

ASSOCIATION OF YMCA RETIREES
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
January 25-27, 2011
Best Western Orlando Gateway, Florida

Attendance: Julius Jones, President; Bea Halk, West Vice-President; Bill Camerson, East Vice-President; Betsy Jacobs, Membership Vice-President; Jane Kirk, Secretary; Richard Hill, Treasurer; Dottie Eley, Assistant Treasurer; Hank Baglemann, Member-at-Large; Bob Rule, Past President; Stew Brown, Archivist; Dave Bast, Webmaster; Maurice Hight, President, Central Atlantic; Bruce Wands, President, Greater Ozark; G. Dale Packer, President, Chambers; Janet/Peter Smargon, Co-Vice Presidents, Grand Canyon; Geri/Jim Ingram, Co-Presidents, Weatherford; Ed Slater, President, Allen-Stone; Jim Furrie, President, Messer; Bob Reinke, President, Brandenburg; Peg/Walt Price, Co-Presidents, Ellenwood; Doug McLeod, President, Willis; Zera Mackie, President, Schreiner; Mary Carol Fish, President, Mott; Ken Brockway, President, New England; Ralph Christian, President, McBurney-Morse; Jerry James, President, McCoy; Phyllis Murphy, Pres. Lyon; Pat Ritter, 2011 Reunion Chair; Jack Tillman, Membership/Newsletter, Lyon; Len Wilson, Central Atlantic, AYR Pres. Elect and Joyce Wilson; Bob Hastedt, YMCA Retirement Fund liaison; Pat Hight.

President Julius Jones called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. Bill Cameron gave a very thoughtful devotion that included Gary Unrah in our prayers. Bill mentioned that Gary, who is ill, has been an extremely helpful member of the AYR Strategic Planning Committee. The devotion was followed by Julius asking us to observe a moment of silent prayer for Gary.

Rich Hill announced that Bob Hastedt is the new liaison to the AYR Board from the YMCA Retirement Fund.

Julius introduced Len and Joyce Wilson. Len is the AYR President –elect.

Rich distributed copies of the financial report, copies of which are attached to the minutes. He said that as of the end of September, the results were excellent, but, at the end of December, income had not met expectations. Maurice moved and Walt seconded a motion to place the treasurer's report on file. Motion unanimously carried.

Betsy Jacobs reported that she was developing a Facebook page and has received forty calls so far. She stressed the importance of customer service, and, how helpful face book can be in assisting members. Betsy reported that there are 976 active members in AYR. Last March, there were 1265 members and in March, 2009, 1600 members. Rich asked that chapter presidents look at his list to see who is missing. A big problem is that a number of chapter members are not national members.

Bill Cameron has produced a sample brochure to use in promoting membership. His idea is to have the brochure on line so that chapters can download it and make copies as needed. The brochure was well received. A suggestion was made to include the date on it. Julius asked Bill to produce a final document. He agreed to do so.

Next, Bill shared the strategic plan. He divided those present into four groups with each of them discussing a section of it. Later, the group recorder reported back with comments such as:

- Utilize electronic communication tools as effectively and efficiently as possible;**
- Plan a flow of information on a regular basis;**
- Establish a single AYR membership;**
- Use active Y staff to present programs at chapter meetings;**
- Recognize interests/needs of the new generation of retirees;**
- Benefit from using research done on why retirees do not retain membership.**

Prior to adjourning this session at 4:45 PM, Julius raised this question for us to think about, “How do we come together and make a difference?”

January 26, 2011, Julius called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Geri Ingram gave the devotion at which time she mentioned that Angie Vest had just passed away. She asked for prayers for her husband, Pat, whom many of us had known over the years.

Scott Berg, Vice-President for Development at Springfield College, gave an illustrated update on the college, stressing various YMCA-related developments there. He invited everyone to attend the dedication of Stitzer YMCA Center (old Judd gym) at noon, May 19. Todd and Mark Stitzer and their wives, gave \$2 million to renovate the gym in memory of Howard Stitzer, their father, who worked with various Pennsylvania Ys for decades.

Then, Al Carrano, spoke about opportunities and benefits for people to participate in the planned giving program for the college. He concluded his remarks by quoting Churchill, “We make a living by what we get, but, we make a life by what we give!”

Next, Bob Hastedt reported on the Retirement Fund, including some history as well as current activity. Bob said he would include a five minute presentation on AYR as part pre-Retirement Fund courses given at the fifteen Y training centers around the country. He mentioned that there about 700 new retirees, every year.

Pat Ritter and Bea Halk gave an update on reunion plans. As a result of a gift from the Y Retirement Fund, each chapter will have \$750 to use in scholarship money. Dave Bast said he would mention the availability of the money on the website.

At this point, Bill brought up the subject of the AYR Strategic Plan, referring to it as the lifeguard of the organization. Hank said that the General Council could recommend to the Board that it take action regarding approval of the plan.

Hank moved: That the General Council recommend the adoption of the

Strategic Plan to the Board. Jim Furrie seconded the motion which passed UNANIMOUSLY!

Julius announced that Ray and Muriel Jacoby were stepping down from their leadership of International Senior Service Corps. Fortunately, Ray was able to recruit Glen and Sharon Mease to succeed them. They returned recently from service in China. Sincerest thanks to the Jacobys for their very fine work.

Stew gave the Archives report. He has done a masterful job in preparing nine binders that contain an index to the archival material collected to date. He brought several of the binders for us to see. They are treasures in themselves and will be wonderfully helpful to those folks who use them.

Stew commented on the huge success in obtaining contributions in 2010 for the Emergency Assistance Fund. It was pointed out that Dale Ventres continues to excel in giving leadership to this program and thanks were expressed for Dale's commitment and dedication to EAF!

Bob Rule asked that nominations for the Stahl award be forthcoming by April 1. Ron Kinnamon received the first award in 1975. The award is given to the retiree who has produced outstanding writing for the YMCA. Bob said that the award will be presented at the San Diego reunion in September. Dave will have nomination forms available on the website. Three copies of the candidate's work must accompany the completed nomination form.

Bob reported very briefly on the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees meeting that took place in Hong Kong in July. He was our official AYR delegate. The group agreed to meet again in four years at the time of the World Council meeting. Jerry Prado Shaw of Naperville, Illinois, was elected President, succeeding Don Anderson of Honolulu. Don was thanked for the outstanding job he has done over the past few years as President. Also, Len and Joyce Wilson were thanked for the fine work they have done, editing the "Bridges", the newsletter of the world fellowship.

Bob said that the world group would like their president to be invited to AYR board meetings at their expense. Dottie moved and Jane seconded a motion: To invite the WWFYR to the AYR board meeting at their expense. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Bast reported on the website, noting that it needs upgrading. He suggested that a task force be named to provide oversight to the web. (yretiree.org) Dave said that he would like someone else to take over the website as of August, 2011.

Dave made a presentation about some shirts to which he would have the AYR logo applied. Julius said he would bring the issue of use of the AYR logo to the board meeting. The board will take action in this regard.

Julius announced that the YMCA World Service campaign will kick off in March. He requested chapter presidents to provide him with the names of the chapter World Service and EAF chairs as soon as possible.

January 27, 2011. Julius called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Bill Cameron distributed copies of the approved strategic plan. He asked chapter presidents to take the time to explain to chapter members, the rationality of the thinking that went into the development of the plan.

Rich reported that the YMCA Retirement Fund has donated \$25,000 from the Harold C. Smith dinner that was held last November, to support the the 2011 ARY Reunion. \$15,000 will be used as incentive money to assist members in attending the event with room fees. Chapter presidents were asked to have chapter members let them know the dollar amount needed by February 10. Then, the presidents will send the names to Jack Tillman. He will have awards credited to to their final hotel bill on their four night at the Town and Country. Jack's phone number is: 627-797-7075.

Ralph Christian was the person who suggested this plan. He spoke of the great need to work hard on promoting attendance at the reunion. Also, he asked everyone to join in applauding the reunion committee for their very hard work "on OUR reunion"!

Bea told the group that people do NOT have to be AYR members to attend the reunion. She said that hotel suites are available for \$375, \$500, and \$550 per night, and, that some chapters might prefer to rent a suite that could be shared with several people. Dave will include this information on the website.

Rich announced that there will be no travel/room reimbursement for board and general council members to attend the San Diego reunion.

Pat Ritter asked those present to bring items for the baskets that will be given away at the reunion. She proposed that each chapter provide one basket of gift certificates, items that are local to the chapter area, etc. \$500 will be the grand prize to be awarded on the last evening of the reunion.

Julius called on President-elect Len Wilson to share his thoughts on AYR as he looks at the next three years. Len said he had worked for the Y for forty-two years, most recently in Jerusalem. He focused on the importance of fellowship. AYR participation provides opportunities to renew friendships, including sharing memories. Len stressed that fellowship and friendship should be the center of our activities. Len spoke about the need for each chapter to hone in on the recruitment of new members. Also, every member should support World Service and EAF.

Hank and Len brought up the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees, suggesting that each chapter donate \$500 to support the travel and registration fee for some of its members to attend the San Diego reunion. It was agreed by those present to take this action.

Julius raised the subject of having an AYR member serve as a liaison on the YMCA Retirement Fund board. Hank moved and Walt seconded the motion: That the AYR Board recommend to the YMCA Retirement Fund president that Rich Colatto serve as AYR liaison to the Fund Board. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane S. Kirk, Secretary

