

AYR DONALD ZERWER PASSION AWARD

HAROLD KELTNER TRIBUTE:

Harold Keltner was the originator of “Y” Indian Guides in St Louis in 1926. This Parent-Child activity was one of the first Mentoring programs in the YMCA. In recognition of Harold Keltner and his ability to communicate the needs for mentoring and the development of other Parent-Child programs in the YMCA this award is given to a person who has shared their verbal and written communication talents and skills to inform and share the Mission and Purpose of the AYR/YMCA organizations.

Information – Information – Information. Everyone seeks it and everyone wants it but only a few individuals possess the talent necessary to be creative and original in expressing their thoughts and concerns in communicating with others using the verbal and written word. Whether sharing the Spiritual Renewal message, providing needed information and/or updates or developing training and educational materials, communication skills are an art in its most wonderful form. In the likeness of Harold Keltner, this nominee is a person of courage and vision to see and communicate a need for new direction.

INTRODUCTION OF DONALD ZERWER:

Jerry James in his nomination said “Donald Zerwer has definitely enhanced the interpretation of the YMCA Christian Mission throughout his 47 years of YMCA and AYR careers. The impact of his Christian passion and creative abilities in the presentation of his writing, editing and communicative techniques has been recognized nationally by his many colleagues and friends. In fact, many of us feel that with time and recently becoming a grandparent, his creativity and love of service have become more intense.

Don Zerwer has published the McCoy Newsletter since 2003. Its appearance and overall quality, as seen in his choice of graphics and words, make the newsletter exemplary. His newsletter publication has received rave reviews from chapter members along with other chapter officers and AYR leaders. Don has been encouraged by Craig Altschul to assist him in producing the national AYR Report.

With Don’s creative ways, particularly in the chapter quarterly report and all special events and meetings, he always produces some clever way of communicating the information. Chapter members depend on Don to keep them apprised of chapter functions and even YMCA issues of national importance. He maintains the prime data base, current addresses, zip codes and last know position of all the chapter membership and contacts appropriate committee members and families regarding birthdays, anniversaries, sickness and celebrations of life. In his work with Netzel and Associates, writing and editing the Capital Development Planning Manual and later editing the YMCA Capital Development Planning Manual for the YMCA of the USA are additional examples of Don’s written skills and expertise.

Don is most passionate about the “Y” and its mission. He wants the younger generation of “Y” Directors to embody the love and passion of what the organization stands for – SERVICE! The total organization institutionally is currently in a ‘change’ cycle in many ways and Don feels that we must have that love of and belief in the basic Christian values and core purpose upon which the YMCA is founded.

Don has been involved with our professional organizations going back to AOS , APD and now AYP days. He is an active and regular contributor to our EAF fund and has assisted in revising the NAFYR Logo in 2004 according to Dale Ventres.

Don has used his communication skills to transform into keen fund raising skills. He started this special area in 1973 at the Cupertino Branch capital campaign and then later became the VP of Development at the San Diego Association in 1984. Upon his retirement, he became a consultant with Paul Netzel Associates until 1996. During this time period Don assisted Steve Burns in the editing of the manual – ‘20 Steps Necessary for a Successful Campaign’ used by many YMCA’s as a road map in planning an effective capital campaign and outlining the importance of one-on-one face to face solicitation and personal interaction with prospective donors.

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 Don Zerwer who has given of himself for the betterment of our movement, his community, chapter 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 Christian Passion with others.

Don is a great example and model of what the nature of the YMCA is all about. He definitely qualifies for what one criterion calls ‘GREAT IN CHARACTER’ by inspiring and leading younger Y Directors. Don exemplifies, by his life and actions the image of historic Y leaders like Harold Keltner and John R. Mott.

RECOGNITION OF DONALD ZERWER:

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!!”

Don Zerwer has always REFUSED the status quo and ‘TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND DO WHAT DON WAS MADE TO DO!

It is my privilege to ask Donald Zerwer to stand and receive the AYR Reunion 2011 John 17:21 Passion Award in recognition of his application of unselfish giving and oneness for humanity