

AYR ZERA MACKIE PASSION AWARD

ELLEN BROWN TRIBUTE:

Ellen Brown was the first full time YMCA Secretary in America and was employed for working with boys. Whether employed as a program director or a business administrator, Ellen Browns personal quest was to make a difference in a child's life. Often working late into the evening hours mentoring and guiding the youth who needed compassion and direction, Ellen Brown would counsel and give strength along with friendship through her caring and trusting support. From this 'mentoring' many young boys returned to the YMCA movement in their adult years as professional directors and volunteers leaders. What was a friend in need and a guide during difficult times and always ready to listen and often with a 'hug' Ellen Brown was a pioneer 'Mentor' in the YMCA movement.

The Ellen brown Award will recognize today another individual for her contributions and efforts in Administration of program and business operations during her active YMCA career. As Ellen Brown recognized the importance of Mentoring and Educating our youth, successful "Y" Directors understand the relevance of developing and nurturing staff and volunteers. With the likeness of Ellen Brown, this nominee is a person of stealth judgment, superior qualities and master of motivation while 'Staying the Course' in the area of management and building strong communities.

INTRODUCTION OF ZERA MACKIE:

As an active YMCA Professional, Zera Mackie was instrumental in the training and development of countless H.R. professionals throughout the country. Ms Mackie was a well-known master trainer for the YMCA of the USA as well as her Region. She was part of a National Sr. Team that delivered multi-day workshops on Salary Administration; facilitated Y USA New CEO's training held twice a year in Chicago; conducted regional training on selection, interviewing, screening and legal background checks; developed interactive training models; facilitated Leadership Training Modules for Sr. Directorship Certification; was a member of HR Core Team that developed the Urban Group Human Resource Officers Group; served on numerous planning committees for HR Conferences held throughout the country; mentored countless new HR Directors and served on the YMCA Retirement Board.

In retirement, Zera did not stop upon ending her professional career from the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. She contacts HR Professionals upon their retirement and continues the bond of caring and friendship. Zera has formed a new group called HARP (Happy, Active, Retired, People). Under her leadership, a group of former Y-HR Professionals meets every other year for fun and fellowship in various areas of the country.

Her AYR Service includes several years on the YMCA Hall of Fame Selection Committee and has served in local Sam Schreiner Chapter (Oklahoma, Arkansas & Texas) as program chair, vice President and President.

In AYP she has facilitated workshops on 'How to Retire Successfully" subtitled at the AYP Annual conference in Dallas this past July.

Outside the YMCA Zera has served on the University of Dallas Human Resources Advisory Board and designed the Texas state-wide Speaker and Trainer in Human Resources for the American Hospital Assoc.

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 Zera Mackie who has given of herself for the betterment of our movement and for humanity.

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

In summary "To Be One With The Father" – this was the inherent vision of early leaders of the YMCA such as Ellen Brown and has been the inherent vision of Zera Mackie.

RECOGNITION OF ZERA MACKIE:

Our Praise Song reminds us of Zera's dedication and application – 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!!

It is in Zera Mackie's personal make-up – always has been and will continue to be 'TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND DO WHAT SHE WAS MADE TO DO!

It is my pleasure to ask Zera Mackie 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.