



## Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

October 9 2015

### 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

**Historian:** Don McWatters

**Sparks Editor:**

Neil Topliffe

[Sparks Editor](#)

Co-President-Elect **Tom Lawrence** called the meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with the opening invocation given by **Neil Topliffe**, followed by the pledge. **Rick Bartling** led us in song.

**Guests:** Rik Brown (Bartling), Karen Denim (Hinton) **Birthdays – Don McWatters – Happy 80th (10/13). Grateful Dollars** were received.

### Club News

- **NOVEMBER 6 MEETING** will be at **Cross Creek Condos Community Room**, Breton near 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, **Tom Lawrence** announced. Dinner at 6 pm will be catered. BYOB. Spouses/Friend are included. Speaker will be Betsy Ford Maine - "Monuments Men."
- **Kent Mudie** and **Syd Baxter** gave final directions for our **Run Thru the Rapids** fund raiser **October 17**.
- **Bob Smith** clarified dates for **Santa Claus Girls** preparation at the Knoll building on 36<sup>th</sup> Street SE – **November 9** begin sorting and routing bags; **December 19** is delivery day.
- **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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) - 10/21/15, 5:30p – Park Church, 10 E. Park Place NE.**

**MEETING THIS WEEK – FRIDAY OCTOBER 23**

**12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA**

**Earl Clements – Commerical Realtor**

“Doing the Tanger Outlet Mall Deal” is the topic this week, with Clements giving us the back story of it all.



## Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty  
that accompanies every  
right*

Happy  
Birthday

**Gene Gess (10/29)**  
**Jon Hess (11/7)**



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.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)  
[www.ysmenusa.com](http://www.ysmenusa.com)



10/9/15

## Camp Manitou-Lin Has Highly Successful Summer

**Bill Hinton**, Executive Director of Camp Manitou-Lin, provided the members attending the October 9 meeting with an update on the camping experience this past summer, noting it was one of the best attended camps in several years.

To give a sense of sights, sounds, energy and excitement of camper experiences, Hinton played a camp video clip, available online at <https://vimeo.com/136969960>.

“The facilities we have at Camp Manitou-Lin are amazing,” Hinton told the group. “The Welcome Center has been a tremendous help. Everyone knew where to go when they arrived at camp.” Plans are to renovate two cabins this winter, adding 13 feet that will allow for two more beds and full bathroom facilities. Grand Rapids Y Service Club donations from the White Elephant Sale will help make this possible. Wilhems Discovery Place is also scheduled for completion, Hinton noted, “totally changing our outdoor and nature program.”

Bill explained that they are moving to complete their program tracks, keeping it simple for parents and campers in



selecting the overnight camps they will attend. Age groups will increase the options they can select as they grow older, and have more options in deciding what things they do during the week.

In response to a question, Bill noted that one of the challenges that staff are actively addressing is increasing non-white participation which currently is at 15 percent. He also reported that the two summer scholarship students sponsored by our club attended and had an extremely positive experience. One student already has said both he and one of his siblings want to attend next year.

Hinton has committed to providing our club with a Scholarship for us to give to a worthy student again in 2016.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Editors note:** This is 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.

**Bob Gillette** has made **21** mission trips to Central America.

**Bob Williams** has paddled a canoe in the Boundary Waters every year for **15 consecutive years** (plus many more before that).

**Gene & Carol Gess** celebrated their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

????? – what do you have to share? Send your info to me,  
[ntopliffe@comcast.net](mailto:ntopliffe@comcast.net)

## 2015-2016 Club Speaker Schedule

- 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 Jocelyn Dettloff – Mary Free Bed Foundation Annual Fund Director
- March 18 Col. Denny Gillem - Talk Show Host, National Security, Iran Treaty, Benghazi, etc;  
(Still open)
- April 1
- April 15 Tom Vilella, Zeeland Farm Services—Green and growing at the speed of light



**2015 Run  
Thru the  
Rapids  
... and they  
are OFF! The  
start of the 5  
& 10K run.**