

Your



MID-AMERICAN

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

August/September, 2009

EXCHANGE

NOTES AND INFORMATION FROM AP PHIL SAMMER

ALOHA! It's been a busy two months since I became US Area president on July 1.

The first order of business was to organize the annual Area Council meeting that took place from July 7 to 9 in Santa Barbara, California. The council is the Area legislative body made up of the nine Regional Directors as voting members plus other invited guests such as the Area officers, Area Service Directors and the Regional Directors-elect. The decisions of the council are ratified by the Area Board of Directors that is composed of the nine regional directors and the Area president. This year's meeting was especially important because there was no Area convention.

We were fortunate to have eight of the nine regions represented as well as the majority of the Area Service Directors. The main order of business included the installation of Area and regional officers by past area and international president JIM MUELLER followed by reports from the regions and the ASDs.

Several decisions were made that affect the Area including:

- The reduction of Area dues to 50% for youth under age 26 in order to conform to the new Y'smen International standard;
- Setting 13 as the minimum age for membership in a US Area Y Service Club - this is not an International rule at this time;
- Changing the title of the Webmaster to ASD For Information Technology (IT/ Webmaster
- Adding the new YES program to the ASD for Extension;
- Acceptance of the bid by the Mid America Region to host the 2011 Area Convention.
- Set the dates for RDE training as November 12-15, 2009 in Torrance, California
- Discussed the possibility of using distance learning (Webinars) to train officers and service directors at all levels, especially the District Governors.

The council also discussed the need to insert an alternate name and emblem for Y's Men International in the International Constitution in order to remove the perceived gender bias, tie into existing alternate club names and clarify the relationship with the YMCA. The suggested name is *Y Service Clubs International*. The Council authorized me to seek insertion of the new name at the next International Council meeting.

The Council spent a great deal of time discussing the Membership and Extension Plan developed at a special seminar in November 2008 in Minneapolis. The Regional Directors agreed to begin implementing the plan immediately and to report periodically on progress. There is no more urgent need in our Area today than increasing membership in existing clubs and forming new clubs as well as attracting youth to the movement. The Plan

News and Views from the Heartland

FRED L.
LEONARD, Editor
408 Cedarwood St
Hot Springs, AR
71901
fleonard@cablelynx.
com

developed in Minneapolis addresses all of those needs but will serve no purpose unless it is implemented. The Regional Directors-elect will report on progress at the RDE training in November.

Finally we will elect a new Area Corporate Secretary in 2010 for a two-year term. I will send out more information about the election later.

During the second half of July I attended the International Council meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka representing the United States. The Council is the main legislative body of the movement and meets annually to discuss operational concerns, policy and possible changes or amendments to the international constitution and by-laws.

In the area of operations, the council voted to change the financial year from July 1-June 30 to April 1-March 31. This will allow the International Secretary to close and audit the books before the council meeting. It will also change the remittance date for international dues. The ISG will issue a memo regarding the new procedures shortly.

The council also voted to adopt an Environmental Policy as well as a Carbon Neutral policy.

Several "housekeeping" revisions to the International constitution were passed including the use of the name *Y Service Clubs International* as an alternate for *Y's Men International*. The older term *Y's Dom* was deleted. The emblem will NOT change.

Other items of interest:

- Y's Men International will pay the travel expenses of the the International Director of the Y'smenettes to attend the annual council meeting;
- The numerical results for each candidate in international elections will be published;
- The new international website will incorporate the Area websites.
- The council asked the regions to encourage attendance at the international convention next year in Yokohama since a minimum of 1250 attendees will be required to break even. The registration website will open in mid August at ic2010yokohama.com.
- The council accepted the bid from Stavanger, Norway to host the next International Convention, which will be held August 5-8, 2012.
- The next full meeting of the council will be in Yokohama with a mid year meeting in January 2010 in Geneva which I will attend.

Please feel free to contact me at any time at psammer@lava.net.

Convention Report to the Mid America Region

The 2009 Mid America Region Convention took place from September 19-20, 2009 in St. Louis, Missouri, was hosted by the three local clubs: Carondelet Y Service, City North Y's Men and Women, and Page Park Y's Men. Members of the Vincennes, Kankakee, and B. R. Ryall clubs also attended.

Past Area President FRED LEONARD represented the US Area.

Preceding the convention Regional Director John Mason conducted the Region Board meeting with his officers Regional Director Elect DEBBIE REDMOND, Region Secretary MCKINLEY JOHNSON, Region Treasurer CHARLOTTE FISCHER, and Past Regional Director JOANN GARDNER. A meeting of the Region Council was also held later during the Convention.

Two Y Service workshops were offered: Club Officer Leadership Training and New Member Orientation. Two others featured IT photo tools and social systems: Photo Shoot, Twitter, Facebook, and CallingPost. JOANN GARDNER, Brotherhood Fund delegate to India in February 2009, shared her experiences with photos and conversation.

To support the theme of the convention, **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**, guest presenter MEG HOESTER, Supervisor—Eco-Act—Missouri Botanical Garden, led attendees in an interesting game emphasizing her topic, *Exploring Sustainability*.

During the YMCA and Club Brag Session, DAN SCHULZE, Carondelet YMCA Executive Director, described the local and international work of the Metro St. Louis YMCA including the new city-owned Carondelet Community Rec Plex to be operated by our Carondelet YMCA. Club representatives described their most recent activities. Afternoon tours were offered for the out of town participants.

The Saturday evening entertainment was "A Night at the Races" using a bright and clever originally constructed game board, large enough for a large group to view comfortably. It featured six horses that traveled a straight track moving along with successive dice two at a time until a winner crossed the line. Participants wagered with play money to make it interesting with prizes awarded for the three top gross winners for the evening. Voices encouraging favorite "ponies" and exaggerated groans from losing bettors added to the fun of the evening.

Sunday morning brought us together in the mid twentieth century chapel for our worship service with song and prayer led by CHARLEY REDMOND. Pastor JEANETTE MOREHOUSE of the Praise Temple Spiritual Church offered an encouraging message for our service work.

Submitted by RACHELLE REEG

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (YEPP)

Did you know that the ideal of a formally organized exchange of Youth between Y's Men Families of different countries began with the Y's Men INGEMAR WAHLSTROM of Sweden and GEORGE GUSTAFSON of the USA when they met at the 1966 International Convention in Hawaii?

The first exchange student, LENA LUNDBERG from Sweden spent the 1972/73 School year with GEORGE AND AUDREY GUSTAFSON in St. Paul, MN.

This program is currently under review due to International complications but any and/all students interested in applying to go out may contact me for applications and additional information.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/YEPP
mc_johnson@sbcglobal.net
 314-652-7871

SHORT TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (STEP)

This program is similar to the YEPP program and it is still a viable and outstanding program for youth to participate in. This program does not involve attending school in another country. Rather, the focus of this 3-11 week program focus is on participation in activities of interest to both the student and the host family, club and community. In my opinion this is close to a vacation plan. We encourage your participation. To apply contact your local Y Service Club for further details and an official application form.

If additional information is required please feel free to contact me the undersigned.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/STEP
mc_johnson@sbcglobal.net
 314-652-7871

INDIAN BOUNDARY Y'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLUB

On the social side, we marked the end of summer with our annual Steak Fry, hosted by club member BRIAN MCELWAIN, HIS WIFE, KATHY, and their standard poodles, ALEX AND JAMES BROWN. Club members and significant others also enjoyed an evening at the theater on September 18. We attended *Murder at the Vicarage* (an Agatha Christie "Miss Marple" mystery) at the Theater of Western Springs. On the fund-raising side, we operated a very successful concession stand at the annual Downers Grove Hummer Park Flea Market on September 12.

Our most recent club meeting centered on work weekends in October: 1) a variety of tasks at YMCA Camp MacLean in Burlington, WI October 9 - 11; 2) clearing

brush and outdoor clean-up at YMCA Independence Place, supportive housing for homeless young men in Midlothian, IL October 17; and 3) preparing and serving a meal for area homeless people at the St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Downers Grove. We've also scheduled a wine-tasting event at Rich and BERNIE NIERSBACH'S home on Friday evening, October 9.

We all know what's just around the corner in November - Christmas Tree sales, beginning with tree delivery and lot set-up on November 21. We're scratching our heads and wondering how the year could have gone so fast?!

Submitted by LINDA DEAN, Club Secretary

ST. LOUIS PAGE PARK Y SERVICE CLUB

We the Page Park Y Service Club have been very busy these last three months as we attempt to grow and prosper as a viable service club to the YMCA and our International Community. Mostly our efforts have been toward the raising of money for the various International Programs and for our own Monsanto Family YMCA. How successful? Successful to a point.

We are still having growing pains associated with our membership and we are striving to achieve an identity. Hopefully, by the time of our first Anniversary which will be the month of December we will be on the right track.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, President

WASHINGTON Y'S MEN AND WOMEN'S CLUB

The Washington Y's Men and Women's Club (we voted last year for the name change!) had a very busy summer! We ran the concession stand for the Washington Baseball League again this year from April to July. All of the profits from the stand goes to the Baseball League. We had about 900 man hours at the Washington County Fair Food Booth and had another very successful year! This is our main fundraiser for the year. Soon after the fair we opened up the food booth for a weekend Regional Goat Show! This is a much slower event and the workers had plenty of time to sit and talk. Now meetings have started for the new year. TOM "BONES" PATTERSON is our president so we know we will have an exciting year! We have had 2 meetings so far and have 4 very interested people that hopefully will join the club!

Bob and I have just completed a trip to Alaska and then back to Seattle via bus. We will be boarding a ship on Sunday for a 3 week trip thru the Panama Canal ending in Florida! I started a blog on our trip — not sure if any Y's Men are interested in reading about our trip and seeing some photos. I'm hoping to find some Internet Cafes along the way to keep it updated as we continue. The website is: www.bobandlori2009.blogspot.com

Submitted by LORI BAUER, Bulletin Editor



President ANNE STUCKEL announced to our club that the 31st Annual YMCA Book Fair totals exceeded \$139,000 for the Carondelet YMCA, the Washington University Campus Y and the Literacy Program of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis. More than 7000 volunteer hours over a six month period produced this new all time high. Volunteers from the community, local Boy Scout troops, and a local high school's students involved in sports and music were among those joining in with these YMCA's and our club members in this outstanding achievement.

Since the Roll Back Malaria program is continuing for any clubs who choose to participate for this next year, our club will join with the Service Learning Class at Bayless High School in their second year in this program. Clubs in Canada are turning to youth

groups in their communities too. New interest in our clubs by young persons and their parents is an added benefit of these kinds of partnerships to our movement locally and internationally.

In November, the Carondelet Y Service Club will move from its first home. the YMCA built in 1925, to a new City owned state of the art Rec Plex facility to be managed by the Carondelet YMCA. This 76,000 square foot community center with indoor pool, double gyms, fitness areas and meeting rooms will become our new home. We will continue to carry out our mission and we will be remaining in the same neighborhood.

We look forward to this new challenge as well as the new possibilities of assistance to youth and families. We are anxious to share our work with new volunteers and to broaden their perspective from strictly local to international.

MID AMERICA REGION EOY REPORT AND BUDGET FOR 2009-10

MID AMERICA REGION, U S AREA Y's MEN INTERNATIONAL 2008-09		BUDGET 2008-09	TOTAL FOR YEAR	BUDGET 2009--10
Beginning Balance		2,475.84	2,475.84	2,064.25
INCOME:				
Regional Dues, Oct 08		1,708.50	1,533.75	1,513.00
Apr 09		1,708.50	1,581.00	1,513.00
New Club Gift		200.00		200.00
Recovery Dues in Arrears		528.00	528.00	
Interest Income		9.00	4.19	4.00
Int'l Dues		3,184.00	2,824.00	2,404.00
Apr 09		3,184.00	2,928.00	2,404.00
Area Dues		1,708.50	1,500.25	1,525.00
Apr 09		1,708.50	1,555.50	1,525.00
Convention Advance				500.00
Beg Balance & Income		16,414.84	14,930.53	13,652.25
EXPENSES:				
Regional Director		400.00	248.95	250.00
Regional Director Elect		150.00		150.00
District Governor		200.00		150.00
Regional Service Dir.		220.84	415.04	250.00
Secretarial Expenses		50.00		50.00
Treasurer Expenses		50.00	10.00	50.00
Regional Bulletin		1,300.00	870.27	1,000.00
New Club Gift		200.00		200.00
Region Board & Council		2,300.00	2,117.65	2,000.00
Extension		200.00		200.00
Mid Year Meeting		700.00		644.25
Awards		50.00		50.00
Region Conv Seed Money		500.00	500.00	500.00
Reg/Dist/Club Off Train		200.00		200.00
RD Area-Intl Convention				
Int'l Dues	Oct 08	3,184.00	5,619.62	2,404.00
Apr 09		3,184.00		2,404.00
Dues US Area	Oct 08	1,708.50	3,084.75	1,525.00
Apr 09		1,708.50		1,525.00
Youth Expense		100.00		100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		16,414.84	12,866.28	13,652.25
Balance on hand	6-30-09	2,064.25		
Account Payable	212.29			
	JoAnn Gardner			
	Charlotte R. Fischer, Treas			



MY QUILT

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth.

The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and death, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Hot Springs, AR 71913-6443
130 Werner St.
Young Men's Christian Association

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Permit No. 213