



SPARKS

Grand Rapids YMCA Service Club
Mid East Region
April 2, 2011

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

Opening prayer was given by Don McWatters and pledge to flag led by President Henry Capogna. We had 24 members present plus five guests. Spring Break has started. Yea, Dan Miller for arranging the food.

Happy birthday dollars: Bill Garrett. Grateful dollars were from Gary Mescher (dad doing well after stroke and going home), Henry Capogna, Don McWatters (thanks for Al George), Bill Garrett (for seven days of sun and Al George) and Syd Baxter.

Next Board meeting is April 20. Report that Syd Baxter and Kent Mudie had collected \$5,000 towards Run Through the Rapids.

WES update by Jon Lang - work crew Saturday morning. We need stuff to sell. Get the calls made; contact your family, neighbors and friends. Al George is picking up a lot of stuff this week.

President Capogna pushed us AGAIN shouting the White Elephant cheer.

PROGRAM –

Brad Howell introduced Stuart Ray, Director of Guiding Light Mission

Guiding Light is a Gospel Rescue mission. They have three main ministries: (1) Beds for 68 men per night - limit 19 days, (2) drug and alcohol recovery program - limit 38 men for 120 days, and (3) feed up to 300 evening meals daily to men, women and children.

Accepting personal responsibility is one of their main guiding principles. They seek “to reengage men in community” through classes, counseling and work therapy. Being held accountable is

Did you know?

How important the sale and its income is to the camp and the service clubs efforts to succeed.

Let's get out there and do our job. We need product.

Thought for the day:

Have you done your job?

Get those products and material for the sale now.

The sale is less than three weeks away.

Let's Go

important. All are given daily planners and have to have an exit strategy.

The ministry is not equipped to handle medical issues so they lean on referrals. 25% of the men stay only one night.

Guiding Light receives their money from individuals, churches and foundations. No federal or state funds are involved.

Tom Keller, a resident of Guiding Light, was then introduced to share some of his story. A child of an alcoholic family his mother died while he was a child. He grew up with no consistent family support, followed his father's life style, and had difficulty finding jobs that lasted, separated from his children. Guiding Light has turned him around, given him a sense of accomplishment and direction.

Charlotte Ellison, Executive Director of Heartside Ministries (of which Syd Baxter is Board Chairperson) was also introduced and added some information about the cooperative mission to the homeless of Grand Rapids, especially the lack of resources for homeless men with medical issues and the employment difficulties for felons and sex offenders.

Bob Williams closed us in prayer. (It was not known at the time that Jim Schneider is in Blodgett Hospital waiting for knee replacement surgery.)

Minutes by Gary Davis

Next Meeting

April 15, 2011

Ginny Seifert

From Paws with a cause

Jim Schneider was in the hospital due to missing a step and falling at the GR museum. At the time they planned to do a knee replacement but decided it was not an emergency so he was sent home and scheduled for surgery May 13 (last I heard).

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*