



## 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

May 6, 2016

## May 6 Meeting

Co-President **Tom Lawrence** called the meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y followed by prayer (**Gene Gess**) and reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

**Guests:** **Jerry Fennell**, and **Elizabeth** (Geek Group videographer. **Grateful Dollars** were received and **Birthdays** recognized.

## Club News

- **Tom Lawrence** passed around a basket inviting members to contribute to the annual Ys International **Time of Fast**.
- **June 15 – that's the date for the Steak Fry** for all members and WES volunteers, plus families, at Camp Manitou-Lin. Save the date – more information to come.
- **Bob Smith** reported that the White Elephant Sale Concessions netted \$1,920 this year, a gain of \$450 above last year.
- **Next Board meeting** (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) – 6/15/16, Camp Manitou-Lin, prior to the Steak Fry.

## MEETING THIS WEEK – FRIDAY May 20

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

**Jamie Rykse, Heartland Ministry**

**GED & Literacy Program Coordinator**



Jamie, knows firsthand the struggles of being homeless at 14 but eventually becoming an inspiration to many others, including those with limited education. "Bridging the Gap," prepares students for the GED, and aids in testing for the National Career Readiness Certificate.

## Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty  
that accompanies every  
right*

Happy  
Birthday

Don Kern (5/27)  
Bill Hinton (5/31)



Find us on  
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[-White Elephant Sale](#)  
[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

**Grand Rapids Y Service Club**  
475 Lake Michigan Dr NW  
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[www.gryserviceclub.org](http://www.gryserviceclub.org)  
[www.runthrurapid.com](http://www.runthrurapid.com)  
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Y Service Clubs International.  
[www.y-service.org](http://www.y-service.org)  
[YServiceClubsUSA.org](http://YServiceClubsUSA.org)



05/6/2016

## Create that “gizmo” - Geek Group has place for you

Once again our club was treated to surprises from a guest speaker. When was the last time you were in the West Side YMCA swimming pool? The gym? Or any other space once filled with sweat and exercise? Well, it's not your muscle burning, gut busting, splash spot any longer. But it sure has evolved to more than you would have guessed.

Today it's filled with creators, builders, geeks, master craftsmen and neophytes, yearning to create something that can't be done at home ... because they have no tools, laser beams, car lifts, computers or mechanical robots. Today it is The GEEK GROUP National Science Center and for \$20 a month, all the resources available are at your fingertips.

If you need a dose of energy to get you started once you decide to explore the space, there's no one better than our last speaker, Chris Boden, the CEO, founder and inspiration behind bringing together of kids, youth, adults to use all kinds of mechanical tools and equipment. To discover what it is like to create something. Or just to repair, fix, program or putter away in new ways. Chris has been at this for 20 years.



“We provide access to tools and equipment. That's what we do, provide the stuff and the place.” He noted that we have a whole generation of kids who have never had a chance to build anything in a school shop class. “We are the same as the Y but for the brain, not the body ... providing mechanical exercise and letting all ages push themselves to their limits of creativity.”

The Geek Group is located at 902 Leonard NW, open from 10 am to 9 pm. Cost is \$20 a month, families \$30 with access to everything available in the space. Check out: [thegeekgroup.org](http://thegeekgroup.org) or [facebook.com/thegeekgroup](https://facebook.com/thegeekgroup).

They have equipment for welding, auto repair, laser lab, lightning lab (in the old swimming pool), woodworking, textiles, print shop, and much more.

“We need retiree volunteers to help the younger generations who have never had a tool in their hands,” Boden said.