

Finding aid for the Grand Rapids Round Table records Collection 508

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Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Creator:	Grand Rapids Round Table
Title:	Grand Rapids Round Table records
ID:	Collection 508
Date [inclusive]:	1926-2011
Physical Description:	1.5 Linear Feet 3 Boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>The Grand Rapids Round Table is a local chapter of the international service club The Loyal Knights of Round Table. The goal of the Grand Rapids Round Table is to establish connections with other social organizations in Grand Rapids, raise money to support local non-profits, and to promote camaraderie amongst members. Membership in the Grand Rapids Round Table is based on character and congeniality rather than professional classification. The Grand Rapids Round Table mainly hosts lecturers from different professions. The majority of this collection consists of weekly bulletins describing the proceedings of previous meetings with plans for future meetings. Additionally there are internal meeting records. This collection could be used to get an understanding of what different social programs were seeking to accomplish in the city of Grand Rapids through time.</p>

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Biographical / Historical

The Grand Rapids Round Table was established on May 26, 1926 at a preliminary founders meeting. The original founding members of the organization were Frederick W. Stevens, F.F. Wood, W.D. Wilson, Reverend Herbert McConnell, J.E. Kirbye, Dr. Carlton D. Reed, L.L. Benedict, John F. Huffma, Joseph R. Gillard, Fred N. Searl and H.J. Powell. These founding members established an executive board and committees.

The first public meeting for the Grand Rapids Round Table was held on June 18, 1926. The organization would go on to have weekly meetings in several different locations including the Association of Commerce Building and the Pantlind Hotel. Typical meetings included internal organization discussion with reporting from the different committees, considerations for fundraising for local organizations, and then guest lecturers who would speak about their research or other topics of interest.

The Grand Rapids Round Table networked with several different social organizations and programs in the city of Grand Rapids including the YMCA, the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Community Chest. The Grand Rapids Round Table also established connections to local businesses. Funding to support local charitable efforts came from membership dues and drives set up by the executive committee. Yearly, members would send delegates to the International Round Table Convention. This convention would teach members from all local chapters the best ways to increase in size as well as discuss the trajectory of The Loyal Knights of the Round Table at large.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains printed material related to the Grand Rapids Round Table. There are internal records such as meeting minutes; internal and external correspondence; membership rosters; committee meeting summaries; annual financial reports. There are also external records such as weekly bulletins sent to members that summarized meetings and financial billing statements for members.

While the collection ranges from 1926 to 2011, there are several years missing including spans from 1951 to 1974, 1981 to 1995, and 1999 to 2004.

All years represented in the collection will have at minimum weekly bulletins, which summarize the proceedings at the previous meeting and contain a description of upcoming meetings and events.

Most years will have a full year run of weekly bulletins but a few years only have partial records.

The earlier years of the collection are the most detailed. Internal records were not collected from 1940 to 2005.

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Arrangement

These records have been arranged by year and then chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Sarah DeYoung, accession number 2020.008

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Controlled Access Headings

- Clubs -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- records (documents)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Founders Meeting Summaries, General Meeting Minutes and Executive Meeting Minutes, 1926	Box 1	Folder 1
Meeting Minutes, Attendance Records, Financial Reports, etc. , 1928-1938	Box 1	Folder 2-12

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Weekly Bulletins, 1939	Box 2	Folder 1
Weekly Bulletins and Financial Statements, 1940-1947	Box 2	Folder 2-9
Weekly Bulletins and Financial Statements, 1948-1950	Box 3	Folder 1-3
Weekly Bulletins, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1996	Box 3	Folder 4
Weekly Bulletins, Board Meeting Minutes, Financial Reports, etc., 2005-2007	Box 3	Folder 5-7
Biweekly Bulletins, Board Meeting Minutes, Financial Reports, etc. , 2008-2011	Box 3	Folder 8-11