



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: Jon Hess

Pres. Elect: Keith VanderPol

Secretary:

Treasurer: Ken Haines

Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson

Past Pres: Wally Andersen
& Tom Lawrence

BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Bartling '18

Martha Beals '18

Ron Bickel '19

John Carruthers '17

Chuck Marks '17

Pat Miles Sr '19

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:



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

July 27, 2016

2016 STEAK FRY HONORS VOLUNTEERS



2016-17 Officers & Directors Installed



MidEast Region Director Bob Williams (Left) installed club officers including (LtoR) Jon Hess, President; Ken Haines, Treasurer; Pat Miles Sr., Director '19; Martha Beals, Director '18, and Tom Lawrence, Past President. See full board list in left column.

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

Andy Page (8/3)

Jim Casey (8/7)

Brett Butler (8/9)

Al George (8/9)

Curt Weaver (8/10)

Bill Peterson (8/18)



Find us on
Facebook

-White Elephant Sale

-Run Thru the Rapids

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

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Grand Rapids MI 49505

www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrurapids.com

is a member of

Y Service Clubs International.

www.yservice.org
YServiceClubsUSA.com web



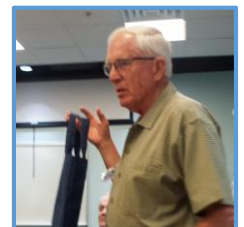
June 3 Meeting Highlights

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

Guests: Steve Dykstra (Winer), **Bill Frost** (George). **Grateful Dollars** were received and **Birthdays** recognized.

Club News & Member Activities

- **New Officers and Directors** were elected at the meeting (see photo pg. 1). Missing from photo are Assistant Treasurer **Tom Johnson**, and **Ron Bickel**, Director '19.
- **STEAK FRY** at Camp Manitou-Lin for all members and WES sale volunteers was held June 15 with 50 in attendance. New officers and directors were installed.
- **Run Thru the Rapids** will move to all online registrations this year, with 5 already registered. The give-aways will be in a “virtual bag” online as well. This event is believed to be longest running walk/run in Grand Rapids. DDM marketing provides pro-bono work on the web and Facebook pages.
- **Don McWatters**, club historian reminded us that our club was chartered on October 6, 1925, one of the earliest clubs formed in the U.S. **Al George**, who joined in 1962 is our longest active member.
- **Bill Garrett**, shared that one of the A Frame cabins at Camp Manitou-Lin that the club paid to have built, is now rebuilt on Bill’s property up north and available to any club member to use as a nice “get-away” spot.
- **Bob Gillette** shared that as part of the commitment he and his wife have to a mission project in Nicaragua, **Nancy** makes and provides 700 bags twice a year that are then filled with basic hygiene and dental supplies not easily available.
- **Syd Baxter** reported that the fund-raising for the Willem's Discovery Place - a nature center and education facility at Camp Manitou-Lin is almost finished and groundbreaking will be August 13, Noon.



**Y Service Clubs
International President
2016/17**



Joan
Wilson
Canada

Dear friends in Y'sdom,

I would like to introduce you to my IP e-News [\[Click here to download a copy\]](#). This electronic newsletter will provide you with pertinent information on Emphasis Month themes for the coming month, as well as a number of special articles.

We hope to keep our messages brief so that you will be able to read it in just a few minutes. We hope that it will provide you support in the work you do in your clubs to be up-to-date on our many projects and activities. I wish you all a successful start to the new club year.

I look forward to serving you and our movement in the coming year.

Joan Wilson

[\\$80,000 Gift to Camp Manitou-Lin a New Record](#)

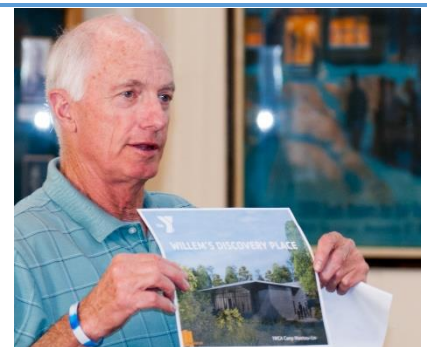
Tom Lawrence, club president, announced at the June 15 Steak Fry at Camp Manitou-Lin that the club board had approved an initial donation of \$80,000 to be applied to a three-year pledge of \$150,000 in support of the Willem Discovery Center capital campaign.

This is believed to be the largest single donation provided from the White Elephant Sale to the camp in support of capital projects.

Lawrence also shared that the club anticipates making a further donation in coming months, once the final income and expenses of the 2015 White Elephant Sale are tabulated. He also shared that we set a record in both attendance and gross income at the sale this past April, grossing well over \$100,000.



Manitoulin exec Bill Hinton thanks the club for its support



Syd Baxter shared a sketch of Willem Discovery Center



WES chair Bill Streeter thanks volunteers for making the sale such a success this year.



"We can't thank the Y Service Club enough for your long years of support," said Camp Manitou-Lin board chair, Ross Smelker.

Thanks for the Opportunity

Friends, this is my last issue as editor of SPARKS. After six years, it is time for a change. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the information flow process for the club and you.

I found this responsibility particularly rewarding, especially because, as a relatively new member, it meant I had to pay close attention. I finally got to know **and** remember all your names – and correct spellings (e.g. Loyd with one “l” and Petersen when “Wally” and Peterson when “Bill!” Not that I always did it correctly.

My one regret is that I wish I had done more with our International and USA news sharing – this is a real weakness of our club, I believe, while not taking away any of the terrific work we do in Grand Rapids. Nor the real benefit of gaining life-long friendships. We do miss out on the bigger picture of how much our international work touches so many lives.

Thanks. See you in the fall.
Neil Topliffe

Club Provides Scholarships to Parker School Students

For the second year in a row, our club is sponsoring two students from Parker School, to attend a week at Camp Manitou-Lin resident camp. One scholarship was provided by Bill Hinton and Camp Manitou-Lin for us to select the recipient. The other scholarship was made possible when members at a May club meeting donated more than \$500 on the spot to cover the cost for a second student to attend.

Thanks to **John Duiven** for overseeing this effort and working with Parker School to select the students.



(LtoR) Jose Ferendez,, Arabella Hardy, Armonie Palmer and John Duiven. Ferendez is the Parker School (Grand Rapids Public Schools) staff member who worked with John in selecting the students. Arabella is excited to attend the horseback riding camp. Armonie is looking forward to the zipline experience.



Outgoing Co-president Tom Lawrence congratulates incoming President Jon Hess and welcomes him as our new leader.