

SPARKS

Grand Rapids YMCA Service Club
Mid East Region
November 19, 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:
Lloyd E. Winer

President Henry called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Wally Anderson. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given. Tom Johnson gave two tickets for the Food and Winer extravaganza. John Rupert won
Guests were introduced and birthdays recognized.
Many Grateful Dollars were given. Thanks again to Dan Miller for arranging for the sandwich buffet.

Club Business:

- Ethan Ray explained his new web site for the club. He needs help with stuff to put on the site. Send photos or other stuff to be placed on the site. GRY Service Club.org.
- Bob Smith Reported on the progress of the Santa Claus Girls work.
- Don McWaters reported that his son, who was present, had won another State Championship for his Rockford HS water polo team. Eight in a row.
- Henry reported that The Strong Kids Campaign raised \$30,000 towards their goal of \$100,000.
- Henry encouraged the members to recruit new members.
- John Duiven is in Charge of the Holiday party and reported the date is Feb 11, 2011 at Kent Country Club. Set the time aside for a great time.
- Bill Smith reported that some dues are still not paid.

Program:

Henry introduce speaker Catherine Frerichs, an educator at Grand Valley University, missionary and author. Her program Lost Boys of Sudan, was relating her experience of raising three adopted Sudanese boys, 12, 13 and 14, in her home for ten years by herself. It was a life Story of the adopted boys who were on the run for a year before coming the the United States and her life raising these Sudanese boys.

The benediction was given and we were adjourned.

Next Meeting

December 3, The Program: "West Michigan Strategic Initiative"

Did you know?

You can make a donation to the Strong Kids Campaign on the Web at “YMCA Strong Kids Campaign Grand Rapids”.

Thought for the day.

You can accomplish virtually anything if you want it badly enough and if you are willing to work long enough and hard enough

Brian Tracy
Canadian-American Author

Introducing new member Ben Lundquist:

He reports

*I am retired after 35 years of teaching science at Grandville High School. My dad was a chemical engineer for Dow Chemical, my mother was educated as a teacher, and I was born and raised in Midland MI, all of which could explain how I ended up teaching chemistry. I earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry education and a master's degree in physical science from Michigan State University. While we were both students there, I met my wife, Sally. We have been married for 41 years and are parents of a son, Ryan, who earned his bachelor's and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees at MSU. (Our family's blood runs very **Green!**)*

Shortly after graduation, I was drafted into the U.S. Army (June 1970, lottery #135). After basic and advanced training, I completed my 14-month military career in Thailand where Sally was able to join me for the final six months.

In 1972, I was hired by Grandville Public Schools for my first and only teaching position. Initially I taught 9th grade science, then moved on to teach chemistry and advanced-placement chemistry until I retired in 2008. My duties at Grandville included coaching football and girls track, each for at least 25 years. I was fortunate enough to be a varsity assistant on Grandville's 1996 state championship football team and to coach the lady trackers to three conference titles. The interaction with students in the classroom and on the field was my favorite part of teaching and coaching.

Since retirement, my interests have expanded to include sports of all types, volunteer work, outdoor time at our cottage near Frankfort MI, several winter weeks annually spent along the beaches of the Florida Panhandle, and other occasional travel. In addition to the Y's Men's Service Club, I spend time as an Arcadia Dunes trail steward for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, help with sandwich-making and deliveries for Kids' Food Basket, and also have done some volunteer track coaching.

I look forward to a successful and fun Santa Claus Girls project!

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*