

# SPARKS

## Grand Rapids YMCA Service Club Mid East Region November 5, 2010



### OUR MISSION

As Y's Men International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, 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:** Henry Capogna II  
**Secretary:** Bill Phillips  
**Treasurer:** Bob Smith  
**Asst. Treas.:** Bill Smith  
**Chaplin:** Neil Topliffe

### BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Parks  
Mark Radtke  
John Carruthers  
Pete Chadwick  
Dan Miller  
Past Pres: Bob Williams  
Pres. Elect: John Duiven

### ACTIVITY CHAIRS

**Run Thru the Rapids:**  
Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie  
**Santa Claus Girls:**  
Bob Smith  
**White Elephant Sale:**  
John Lang  
**Sparks Editor:**  
Loyd E. Winer

President Henry called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Bob Williams. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given.

Guests were introduced and birthdays recognized.

Many Grateful Dollars were given (that election ads are over)

Thanks again to Dan Miller for arranging for the sandwich buffet.

### Club Business:

- Bob Williams and John Carruthers reported on their visit to the Muskegon Club.
- Bob Smith reminded us the Start of the Santa Claus Girls works starts Wed Nov. 10, at 8:30 AM, daily for about an hour and a half. Same location as last year. Delivery will be Dec. 18th (Not 19th as previously reported at the last meeting).
- Jon Lang reported that WES contacts can be made. Some stuff has been gathered already.
- Henry reported that the Strong Campaign is underway and be ready to give.
- Henry introduced Bill Streeter a new member, sponsored by Greg Winer – who presently leads the new member contest.
- Bill Smith reported club dues arre in good shape. Next board meeting in Nov. 17th.

### Program:

#### David DeJonge – In Quest of a World War I Memorial.

Mr. DeJong is a professional photographer with a studio in Hudsonville. He spends a lot of time going beyond the studio to create documentaries and educational exhibits “that motivate students and citizens to learn about sacrifice and challenge of survivors of life changing events.” For the last several years he has focused on finding, interviewing and photographing survivors of World War I.

He showed us power point pictures of the nine WWI survivors he has found and told stories about each of them. The

### **Did you know?**

One of our services is to function primarily as service for the YMCA and its youth.

### **Thought for the day.**

Unless you treat failure as part of the journey, you're never going to get anywhere.

*Tom Selleck*

last pictures and most time were dedicated to Frank Buckles, who at age 109 would be the surviving American veteran of WWI. DeJonge was with Buckles in Washington, D.C. as they toured the national monuments and were guests of President Bush in the White House. Buckles noted that there were monuments to every American war except WWI. There was a District of Columbia War Memorial dedicated in 1931 to 499 DC residents who died in that war, but even that was neglected and in bad shape. DeJonge also pointed out that when a WWI vet dies in Great Britain a million people will turn out. In the US the government seems to take little interest and did not even know who our WWI vets were or where they lived.

DeJonge is now on a quest to now only remember the nearly five million Americans that served in the "War to End All Wars," but to restore and rededicate the DC Memorial as a national monument to the 116,516 Americans who lost their lives in that war.

For those interested in more information or who are willing to make a donation, check out [www.WWIMEMORIAL.org](http://www.WWIMEMORIAL.org), [www.survivorquest.org](http://www.survivorquest.org) and/or [www.frankbuckles.org](http://www.frankbuckles.org).

A special thanks to Gary Davis for taking the minutes of 11/5/10

The benediction was given and we were adjourned.

### **Next Meeting**

November 19 and the speaker will be Katherine Freirechs who will speak on the "Lost Boys of Sudan".

If you have anything you would like to have in the Sparks or suggestions for the Sparks please let me know. I would welcome the information. *Loyd*