



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

April 1, 2016

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 **Wally Andersen** called the meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y followed by prayer (**Bill Streeter**) and reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

Guests: Sue Winer (Lloyd); **Jerry Fennell** (VanderPol) **Velma Matthews & Paul Boskerma** (Capogna). **Grateful Dollars** were received and **Birthdays** recognized. **Trivia Time** by **Tom Johnson** provided a chance to give away one of hundreds of mouse pads from the White Elephant Sale!

Club News

- Tommy Sims, our newest member introduced himself to the group (see information below)
- **Bill Streeter & Greg Winer** alerted members we will need volunteers to open/close the WES site every day the last two weeks of April. Members/Volunteers night to buy will be Thursday April 28.
- **Henry Capogna** explained our original speaker for next meeting, Tom Vilella, can't make it so we will have a dynamic young musician in his place.

Next Board meeting (3rd Wednesday) – 5/18/16, 5:30p – Park Church, 10 E. Park Place NE.

MEETING THIS WEEK – FRIDAY April 15

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

NEW – Matthew Fisher – Talented Musician - NEW

We are in for a treat by this young musician who will come with his keyboard and talk about life as a musician in Western Michigan.

Our Motto
*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

*Happy
Birthday*

Bill Garrett (4/17)
Keith VanderPol (4/26)



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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.yservice.org
[YServiceClubsUSA web](http://YServiceClubsUSA.web)



04/1/2016

White Elephant Sale – What You Need to Know!

WORKDAYS:

- **MONDAY - SATURDAY**, 9:00 am to Noon. Setup, sorting and organizing. WE are in the homestretch and need lots of help.

DONATIONS/PICKUPS: Bill Hinton is the Coordinator

- Use the **ONLINE Donation Pickup Form** (preferred) at bit.ly/wespickup.
OR the print Form for ALL donation requests
- wespickup@gryserviceclub.org is HOW to make Email requests. If YOU need to talk to Bill call at 269.205.9007
- **DONATIONS** requests for pickup and deliveries to site are getting hot – now's when we really need your help.



PICKUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Contact Bill Hinton, bhinton@grymca.org or 269.205.9007

RECOMMEND FACEBOOK – LIKE US & FOLLOW US

www.facebook.com/WhiteElephantSale/

We have more than 500 people following us AND 2600+ exposures per



week. Spread the word to LIKE us and visit us to keep current.

WATCH FOR MAILINGS & MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2,300+ postcards were mailed this week to past sale attenders
- 1,200 Emails also went out to past customers. Thanks **Bob Williams**
- Radio stations are promoting us already – Thanks Henry
- TV stations already are lining up live broadcasts on sale days.

Welcome Tommy Sims

Our newest member, Tommy, introduced himself to our group as one being directed by his faith in God to learn how to work with all His children. He noted, as a child of long time Grand Rapids leader and activist, Ella Sims, and a child of the 1970-80s days of Black Power, he was angry and greatly influenced by causes that alienated him from many people.

“God eventually put me in my place, still being an activist for addressing inequality and racism” but being received and challenged by significant white folks like Syd Baxter and others to realize that all God’s people have a task to do in addressing the needs of disenfranchised youth. “God did this to me and all of us to go beyond our limited surroundings and circumstances and work together. I’m honored to be part of this group that cares beyond itself.”

UPCOMING SPEAKER

May 6 -- Chris Boden,
President and CEO of
GEEK Group

May 20 Jamie Ryske,
Heartside Ministires GED
& Literacy Coordinator

June 3 Installation of New
Members

“Reflections for my Children”

Long time Radio/TV personality shares life journeys

Following an introduction by a fellow former WOOD on-air personality Paul Boscarino – now General Manager of Blue Lake Radio – Buck Matthews entertained and challenged club members as he shared reminiscences and quotes from his book, “Getting Here: Thoughts, Stories, Poems, Recollections.”

“Half way through writing,” the author noted, “I realized I was writing this book for my children. You realize that they are only with you for 16-18 years. Your kids know little about most of your life, so we need to weave for them some of the fabric of our lives.”

Matthews urged us all to share our stories with our families. “We all have our stories,” he prodded. They are far more interesting when written down rather than having the kids go through a box of photos without a clue who is in them, he added.



He provided the television weather for 21 years but the variety show was the most rewarding to him. Matthews came most alive sharing how proud he was of the national award winning weekly variety talk show on channel 8, “Buck Matthews Show” on television.

The long time and talented radio/TV personality is a native of Maryland but has become a true lover of West Michigan in his 61 years living here. “The people here are different ... Unpleasant folks are hard to find in Michigan’s people of niceness.” These are words contained in a poem Buck shared from the book and reflect well his care for the area.

We have Buck Matthews to thank for high White Elephant Sales over the years. He hasn’t missed a sale in 28 years. “I even mention it on page 155 of my book, but you have to read the book to know what it says,” he said.