

AYR DICK STOLL PASSION AWARD

JOHN R. MOTT TIRBUTE:

A philanthropist and YMCA leader and Nobel Prize winner (1946), John R. Mott once said ‘YMCA WORKERS SHOULD BE INDIVIDUALS WITH INTENSE MORAL ENTHUSIASM, ABLE TO ORGANIZE, LEAD AND INSPIRE OTHERS TO WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY. ABOVE ALL, THEY NEED TO BE GREAT IN CHARACTER’.

The Mott award will recognize a retired YMCA Director for his contributions and efforts in the initiation of Fund Development practices in order to sustain and grow community programs and maintain support and development of various initiatives throughout the movement in service to the YMCA/AYR and or other community service groups. With the likeness of John R. Mott, this nominee is a person of great character and vision to ‘STAY THE COURSE’ and to plant the seeds of YMCA discovery and growth in the development of funding opportunities.

INTRODUCTION OF DICK STOLL:

Ted Hawkins in his nomination of Dick Stoll for the John 17:21 Passion Award in the category of Fund Development Achievement John R. Mott Award summarized his thoughts with this statement: “Dick Stoll was on the group that started NAYDO. He was and is what the C in the YMCA stands for. Dick Exemplifies what all YMCA professionals strive to be in their professional career.”

That should be enough said about Dick Stoll and his love for the YMCA movement and for all the “Y” does to change lives every day. But, Ted goes on to say that after a number of ‘training’ experiences that positioned him for his future at the St. Louis YMCA, Dick came to St. Louis on July 1st, 1971 with a major portfolio of financial development. At that time, the St. Louis YMCA did have an endowment fund, but a fund with very little activity. Looking for a way to create additional interest in this fund, Dick developed the “LAMPLIGHTERS SOCIETY” for the St. Louis YMCA.

Why a “LAMPLIGHTERS SOCIETY”? Dick researched the story of Sir Harry Lauder, a man who authored the story of those responsible for lighting the street lights. And from that research he learned found that when the lamplighter disappeared around the corner, one knew he had been there by the lights he left behind. And that is the story of Dick Stoll.

Dick’s work with the ‘LAMPLIGHTER’ group didn’t stop when he retired. He has continually worked at developing a bigger and better ‘LAMPLIGHTER’ group. As a result, in 2010 the St. Louis YMCA established the Dick Stoll ‘SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD’ – an award given annually to a St Louis YMCA lay or professional who personifies the criteria outlined for the award.

- Dick's work has produced an endowment that has grown to over twenty million dollars – with most of it related to the work that Dick has accomplished.
- His dedication to work with the YMCA has never changed or abated. Since his retirement he has been a member of the camp board, always working at developing dollars for the fulfillment of their mission. He has served on the camp endowment committee with the same purpose in mind.
- His commitment to the YMCA has never changed. He has served as President of the Greater Ozark Chapter of AYR along with many other offices of the chapter.

Commitment and dedication of Dick to the principles and mission of the YMCA probably relates closer to John R. Mott than anybody else as I think over the roster of great YMCA persons of the past, according to Ted Hawkins.

JOHN 17:21 AWARD STATEMENT:

In John 17:21 Jesus prays for his Disciples "THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE FATHER! MAY THEY BE IN US JUST AS YOU ARE IN ME AND I AM IN YOU. MAY THEY BE ONE SO THAT THE WORLD WILL BELIEVE YOU SENT ME!" It is this application of unselfish giving and oneness for all humanity that was instilled in the Disciples that is also found in Dick Stoll who has given of himself for the betterment of our movement, his community and for humanity.

We wish to recognize this INTREPID hero from our YMCA family who has not only excelled in his career but also in his retirement and has made significant accomplishments in developing, supporting and communicating his passion for others.

In summary, Dick Stoll has "STAYED THE COURSE" and has followed the vision of John R. Mott that YMCA leaders should be individuals with intense moral enthusiasm, able to organize, lead and inspire others to work for the development of their community. But above all – Dick is "GREAT IN CHARACTER!" In other words "TO BE ONE WITH THE FATHER." This is the inherent vision of early YMCA leaders such as John R. Mott and has been the inherent vision of Dick Stoll.

WELCOME DICK STOLL:

Recounting the lyrics of our Praise Song: "I REFUSE TO SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO WHAT GOD HAS CALLED ME TO DO MYSELF, OH I COULD CHOOSE NOT TO MOVE BUT – I REFUSE!"

Dick Stoll was not able to be with us today, but I invite Ted Hawkins who nominated Dick, to stand and accept the John 17:21 Passion Award for Dick at this time. Dick will be presented this recognition at an upcoming Ozark Chapter meeting this fall.