



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 Topcliffe
[Sparks Editor](#)



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

September 25, 2015

Co-President-Elect **Tom Lawrence** called the meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with the opening invocation given by **Gary Davis**, Chaplain, followed by the pledge. **Gene Gess** led us in singing.

Guests: **Justin Van Bronsen** (Williams), **Bernie Boheis** and **Jeremy Bolker** (Capogna) Birthdays – **Bob Smith** (9/28) & **Grateful Dollars** were received.

Club News

- **Tom Lawrence** announced that meeting lunches will be reduced to \$5. Also, a club brochure will be produced soon.
- **Kent Mudie** and **Syd Baxter** reminded members of our **Run Thru the Rapids** fund raiser **October 17**. Check in with Kent or Syd for an assignment if you haven't already done so. Syd needs a **Fruit Preparation** volunteer! Call him at 916-5635.
- **Bob Smith** gave dates for **Santa Claus Girls** preparation at the Knoll building on 36th Street SE – **November 7** begin sorting and routing bags; **December 19** is delivery day.
- **Bob Williams** shared information on plans for organizing a David D Hunting Y Youth Service Club with an initial meeting October 13 for youth currently enrolled at the downtown Y.
- **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.

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

Don McWatters 10/13



Find us on
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[-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



MEETING THIS WEEK – FRIDAY OCTOBER 9

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

**Bill Hinton – Executive Director, Camp
Manitou-Lin**

Come, hear a report on Camp Manitou-Lin's terrific
2015 summer season and plans for future years.

Making a Dream Come True in 90 Days or Less

Henry Copogna introduced our speaker, **Steve Sbarra**, as a young energetic entrepreneur who, with a co-partner, brought semi-pro basketball to Grand Rapids by bringing together a group of local investors and one-half a million dollars in less than 90 days.

Sbarra, CEO/Owner of the DRIVE NBA to bounced us through the agony and ecstasy of making it all happen over a two year period. The Drive is a D (Development) team affiliated with the Detroit Pistons, providing players from the Pistons needing further development, as well as top NCAA stars that were not drafted but still hoping to be called up to the NBA affiliate.

With a good bit of humor and smiling innocence of a young “go for it” entrepreneur Sbarra shared how he found himself in the Detroit Pistons owner’s suite pitching the idea, cooked up in a Detroit YMCA locker room between he and his partner, that Grand Rapids was where Detroit needed to establish their D team and why he and his buddy were the perfect ones to make it happen. “It sounded good even if we hadn’t talked to anyone in Grand Rapids about the idea,” said Sbarra.

All that led to trips to New York to make pitches to the NBA Commissioner and other execs, only to be turned down and sent home with NBA souvenirs. Ultimately an owner of a Brooklyn NY franchise sold it to Detroit and the Grand Rapids Drive basketball team became a reality in 2014

Steve and his college roommate partner quit their jobs and moved to Grand Rapids in January 2014. “We had three months to raise a half million dollars... As we sat in Founders Brewery over lunch time we realized we didn’t even have an office!” Ultimately they found an office and by March 14, 2014 they had 35 small business investors and the DRIVE was born. They had good attendance in 2014 and continue to grow.

DID YOU KNOW?

Editors note: Tom

Lawrence suggested we begin a new feature in SPARKS about our club members – special things that we may not know about you – or special events in your lives. For this to work I need your help. Send info to me or pass it on at meetings.

Al George has 28 great grandchildren. He joined our club in 1962 – 53 years ago

Bob Gillette has made ??? mission trips to Central America (help me out Bob!)

Bob Williams has paddled a canoe in the Boundary Waters every year for ??? years (will give you the answer in next SPARKS).

???? – what do you have to share?

2015-2016 Club Speaker Schedule

- October 23 Earl Clements - Commercial Realtor, “Doing the Tanger Outlet Mall Deal”
- November 6 Betsy Ford Maine - “Monuments Men”
NOTE: Dinner meeting 6 pm, Cross Creek Country Club includes spouses, significant other or friend
- November 20 Cathy Weirich & Angie Brown - Child Adult Services Advocates of Kent County.
- December 4 Lunch with the Grillin’ Guys (Joe & 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
- February 5 Mike Hughes - owner of Doorganics, door to door delivery of organic vegetables
- February 19 Lou Esposito – Davenport University Head Football coach
- March 4
- March 18 Col. Denny Gillem - Talk Show Host, National Security, Iran Treaty, Benghazi, etc;
- April 1
- April 15 Tom Vilella, Zeeland Farm Services—Green and growing at the speed of light



NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY OCTOBER 23 **12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA** **Earl Clements – Commercial Realtor** **“Doing the Tanger Outlet Mall Deal”**

Earl has been involved in some of the Midwest’s largest retail projects, bringing more than 35 years of realty experience to Colliers International. He was named a 2014 Newsmaker of the year by the GR Business Journal.