



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](#)



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region
November 6, 2015

Cross Creek Condos was the site of our November 6 meeting that included a catered buffet dinner. Fifty-three members, spouses and friends of the club gathered with the opening invocation given by **Pat Miles**.

Club News

- Gift certificates were presented to the leaders of the past year's major activities: **Syd Baxter** (RTTR), **Bob Williams** (Convention), **Greg Winer** and **Bill Streeter** (WES). **Neil Topliffe**, **Kent Mudie**, and **Bob Smith** were not present and will receive theirs at the next meeting.
- **Thank you to Sherry King** (Marilyn Lawrence's sister) for arranging this event's room rental at Cross Creek Condominium community room.
- **Ron Bickel** provided update on Santa Claus Girls activities and work sessions.
- **Member Dues** should be sent to **Tom Johnson** - \$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) – 12/16/15, 5:30p – Park Church, 10 E. Park Place NE.

MEETING THIS WEEK – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

**Cathy Weirich & Angie Brown - Child Adult Services
Advocates of Kent County.**

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

Chuck Marks (11/18)



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



11/06/15

Speaker tells of WWII Hidden Art Discoveries

Acknowledging the national importance of Veterans' Day, Marilyn Lawrence introduced the speaker, Betsy Ford Maine.

Betsy's father, Dale Ford, was assigned to the initial team of Monuments Men. He was stationed in North Africa as part of a unit responsible for constructing fake equipment that would confuse enemy aerial reconnaissance. His background in art and design qualified him for this specialized unit.

The team, ultimately 350 men and women from several countries, was spread throughout much of Western Europe after combat had retaken occupied areas in France, Belgium, and Germany. Significant repositories of art, statues, and gold were found in mines which provided a constant temperature and humidity for Nazis storage of pilfered works.



Dale Ford, left, inspects Rembrandt portrait found in German mine, 1946. From National Archives.

A highlight of his tour of duty was the discovery of a painting which belonged to a family member of the team and a photo of them posing with this painting was published in the book "The Monuments Men." Hitler had art experts as early as the late 1930's photograph and catalogue which high-quality pieces would be confiscated from museums, public buildings and personal collections for ultimate display in the Nazi Linz Art Gallery (never completed) in Austria.

The looting was systematic and many works, such as the Mona Lisa, were spared because they were moved to secretive locations. The reclaiming and return of stolen art continues to this day.

Dale Ford returned to Grand Rapids, becoming president of Kendall School of Art and Design and then led the design department at Widdicomb Furniture. Many thanks to Betsy for the presentation.

(Ed Note: Thanks to Tom Lawrence for his notes)

DID YOU KNOW?

- First **White Elephant Sale** was in **1939**
- Early sales raised \$400
- **Don McWatters** was **WES** co-chair in **1968 & 1969** - \$10,500 & \$9,000
- **Al George** was co-chair **1969 & 1970** - \$9,000 & \$13,000
- \$24,000 raised in **1974** with Frank Beltman & Bruce Elkins as co-chairs
- **2015** under co-chairs **Bill Streeter & Greg Winer** WES sales grossed \$92,000 before expenses.

Early information from WES paddle for "Y's Men's White Elephant Sale, 1939-1974.

2015-2016 Club Speaker Schedule

- 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;
- April 1 (Still open)
- April 15 Tom Vilella, Zeeland Farm Services—Green and growing at the speed of light



*Y's Clubs International approved six new **Time of Fast** projects for this year. Since 1973 more than US\$ 6,159,000 has been contributed to YMCA and community projects and emergencies around the world. Six new and 20 continuing projects in 14 countries are supported by TOF.*