



## 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

January 8, 2016

Co-President Wally Andersen called the meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with prayer offered by Martha Beals followed by reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

**Guests:** Thanks **Jon Hess** for bringing a friend. Welcome **Tommy Simms**, after two visits, deciding to join as our newest member – thanks also to **Syd Baxter** being Tommy's sponsor. **Grateful Dollars** were received and past **Birthdays** recognized.

## Club News

- **Bob Williams** distributed White Elephant Sale vendor contact lists to members to delete and update their vendors in preparation for a mailing to all members and member follow-ups in February. Lists need to be back to **Neil Topliffe** by January 20.
- **Bob Smith** thanked members for their help getting the bags to volunteer delivery people on December 19. He noted that we had about 1,000 additional deliveries this year.
- Praise for **Kent Mudie** for his work and dedication in securing the Plainfield White Elephant Sale site once again this year. **Greg Winer** announced our first work day will be unloading trailers at the WES site on January 23, 8:30 a.m. to Noon.
- **Tom Lawrence** is working to with **Bill Hinton** to send letters to Camp Manitou-Lin camper parents inviting them to become involved with our club. Plans for a **Winter Social** will be coming soon.
- Former member **Dan Parks** is still recovering from a fall down stairs a year ago. His new email is [danparksrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:danparksrealestate@gmail.com).

**Next Board meeting** (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) – 1/20/16, 5:30p – Park Church, 10 E. Park Place NE.

## Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty  
that accompanies every  
right*

Happy  
Birthday

John Carruthers (1/10)

Pat Miles Sr (1/15)

Kent Mudie (1/18)

Bob Gillette (1/21)

Ron Bickel (1/27)



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.runthrurapids.com](http://www.runthrurapids.com)

is a member of

Y Service Clubs International.

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



## Upcoming Speakers

- February 5** **Mike Hughes** - Doorganics, organic veggies home delivery
- February 19** **Lou Esposito**, Davenport University Head Football Coach
- March 4** **Jocelyn Detloff**, Author & Mary Free Bed Foundation  
Annual Fund Director
- March 18** **Lisa Rose**, author of Midwest Foraging - foraging for  
seasonal foods
- April 1** **Buck Mathews**, Author "The Book in Each of Us"  
buckmathews946@gmail.com
- April 15** **Tom Vilella**, Zeeland Farm Services, Green and growing at  
the speed of light
- May 6** **Chris Boden**, President and CEO of GEEK Group
- May 20** **Jamie Ryske**, Heartside Ministries GED and Literacy  
Coordinator
- June 3** Installation of New Members

## Where are we headed – A Military Perspective

Our meeting speaker, retired U.S. Army Colonel **Denny Gillem**, has spent his professional career dealing with world conflict. Today he is adjunct Civics professor at Grand Rapids Community College and host of the syndicated radio program, **Frontlines of Freedom**.

All in attendance were challenged to consider the current world conflicts and consider their positions. Gillem had definite opinions with reasons for holding his points. And he wasn't hesitant in challenging us in our individual positions. It made an those engaging session!

What points did Gillem leave us with? Here are a few:

- China ultimately may conquer Russia, an aging country that is not reproducing
- There will be at least five ISIS terrorist events within the next year
- Our Mid-East strategy is lame and ineffective. Why are we giving money to Iran?
- We continue to fly over Syria without dropping bombs leaving our enemies to have no fear
- Women don't belong in combat – they are physically incapable of that level of combat and in such a close relationship under the pressures of war it "puts pressure on a male soldier's marriage." They do have a place in the military, just not combat.

Gillem is the author of "The Smiling Ranger," a chronicle of military events witnessed during his years serving in the U.S. Army.

## RECOGNIZING STALWARTS OF THE PAST

Our club Historian, **Don McWatters** has contributed this list of those who have helped make this club great in the past, adding to those included in the last SPARKS provided by **Henry Capogna**:

Chuck Aldridge  
Paul Carpenter  
Bob Hitchcock  
Ade VanDellen  
Bill Muller  
Bob Wold  
Fred Kramer  
John Wiest  
Fred Gray  
Cal Owen  
Fred Zwald  
Jack Weise  
Brad Heyl  
Ken Hodge  
Harvey Duther  
Stanley Coates  
Gene Slep  
Leonard VanHeest  
Paul Kniskern  
Bob Green  
Ken Kutchin  
Bill Gallmeyer  
Charlie Wilcox  
Gordon Boozer  
Marv Meullenberg



### MEETING THIS WEEK – FRIDAY JANUARY 22

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

**Roberto Torres** – Executive Director, [Hispanic Center of Western Michigan](#)

Torres is the newly named director of the Hispanic Center, coming from Northwest Ohio, with a strong background in economic development.

### White Elephant Sale Planning Underway

We know a New Year has arrived when the announcement comes telling us where our White Elephant Sale will take place. The good news is that we will be back at **3450 Plainfield** again this year. The next challenge is that we members need to fill up those 50,000 square feet with product to sell **April 29 and 30**.

We already have five trailers full with our equipment and donations collected over the past months. Unloading the trailers **January 23 8:30 am to Noon** will launch our on-site work days every Saturday and, beginning in March, on weekdays as well.

**Vendors** lists are being updated and finalized. A mailing to 350 donor prospects is set to go out by **February 15**. The Y marketing department and **Neil Topliffe** are finalizing posters, signs, letters, information sheets, donation forms and receipts – all to be ready before **February 15**. That's also when **you members** will get your vendor donor contact lists to begin **making personal contacts** to generate the “stuff” that determines the level of success. “No product to sell means no sales to make,” an appropriate motto for all of us to remember.

The **ONLINE DONATION REQUEST FORM** has been activated and is the primary way for you and donors to handle **Pickup Requests**. There is a link on our web page, [gryserviceclub.org/club-events/wes](http://gryserviceclub.org/club-events/wes), and our **Facebook Page**, [White Elephant Sale – Grand Rapids](#). The link to the form is <https://goo.gl/E1xaLO>.

**Bill Hinton** has agreed to coordinate all donation requests and arrange for the pickups by we members in our vans, pickups, SUVs and cars. People should send email requests to Bill at [wespickup@gryserviceclub.org](mailto:wespickup@gryserviceclub.org).