

AYR STEW BROWN PASSION AWARD

SUMNER DUDLEY TRIBUTE:

Sumner Dudley had a dream to introduce and educate children to the outdoors and to appreciate and respect the wonders of nature. Through his vision, he changed the history of the YMCA by creating the first Residence Camp along with the institution of 'Leaders Club' which has been represented in every YMCA in the country.

Today the Sumner Dudley Award will recognize a retired YMCA Director for his contributions to camping and outdoor education, administration and leadership development in past and present service to the greater 'Y' movement. With the likeness of Sumner Dudley, this nominee is a person of caring and vision to 'Stay the Course' and plant the seeds of discovery and growth in camping and outdoor education.

INTRODUCTION OF STEW BROWN:

Stew Brown could have, and actually was nominated for the George Williams Award, not because he attended George Williams College or because he is a past President of NAFYR, but because he has totally dedicated his life to volunteerism since his retirement from active duty as a YMCA professional in 1994. Thus, recognition for LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT as an AYR and Community volunteer would seem appropriate. However, those who know and love Stew recognize that his sole purpose of being throughout his professional career and after life has been and always will be CAMPING. Therefore, the Recognition Committee chose to dedicate this Award with a counterpart role model that relates to leadership and camping experience.

Dale Ventres noted that he had first become aware of Stew's energy for volunteerism when he inducted him as President of the Weidensall IARD chapter in 1995. He had just received an award from the Chamber of Commerce in Salida, CO as 'Volunteer of the Year'. This was quickly followed by his Chaffee County award as 'Man of the Year' a year later. And, he continues to volunteer every Monday with the Chamber/Travel Bureau.

While president of the Weidensall Chapter for four year, he instituted a unique 'voting plan' to give chapter members the opportunity to vote on Y related charitable imperatives. As a result increase giving doubled as did the interest in many of the programs receiving grants from the chapter.

Not only has Stew provided hours of volunteerism to his local chapter over the years, but has also taken on numerous national commitments and assignments that have changed our Organization and improved our communications, membership development and outreach programs in terms of service and support.

Whether his involvement is assisting with the national gathering of Camp Directors in Colorado last year, formulating a new communication process, chairing our national gathering in Minneapolis a few years back, lending a hand on this Reunion's planning committee or assisting in international development for retirees around the world, or supporting the EAF campaign you will always find Stew willing and able to give his time, talent and support to worthy YMCA and community projects. In between times of travel and discovery, Stew also produces the Weidensall newsletter and keeps everyone informed in the Grand Canyon Chapter of events and needs.

These myriad of AYR tasks that Stew has taken on behind the scenes reflects the very best in the likeness of our YMCA founder George Williams as Stew has dedicated himself as a retired Y director to the improvement of others and demonstrates 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF' in every way. But, it has been Stew's countless amount of 'inspiration' to others via his camping life for so many years that even more so possess the qualities of leadership, vision and ingenuity like that of Sumner Dudley according to Pres Johnson.

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 Stew Brown 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 'TO BE ONE WITH THE FATHER' – this was the inherent vision of early leaders of the YMCA such as Sumner Dudley and George Williams and has been the inherent vision of Stew Brown.

RECOGNITION OF STEW BROWN:

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!!

Stew Brown has always REFUSED not to move and TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND DO WHAT STEW WAS MADE TO DO!

It is my deepest pleasure to ask Stew Brown 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.