

Your



MID-AMERICAN

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1

November/December, 2010

EXCHANGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

AMIGOS

Recently on TV, they showed the old movie "The Three Amigos" which had been a favorite for my youngest son. The key word to this happens to be "amigos" or friends. Y Service Clubs is a way to gather friends together in a common bond. One of the things I truly love about Service Clubs is the fact that each club is separate and very unique. Each club has it's own talent or way of raising money and serving it's own community. For example, Washington Y's Men and Women's Club has a food booth at the County Fair while our club works the YMCA Book Fair, B.R. Ryall has their candy sales and Vincennes has done Buffalo Burgers. Each club is unique yet the common bond is the friendship and sharing between these clubs. If a club is looking for it's own identity, look to the needs of the community and how you might be able to reach out to them.



Seven (B.R. Ryall, Carondelet, City North, Indianapolis, Kankakee, Naperville, and Page Park) of the thirteen clubs in our Region were represented in our recent Regional Convention in Kankakee, Illinois on September 25th. Two clubs (Grand Rapids and Muskegon) from the Mid East Region were also in attendance. We will be working on our By-Laws and Constitution to bring it up to date. We need to continue to look to recruiting new members into our clubs and involving all of the clubs in the Region. Important events coming up will be the U.S. Area Convention which needs the support of all the clubs of the Mid America Region since it is hosted by this Region. July 7 to 10, 2011 in St. Louis has been selected. Interested in helping or providing support then contact **MCKINLEY JOHNSON** or **BOB DANIELS**.

Finally, we continue to look to strengthen our Region. I have had conversations with Kokomo, Indiana and more recently with Olathe, Kansas. Both have clubs that do not participate in Regional, U.S. Area or International but are still functioning as Y's Men Clubs. The exciting part is the contact from a YMCA in Chicago asking about starting a new club. Wouldn't that be fun to have a new club, new Amigos, and a new way to reach out to the community in Chicago.

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News and Views from the Heartland

Roll Back Malaria Memo from ISG TAKEO NISHIMURA.



The Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM) is the global framework for coordinated action against malaria. It forges consensus among key actors in malaria control, harmonises action and mobilises resources to fight malaria in endemic countries. In 2008, Y's Men International partnered with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the RBM Partnership, agreeing to raise funds for the distribution of nets in Sierra Leone. In order to maintain Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Y's Men International (YMI) must demonstrate that their programme of work is of direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations. The Roll Back Malaria project is directly related to achieving Millennium Development Goal 6 (MDG 6) (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) and, specifically, target 6C (Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases).

Malaria prevention also indirectly works towards achieving MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), MDG 4 (Reduce child mortality) and MDG 5 (Improve maternal health). Globally, Y's Men's Clubs raised 188,357 CHF during the first campaign, enabling the distribution of about 25,000 nets. After the success of this collaboration, the IFRC invited YMI to continue as a partner in the Alliance for Malaria Prevention together with eighteen other organisations (among them Canadian Red Cross, American Red Cross, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation).

The continued participation of YMI within the Alliance until 2015 - the deadline for the UN Millennium Development Goals - was approved by the International Council in 2010 earlier this year and prior to the International Council Meeting (ICM). During ICM 10, the Council expressed their appreciation for the efforts of clubs and evaluated this as an excellent global project in support of several United Nations MDGs.

The UN Committee met in Geneva last week to discuss the details of YMI's continued involvement within the RBM Partnership and the Alliance for Malaria Prevention, together with the IFRC.

The fundraising target of 500,000 CHF over five years was agreed upon, which equates to the purchase and distribution of about 75,000 nets. Funding raised by YMI is channeled through the IFRC and is only used for the costs associated with training and the purchase of long lasting insecticidal mosquito nets (LLINs). Funds are not used for overheads or administrative costs. Kenya, Liberia and Sierra Leone, have been identified as potential target countries - with the possibility of India - based on the malaria burden and the presence and strength of national YMCA movements and YMI. Final details of net distributions will be determined in coordination with IFRC and depends on their input and

priorities.

It is expected that local Y's Men and YMCA members will work closely with the National Red Cross/Red Crescent Society during the distribution. This will include a training component. The five-year project will officially begin on UN Day, this **Sunday, 24 October**

(<http://www.un.org/en/events/unday/2010/>). Please encourage your clubs to host a launch event on or soon after this date to generate awareness, interest and enthusiasm for the five-year project. Clubs could invite a health professional to speak at the club and better inform the group of the effect malaria is having on the world. Alternatively, clubs could plan a special kick-off luncheon or dinner for YMCA members and other guests, including community and business leaders, to seek their support with the clubs' fundraising goal. The project can be an opportunity to not only raise awareness of malaria but a chance to introduce clubs and YMCAs to the community.

World Malaria Day, on 25 April each year, will serve as a day to launch each new fundraising year. Clubs are invited to host special events to promote the campaign and create awareness of the disease within their clubs and communities.

Timeline:

- **24 October 2010 UN Day - Five-year period begins**
- **15 March 2011 First collection period (5 months) closes - deadline for receipt of first contribution at IHQ**
- **1 April 2011 First full one year starts**
- **25 April 2011 World Malaria Day - kick-off events for the second period of fundraising and awareness activities**
- **15 March 2012 Second collection period closes - deadline for receipt of second contribution**

Contributions for the first fundraising period should be sent to IHQ with the second semester dues by 15 March 2011. The timeline continues as above until 15 March 2015 when the fifth collection period closes. After a final collection period of seven months, until 24 October 2015, the five-year term will end.

Promotional material is currently being developed and will be made available soon. Also check the website for more information on the project (www.ysmen.org).

Please make yourself and your clubs aware that the RBM logo has changed and the new logo (pictured below) will be used in place of the old logo in all YMI promotional material and on the website. The principle of the partnership and the project remains unchanged.



"Y" We Serve

It all began when **BILL STUCKEL** suggested the theme of remembrance for our November 14 meeting, a late afternoon gathering in a celebration of our club, present and past. Members and guests entered the "Respect" and "Responsibility" rooms of the Carondelet Park Rec Complex (managed by our YMCA) with pans, bowls and trays filled with luscious foods for our "Pot Luck" dinner. Besides organizing the dinner, he also prepared the main courses. Vice President **CHARLEY REDMOND** had selected photos of occasions, celebrations, members and Book Fair work sessions from our vast treasury for an ongoing PowerPoint display.

The theme of remembrance developed into three components: history, memories, and commitment. President **ANNE STUCKEL** opened the meeting with the first component—history—defined as a record of significant events. She reviewed our founding in 1978 and our mission through its 32 years. **REV. JOHN KERR** gave the invocation and the blessing before the dinner. He and his wife **BETTY**, vital Book Fair volunteers for 14 years, were guests for the evening.

Memory—defined as a particular act of recollection—featured a candle ceremony. Charley read the names of our deceased members posted on the screen while Anne lit candles arranged around a central candle. John gave his personal reflections about the importance of memory to each of us as well as to all of us as a group. His words were both encouraging and lighthearted. Members then contributed their individual memories of club work and leaders.

DEBBIE REDMOND, Mid America Regional Director, described the history and purpose of the Golden Book and its relationship to the Endowment Fund. **BOB DANIELS**, chairperson of the International Endowment Fund Board of Trustees, had prepared a list of tributes and memorials for our members and club occasions in the Golden Book. Debbie then read the tribute for a surprised **NANCY MCCULLOUGH**, the 2010 nominee from our club.

The third component—commitment—an agreement to pledge or do something in the future—began with Charley's naming club members who have served Y Service Clubs International beyond the club level. Anne then invited Executive Director and member **DAN SCHULZE** to accept our contribution to the YMCA 2011 Strong Communities Campaign. She then identified our budgeted contributions for the 2010-11 year. She reminded us of special projects, international and local, and asked again for more volunteers for club committees.

The occasion ended on a sweet note—dessert; this time we saved it for last!

Submitted by **RACHELLE REEG**, PIP



THE CANDLE CEREMONY



DEBBIE
REDMOND



RACHELLE REEG



REV. JOHN KERR

Indian Boundary Y's Men's and Women's Club Notes, Downers Grove, Illinois

We are reinventing our club. We made the decision this summer to discontinue Christmas Tree Sales. In spite of a very loyal customer base, sales were declining each year and we decided we were dedicating a lot of work and a lot of time over the course of six weeks to a fund-raiser that was producing ever-diminishing returns.

We are now concentrating on volunteer service at the YMCA and in the community. Two of our members pitched in to help at an area fund-raiser for Breast Cancer research, seven of us laid a new floor in a preschool room at the Y, six of us prepared and served lunch to homeless individuals and families at a local warming center, and four of us helped the Y set-up the fieldhouse for its Gala fund-raisers earlier this month. We're going to assist with a YMCA Family Night Luau event in January, and we've been asked to help the Y plan and implement a "Tool Time" summer day camp curriculum for youth ages 8 to 12.

In August, we enjoyed our annual Steak Fry, hosted by **BRIAN AND CATHY MCELWAINE**. That month some of us also got together for dinner, followed by attending the play *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* We're looking forward to a breakfast meeting on December 11 and our annual Chili Supper on February 5.

We're trying lots of things, service-wise and socialization-wise, to find our new direction and focus.

Submitted by **LINDA DEAN**, Club Secretary



Y's Men & Women in Indy are getting ready for the holidays.

We are in the middle of our "No Candy Sale" Sale. We formerly sold the "World's Finest Chocolate" as a fund-raiser. With so many of our members retired and our numbers diminished, we lost many of our opportunities for sales. Now our members just make donations and call it the "No Candy Sale" Sale.

One of our longtime members, a charter member of our club and a strong supporter, **MIKE BARTH**, is seriously ill and, this past week, entered hospice.

Many of our members within the Region may remember Mike.

We presently are planning a program for our World Day of Prayer. It will be November 17.

In honor of Veterans Day, our member **HENRY MEIER** planned a program with a presentation by a United States Marine.

The club will provide and sponsor a pancake breakfast on Saturday, November 20, at the Ransburg Branch YMCA. The breakfast doubles as a service to and a social event for the young people and adults who are present as well as a modest fund-raiser.

Our club continues to meet each Wednesday at noon for lunch and a program.

Submitted by **ANTOINETTE RESSINO**

B.R. Ryall Y Service Club

Our opening meeting in September featured a talk by our new Executive Director **WALTER JOHNSON** on his vision for our YMCA. He held the attention of the audience as he explained what makes the Y different and a life changing experience.

In October we learned about the connection between the Boy Scouts of America and the YMCA which gave so much help and support to the founding of the Boy Scout movement in America.

November's meeting celebrated the first permanent Army Division known as the "Big Red One" which fought valiantly in World War 1 and 2 and in the wars to follow. Its museum is in Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. The park has a large beautiful garden, golf course and house of Colonel McCormick of the Chicago Tribune. He was an officer in WWI and owner of the Tribune. He died and left his Estate for public use.

Our traditional "Members Christmas Dinner party" will be held at the **GLENN'S** in December. This event is one of the year's highlights.

Fund-raising is in full swing selling Fannie May candy where get 30% of the sale and six types of nuts where we also get about 30% of the sale.

The Y has a new Youth Director and there is a possibility of starting a Youth Club as he is working to attract teens from the high schools to the Y. To offset the cost of guest passes he is developing a com-

munity service program where they can earn free guest passes. That program would be a great fit for a youth club.

We wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Submitted by: **BENNO FRIEDRICH**, Club President

IN LOVING MEMORY -

LORIN FLEMING, most recently of the Washington, Iowa Club died Monday, September 27th. Survivors include his wife, **ARLENE**; two daughters **LORI BAUER (ROBERT)** of Washington, IA, and **SUSAN FLEMING-HANSEN (THOMAS)** of Raleigh, NC.; a son, **JACK FLEMING (PAULA RODRIGUEZ)** of Seattle, Washington; 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.



Lori wrote: *"Thanks everyone for your cards, e-mails and phone calls after my father passed away. Dad will be missed. Dad was a charter member of the Cedar Falls Y's Men's Club. After it disbanded, he joined the Black Hawk County Y's Men's Club. And finally after that club disbanded, he joined our Washington Y's Men's Club. He was a longtime member of Y'sdom. I remember attending my first YMI Convention in 1964 in Estes Park, CO. Special thanks to mom and dad for attending the 1978 convention in Australia and allowing me to go along. It was on that trip that I met my husband, Bob (he was a delegate from the Washington Club) and we were married one year later!"*

God in a Box Continued From Back Page -

this weekly event becomes our life of worship. Rather than being the consummation of a week of daily worship, it becomes the primary experience in our week. This means everything important about our worship depends upon that small amount of time we are the worship box.

Second, this approach to worship helps us secularize and compartmentalize our lives, so that worship does not intrude into our workplace, our schools, our recreation, and even our families. We give God his hour as the special box, and then we can do pretty much what we like with the rest of our time. We confine God to the box we can do pretty much what we like with the rest of our time. We confine God to the box so we can rule our own lives.

God has never wanted us to see our worship as only a little bit of time on a holy day at a holy box. Worship cannot, and must not, be separated from the daily lives we lead. Simply offering holy words on a holy day are not God's goal for us. He wants us to be living sacrifices that are freely offered to him out of thankful hearts touched by his rich mercy and grace. (*Romans 12 : 1-2*). While God demands that we worship him with reverence and awe, we must understand that he is not focusing as much on what happens in our holy box as he is focusing on what happens in our daily lives. (*Read Hebrews 12:28-29 and Hebrews 13 : 15-16*)

Submitted by **CARL E. MILES**,

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

The MAX is going paperless for those persons who would like to receive their copy of the MAX by e-mail. This will result in a significant cost saving to the Mid America Region in printing and mailing costs.

Your MAX would be sent in full color with more legible pictures and artwork.

Only a few members made the effort to let us know you would like to get your MAX in a more green manner.

To get the next MAX by e-mail, just send a request e-mail to:

FRED LEONARD at fleonard@cablelynx.com

You will be added to the list for the next newsletter.



US AREA CONVENTION

JULY 7-10, 2011

Y SERVICE CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

MISSOURI ATHLETIC CLUB

405 Washington Ave. ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102

314-539-4424 www.mac-stl.org

Come to St. Louis, your host city, the Gateway City, on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River.

Stay at the famous, exclusive, private **Missouri Athletic Club** (referred to locally as *the M-A-C*). You will marvel at this historic **building** in downtown St. Louis **with its old club warmth and comfortable atmosphere**.

Refresh and revitalize our spirit of service through *Exciting, Dynamic and Relaxing* forums **and** up to the minute training. The theme of INNER STRENGTH-CENTEREDNESS will give support to our work in the community, with the YMCA and with our fellow members in our global movement.

Embark on a new venture: a **Youth Convocation** for high school and college ages with active service projects and "hot topic" programs collaborated with the YMCA of Greater St. Louis and world-class local institutions. (*Separate registration* and details will be coming soon.)

REGISTER NOW--\$285.00 per person for eight (8) meals, including two gala dinners. Help us plan a more complete package for your enjoyment. Complete and mail the registration form along with a token fee of \$50.00 per person to be applied toward your complete registration fee of \$285.00.

RESERVATIONS \$80.00 per night not including taxes, single or double. (*Tax rate is only 7.25%*) Parking in the MAC garage is \$10.00 per day with in and out parking. (40 of 80 rooms have been designated for us.) Call the Missouri Athletic Club (MAC) 314-539-4424 for room reservations and other information. Check out their website www.mac-stl.org

EXPECT TO HAVE FUN, receive awards, surprises, gifts and entertainment. We have scheduled free time for local excursions to attractions. There are over 275 points of interest, many within walking distance.

***COME EARLY-- STAY LATE-- AT THE SAME RATES
THREE DAYS BEFORE and AFTER THE CONVENTION***

HOST COMMITTEE

McKinley Johnson, Chairman
 Rachelle Reeg, Past International President, Honorary Chair
 Bob Daniels, Registration
 Carl Miles and Ariani Friedl, Program
 Debbie Redmond, RD Mid America
 Anne Stuckel, Area Corporate Secretary, Publicity
 Charley Redmond, Displays and Tech Support
 Dan Loving, Community Relations
 Christine Justice, Hospitality
 Dave Evans and John Mason





**Y SERVICE CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
2011 U.S. AREA CONVENTION
JULY 7, 8, 9, 10, 2011
MISSOURI ATHLETIC CLUB
405 Washington Avenue
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63102-2183
THEME: "INNER STRENGTH – CENTEREDNESS"
Honorary Chair **Rachelle Reeg PIP****

REGISTRATION FORM:

Last Name:, First Name, Middle Initial _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

Region: _____ Club Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

How do you want your Name to appear on badge	Position (RD, RSD, ASD, Club Officer)	Spouse/ Guest	Youth /Age

Please Indicate Yes No

Is this your first Area Convention? _____ _____

Please specify special needs (dietary restrictions): _____

Registration fee includes eight (8) Meals, Entertainment, Programs and Workshops – **Deadline June 20, 2011** for full registration - Hotel Registration not included. (Please mail with \$50 per person deposit check)

Full Registration \$285.00 per adult x _____ = \$ _____

Late Registration \$300.00 per adult x _____ = \$ _____ per adult after June 20, 2011

For Hotel Accommodation – Contact Missouri Athletic Club (MAC) at 314-539-4424, www.mac-stl.org Single, Double and King \$80.00 plus tax, In and Out Garage Parking for \$10.00 per day. For additional information and/or assistance contact Bob Daniels @ 314 368-3699 E-Mail bdaniels3@prodigy.net 1323 Woodpath Dr, Florissant, MO 63031 or McKinley Johnson, @ 314-651-7871 E-Mail mc_johnson@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: Come Early – Stay Late Same Hotel Fee – 282 Things to do and places to go when visiting St. Louis and most of them are free and in walking distance: Music Festivals, Mix of Shops/Food/drinks clubs and restaurants abound/ bowling alley, Casinos, Museums, Baseball, Free Zoo

If you don't see information regarding your club, It's because I didn't receive anything from your club corespondent. If your club doesn't have a club corespondent for the MAX or Alliance, please have someone appointed and let me know who so I can remind them of deadlines.

God In A Box by Phil Ware

Do you remember the jack-in-the-box toys from your childhood or children’s childhood? Weren’t they great fun! You turn the crank on a brightly colored box while music plays and then ... POP ... out jumps the figure. At certain ages, a jack-in-the-box can be hours of fund for both adults and children!

I fear, however, that as we have grown up and “gone to church,” we’ve taken our jack-in-the-box mentality with us. We focus our attention on special boxes of worship. We attend and see what happens in those boxes to surprise and delight us. Based on whether we like what happens or not, we go away feeling like we’ve had a good or bad worship experience. Either way, we often feel we’ve put in our time to fulfill our worship responsibilities, punched our ticket for another week, and can then pretty much go live our daily lives as we choose.

This approach to worship has sometimes been called the “God in a box” syndrome. While modern Westerners didn’t invent it, we’ve perfected it to an art form! We build elaborate and expensive boxes — calling them auditoriums, cathedrals, worship centers and a host of pious and important sounding names — and focus incredible amounts of attention on what happens in them. We develop a mind set that suggests that if we can get our week-end worship event done correctly, we’re set for the week and have punched our ticket for heaven. We can go back to our work, recreation, parenting, schooling, and sinning while being pretty much okay it we can go get another dose of the “worship thing” again next weekend.

Two great dangers have become realized among us with this approach to worship.

First, we put way too much pressure on what happens in the worship box to be breath-taking, earth-moving, and spine-tingling. Rather than being a part of our life of worship,



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