessions. Advance registrations were looking similar to last year.

White Elephant Sale Gearing Up

Bill Streeter reported that we have 4 of 6 of our storage semi-trailers filled already with some pickups scheduled in the next week or so. Members are encouraged to take items directly to the trailers located behind Kent Records but to stack items as high and as far back as they can go. Large pickups needing our truck should contact Bill.

Bill has information postcards for members to use when talking to new companies or business vendors, telling about our 2016 sale. Tom Lawrence reported that the preliminary results show a net profit last year of \$65,000. He noted that we had a much higher utility expense and need to exit the premises much quicker next year. We hope to be back on Plainfield but nothing has been finalized yet.

Plans also are in preliminary form to create a few specific teams of members to target specific donations, such as an automobile or boat.

Steak Fry – June at Camp Manitou-Lin



Bill Hinton, Camp Manitoulin Executive Director, welcomes White Elephant Sale volunteers to Steak Fry.



Bob Williams installs new officers, LtoR, Keith VanderPol, Ethan Ray, Wally Andersen, Tom Lawrence

2015-2016 Club Speaker Schedule

- September 25 Steve Jbarra - CEO/Owner of Grand Rapids Drive Professional Basketball Team
- October 9 Col. Denny Gillem - Talk Show Host, National Security, Iran Treaty, Benghazi, etc;
- October 23 Earl Clements - Commercial Realtor, Earl Clements, “doing the Tanger Outlet Mall deal”
- Nov. 6 Betsy Ford Maine - “Monuments Men”
NOTE: Dinner meeting 6 pm, Cross Creek Country Club includes spouses, significant other or friend
- Nov. 20 Cathy Weirich & Angie Brown - Child Adult Services Advocates of Kent Co.
- Dec. 4 Lunch with the Grillin’ Guys (Jop & Barbecue Bob)
- December 18 Ron Nelson - CEO GR YMCA,
- January 8 Lisa Rose - author of Midwest Foraging (how to forage for fresh seasonal vegetables)
- January 22 Roberto Torres - Grand Rapids Hispanic Center
- Feb. 5 Mike Hughes - owner of Doorganics, door to door delivery of organic vegetables

2015 US Area Y International Service Clubs Convention



Gail Bickel and Loyd Winer prepare for US. Area Convention registrants



Henry Capogna introduces Saturday speaker Gregory Heeres



Neil Topliffe - Bob Williams, co-chairs



Greg Winer leads Saturday workshop