

AYR DOTTIE ELEY PASSION AWARD

GEORGE WILLIAMS TRIBUTE:

George Williams, in 1844 founded the first YMCA, in London England. Since that eventful date, the YMCA has grown and spread throughout the world and is now established in over 160 countries . George Williams had a vision for the YMCA and this vision has been carried forward by the outstanding and excellent leadership skill of “Y” Directors for 170 years.

Most people see the short term but this nominee had the vision to see the finish line and establish the path to navigate the crucial aspects of excellence in leadership and achievement through her volunteer efforts in AYR. Recognition for LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT as a AYR volunteer is not only distinguished but is a measure of endurance and the giving of oneself to the development of others.

In other words, in the likeness of founder George Williams, this nominee dedicated her time as a retired YMCA Director to the improvement of others and demonstrates ‘SERVICE ABOVE SELF’.

INTRODUCTION OF DOTTIE ELEY:

Scotty Washburn in his nomination of Dottie Eley for the George Williams ‘LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT’ award said “I feel that the Chapter Leaders are among those least recognized. The Heart and Soul of the Association of YMCA Retirees is in the fellowship of our Chapters. This nomination is in keeping with the criteria of the ‘unsung’ and ‘intrepid’ leaders who give of their time and energies to serving on the chapter level and receive minimal recognition for their efforts. Dottie has contributed over 23 years of dedicated service to the Allen-Stone Chapter as one of the longest serving and most active members on the Board of Directors. She continues in leadership roles for Membership/Finance/World Service and Memorial Programs.

Dale Ventres in his nomination of Dottie Eley remarked that Dottie has given a lifetime of outstanding service to IARD, NAFYR and AYR. Dottie retired from full time professional YMCA service in Seattle, WA as VP for Financial Management on the Metropolitan staff in 1988. She began her “Y” service in accounting while still in college with the Pacific South West Area YMCA Staff based in Los Angeles. Since retirement she has been called back into active service utilizing her specialty to assist local Associations in recovering from financial difficulties.

An example of Dottie’s expertise is when she served as the registrar in 1989 for Hal Gibb’s IARD Triennial Reunion in San Francisco. Dottie balanced to the penny which was no small feat inasmuch as this was held in conjunction with the APD Conference which included seven different fee options plus registration and hotel charges. Knowing Dottie, she probably did this by hand on a spread sheet and not an IPAD.

In 1991 Dottie won the election for the IARD Secretary/Treasurer and remained in that national office for twenty years. Prior to that, she was an officer in her Allen-Stone Chapter of IARD. Our research shows that NO individual has been more continuously active in YMCA Retired Service at the national level than Dottie Eley. Dottie has been serving in some capacity in the YMCA since she was in college and is one of the few that has been honored with the YMCA establishing a College Scholarship in her name. If Dottie is not involved in either the national or chapter level of AYR you will find her just as charged with her passion for her Congregational Church in Seattle.

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 Dottie Eley who has given of herself for the betterment of our movement and for humanity.

We wish to recognize one of our most 'INTREPID' hero's from our YMCA family who has excelled in her career and in retirement and has made significant accomplishments in developing, supporting and communicating this PASSION for others.

In summary "TO BE ONE WITH THE FATHER" – this was the inherent vision of the early leaders of the YMCA such as George Williams and the inherent vision of Dottie Eley.

RECOGNITION OF DOTTIE ELEY:

Our Praise Song reminds us of Dottie's dedication and application: "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!" Dottie always knew it was time for her "TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND DO WHAT SHE WAS MADE TO DO!"

It is my privilege to ask Dottie to stand and receive the AYR REUNION 2011 JOHN 17:21 PASSION AWARD in recognition of her application of unselfish giving and oneness for humanity for LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT.