



# SPARKS

**Grand Rapids Y Service Club  
Y Service clubs International  
Mid East Region  
December 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:** John Duiven  
**Secretary:** Neil Topliffe  
**Treasurer:** Bob Smith  
**Asst. Treas:** Tom Johnson  
**Chaplin:** Neil Topliffe

## BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Radtke  
John Carruthers  
Ethan Ray  
Dan Miller  
Alex Kassel  
John Lang  
Past Pres: Henry Capogna  
Pres. Elect: Pete Chadwick

## ACTIVITY CHAIRS

**Run Thru the Rapids:**  
Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie  
**Santa Claus Girls:**  
Bob Smith  
**White Elephant Sale:**  
Gregory Winer, Chair  
**Sparks Editor:**  
Lloyd E. Winer

Welcome by Pete Chadwick, opening prayer by Al George and pledge to the flag. We had 29 members present plus two guests (Ken Haines and Dave Doyle) and speaker Sarah Lillie.

For some reason many members were wearing green including Jon Lang wearing a green football helmet with MSU on it. Grateful (and hopeful) dollars followed.

Bob Smith gave a FINANCIAL REPORT:

General Fund \$21,879. WES \$4,523. Run the Rapids \$3,953.

Bob Smith followed with a SANTA CLAUS GIRLS REPORT. At the moment we are 800 families and 1200 children ahead of last year. We will need 30 plus more drivers. Sign up sheet is going around for inside and outside workers for Dec. 17 deliveries. Outside be there at 6:00 AM, inside at 7:30 AM. Salvation Army will be serving hot drink and donuts for drivers.

Brett Butler reported SANTA CLAUS PARADE float entry was successful and fun. Over 60 campers and parents walked with the float. Ideas are already floating for next year.

Neil Topliffe sent around sign up sheet for offering invocations and closing benedictions.

**PROGRAM** - Henry Capogna introduced Sarah Lillie representing City Flats Hotel

Sarah Lillie is director of Marketing for Grand Rapids' "eco-friendly" City Flats Hotel and the City Flats Hotel of Holland. The hotels are part of Charter House Innovations based in Holland that designs and manufactures "quick service" restaurant furnishings and décor. Major clients include 17 well know national and international food service chains. Over the last six years they have produced 450% growth and 130 NEW jobs.

City Flats Hotel in Holland began as a demo to show what they can design and create. It was the first hotel in the Midwest and second in the world to achieve LEED Gold Certification. Each City Flats Hotel location boasts interior furniture and décor designed and manufactured with local materials and rapidly renewable resources. The majority of all finished products are manufactured in Holland, Michigan

### **Did you know?**

The Sioux Indian YMCAs were founded in 1879 by Indians who had been imprisoned for participating in the Minnesota uprising in 1862

**Thought for the day:**  
The best time to plant an oak tree was 25 years ago. The second best time is today.

James Carville

### **Next Meetings**

**Dec 16, 2011**  
**Speaker**

28 unique guest rooms, each designed to be unexpected. The hotel's street level lounge, CitySēn, offers full bar with local brews, wine, and creative cocktails, as well as small plates of food.

Sarah Lillie gave us an excellent presentation with lots of power point pictures and informative information.

Bob Smith closed us in prayer.

Thanks to Gary Davis for the minutes

**Congratulations to fellow member “Marathon Don” Kern for setting the world record for running a marathon in seven continents in 25 days 18 hours and 10 minutes. Great job Don!**

### **Meeting Prayers**

Chaplin Neil Topliffe still needs volunteers for the Invocation and Benediction for the year 2012.

To volunteer call Neil at 616-447-2941 or  
Email at [ntopliffe@comcast.net](mailto:ntopliffe@comcast.net)

### **SPARKS**

If you have anything I can put in the Sparks email me the information. I will be happy to include the information.

[lwiner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwiner@sbcglobal.net)

The Grand Rapids City Flats at 83 Monroe Center, inhabitants what was once the Fox Jewelers Building. The five-story hotel, designed to achieve LEED Gold Certification, features

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