



## *Notes & Quotes*

*William S. Chambers Chapter of AYR - Since 1963  
December 2011*

### *PACKER'S NOVEMBER POTPOURRI*



Dear Chapter members and friends,

In In September I sent out my first Packer's Potpourri and said that I would send the next one in November, so here it is. We have just mailed out the dues letters for the year 2012 and those who do not have an email address on file are receiving the Potpourri with the dues letter. I thought maybe I would talk a little about the difference between the National AYR and the local chapter of AYR.

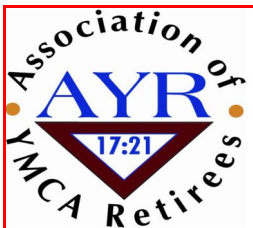
First the local William S. Chambers Chapter of AYR. Our local chapter is made up of those individuals who have retired from the YMCA and served most or part of their career in the Ohio-WVA area YMCA. We plan two reunions per year, one in the spring and one in the fall. One of those is a one day event and the other is a three day two night event. Our plans are for fellowship, fun, and some educational event meaning tours, museums or other activities. Our dues are \$15 per calendar year for the family and many contribute extra for the chapters use. A newsletter is developed and mailed out periodically with news gained from the members about themselves and others and upcoming events. In other words, we try to keep in touch in various ways. We hope that you will consider joining us in 2012.

The National AYR is headed by a group of Executive Committee members, not unlike our chapter, elected from the membership. The National AYR consists of 21 chapters and three regions across the country. We are a part of the Central Region with 7 chapters in our group. The dues for the National AYR are \$25 per year with that year starting in October and each retiree receives a notice from the National AYR about their dues. The National AYR has a newsletter that is mailed out Bi-monthly called ATReports. It has information about events scheduled in chapters, news about members, and other interesting articles. The National AYR also accepts contributions to help in their expenses. We hope that you have joined them as well.

Our thanks to Dick Bennett for hosting the October reunion at Camp Fitch. All present had a great time. Thanks Dick!!

A date to remember: May 31, 2012 – Reunion at Historic Roscoe Village, Coshocton, Ohio

Thanks for listening. Comments accepted. Dale



### *AYR Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Association of YMCA Retirees is to enable members to promote a nurturing worldwide Christian fellowship that provides educa-*

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**Treasurer's Report**

<b>Balance 10/13/2011</b>	<b>\$4,593.15</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Membership	\$ 750.00*
Contributions	700.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$1,450.00</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	
True Grit Mailing	\$ 18.33
Camp Fitch Reunion	613.00
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$ 631.33</b>
<b>Ending Balance 12/02/2011</b>	<b>\$ 5,411.82</b>

\*Treasurer Madison reported an additional \$350 was collected but not recorded as of the December date.

**EAF and World Service**

Bill Foster, Chapter EAF Chair and Chuck Zech, Chapter World Service Chair both reported that contributions were falling behind prior years.

Each offered several stories about how these funds have enabled and assisted many families in need, some in our own Chapter.

If you are able to help, please remember to note the Chambers Chapter on your check. If you have given and not received acknowledgment, inform Bill or Chuck. Their numbers are listed in the directory on this page.



*GOOD TIMES*



*REMEMBERED*



### Camp Fitch Fall Reunion 2011

A great time was had by the 21 retirees of the William S. Chambers Chapter of AYR at the “Camp Fitch reunion.” What a beautiful camp! Not very good weather, however, the rain held off for the day and all planned activities went off like we knew Dick Bennett could do. Thanks Dick for putting the reunion together for all of us.

For those who stayed in the Lodge, a great breakfast was shared with the outdoor education children attending camp. Others stayed at local motels and showed up at camp at 9:30 am for refreshments and registration.

The planned day began with a hayride tour of the camp by Greg Donahue, assistant Camp Director. The camp is located on the shores of Lake Erie and consists of one mile of shoreline and about 500 acres of prime real estate.

A warm welcome and an introduction to camp was given by Brian Rupe, Camp Director in the newly constructed Chapel. We got an in depth look at the “Past-Present-Future of Camping” and Tim Hilck, CEO of the Youngstown YMCA introduced Brian.

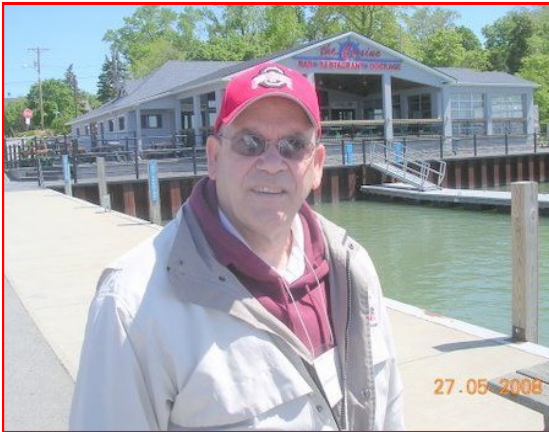
A “Camp Fitch Buffett” for lunch followed by a Dick Bennett game of Jeopardy. That was different. Our afternoon speaker was Tim Bolen a biologist with the Fisheries Division of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife speaking on the fish life changes through the years and the dangers of extinction of certain species of fish.

An Executive Committee meeting and General Session Meeting were held at the same time since time was limited and both had the same agenda. The “Retiree of the Year” award was presented to Chuck Zech by Dick Bennett and Dale Packer presented the “True Grit” award to Tom Patton in abstention. The following day, Dale visited Tom and presented him the award in his home.

The reunion concluded with the remembering of those who have left us: Jack Doughty, Jeff Sadowsky, Fred Fuerst and Wayne Farrar.

## 2011 HONOREES

### Retired Director of the Year Chuck Zech



Chuck was born in Chambersburg, PA. His parents moved to Ponce, Puerto Rico when Chuck was two years old, as they were serving as local missionaries for the United Methodist Church. Chuck lived there for sixteen years, graduating from Ponce High School in 1960 and Otterbein College in 1964.

From 1964-1968 he served in the United States Air Force as an Air Intelligence Officer. Chuck married the love of his life, Ginny Leader in 1965. Ginny and their two children, Richard and June were cheerleaders for Chuck as he dedicated his life to thirty-three years of service to the YMCA.

Chuck is busy in retirement with his family and three grandchildren. His hobbies include coin collecting, golf, and travelling around the world as a missionary translator.

Chuck is an Ohio man; his favorite colors are brown and white (Browns), red and white (Reds), and scarlet and gray (O-H-I-O)

### James E. Swormsted, "True Grit Award" Tom Patton

While Tom is still looking for "shaggy dog" stories, they hardly define the man that served the YMCA for over 40 years. He began as a custodian in 1945. After being encouraged by the local "Y" director to attend college, he enrolled at Miami University graduating in June of 1949. He spent his entire career at the Tuscarawas County YMCA, retiring in August of 1989.

Tom has been married to Hope Rosch Patton for 58 years. They have two children, Faith and Tom.

Tom was able to travel to Europe several times with his children and enjoyed many trips on the Euro-rail. In addition, Tom was an avid bicyclist and rode a 1000 miles a year for 25 years. He walked his dog one to two miles a day for many years and also served as an usher at Grace Lutheran Church until failing health forced his resignation.

Tom had a "bucket list" before the term was popular. He kissed the Blarney Stone, hiked the Grand Canyon, walked across the Golden Gate Bridge, and travelled across the United States on Amtrak.



*...and at the end of Tom Patton's bio was the following Irish Blessing*

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face*

*May the rain fall soft upon your fields,  
And, until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.*

## Request for Autobiographies for the book “Milestones of the William S. Chambers Chapter of AYR”

I have been reading the autobiographies of the members of the Chambers Chapter past and present. If you want to see what commitment, dedication, and passion our YMCA leaders who are now retired or have gone from this place, you need to read some of the autobiographies written and placed in the “Milestones of the William S. Chambers Chapter of AYR.”

There are currently 212 autobiographies in the notebook and I would hope that we can significantly add to that amount. If you have not written your autobiography for the notebook, please plan to do so in the very near future. What does it take? A one or two page listing of what your career was about, including your family make up, your greatest moment in the work, and any reflections you can give.

If you want further help by my sending you an example, give me a call or call Nancy Schlatter and we will help in any way we can. We want your autobiography in the “Milestones of the Williams S. Chambers Chapter of AYR.”



## OUR FOLKS



*Lois Doughty writes:*

*“A great big ‘Thank You’ to all the wonderful caring YMCA people who sent me a note after my loving husband Jack passed away. It was so comforting to hear from so many. The “Y” was a wonderful profession for Jack. He really enjoyed and loved his work. The YMCA was also a big part of my life with Jack since he was in the movement for over 40 years. I was and still am a proud wife of a YMCA guy. Merry Christmas to all of you and may 2012 be a really good year for you!”*

**From Wanda Farrar:**

*“It is very different without Wayne, but life goes on. The family is very supportive. I will miss all of you, but enjoy reading the news”.*

*...and from Ellen Moore*

*“Sadly this year I lost my 46 year old son Robert to Leukemia. I am grateful for the years I did have him. I am spending Christmas in Germany where my older son Ronald and his family live. My cat hopped up and sends his greetings!”*

**Harry and Barbara Bradbury** are happy they are still alive.

*(Editor’s Note...so are we)*

**Fred Cooper** is very busy with golf, umpiring softball, travel, community activities, and leadership. He is attending Willis Chapter activities and when possible would like to see more Ohio retirees in Florida.

**Steve Cooper** was recently selected as Fayette County Citizen of the Year because of his involvement in the community.

**Bob Denzer** notes that he and Sue are both in good health.

**Paul Atkinson’s** two granddaughters graduated from what he terms as the “finest college in the State of Ohio” Bowling Green State University this year.

**Caroline Fisher (Max)** still travels to Maggie Valley NC and Roanoke, VA. She flew to Phoenix, AZ to attend her grandson’s graduation from Arizona State University in May. She continues to volunteer and enjoys reading about our Chambers folks.

**Dick Fullmer** is back in Lima enjoying his kids and grandchildren.

## *More About Our Folks*

Earl Guernsey writes that his wife Sylvia is in a nursing home.

Mary Hartz and her daughter spent ten days in Europe last May. Her sons are both pursuing doctorates at Case Western University,

Bob Hepburn recently moved into Pine Valley Retirement Community at the urging of his internist. He is doing well following a recent stroke and does not have any physical or mental problems and walks every day.

Dave Hepner is looking forward to Christmas and three months in Florida. In the coming summer, he and his family (3 kids, 3 in-laws, 9 grandkids) will spend a week at Myrtle Beach. He is still working part-time at his business, Heppner's Windows and Doors.

Dave Humason sends his best too all, but refrains from other news stating there is too much to tell. He'll tell us when he sees us.

Leigh Kendric relocated at an Otterbein (Portage Valley) community. He says he made a good move, but his home is still on the market. "Ugh" says he.

Bill and Dorothy Markell write that Bill is successfully recovering from two kinds of cancer. According to Dorothy, she cannot keep the guy down. They are planning a Christmas cruise.

Richard May writes that last Christmas they visited their son Ron and family in Perth, Australia. This year they will be blessed to have them all at home including son Rob and family from North Carolina.

Gerald (Jeep) McDonald reports that he retired from the Betty Ford Center in December of 2010 and was re-hired as a consultant in January of 2011. He added several other institutions to his portfolio. He continues to attend YMCA Volleyball Hall of Fame Committee each year at the host site of the USA National Championships, this year

In Salt Lake City. Wife, Ann continues to be "Nanny" to several families in our community.

Question? What is "same old, same old" Ron Moore?

Doing very well in Florida says Bruno Ottavi. Lots of great people, lots of tennis, golf, swimming, cycling, etc.

Glenn Paine is not traveling far from home, but is blessed with sharing with each other even after 60 years of marriage. He says, "Life gets better and more meaningful, thanks be to God."

Bill and Barbara Parkhurst visited with some Chambers friends at the AYR Reunion. According to Bill, it was a great event.

A little bit of history from Bill Patterson...he had Bill Chambers as an instructor for a Y certification course at YMCA camp, Lake Geneva in 1953.

Kim Phillips is retired but working at Great Miami Valley in Hamilton.

Mary Lee Porter writes they are having fun adjusting to the "80's", their new forty. Both she and Merle are feeling great. Merle had a knee operation to repair a torn ligament, but he is back to jogging.

Jim and Shay Reese are enjoying retirement and being close to their four grandkids and their Moms and Dads.



## *...And More*

G. Jim Roth is keeping busy between China and Peru. He is also working with OSU campus mission group.

Always busy, Bob Rule is currently coaching an Iraqi lady in ESL.

Lucy Shutt sends greetings to all.

Lisle and Patty Smith are enjoying retirement, children and grandchildren, their 30 acre wood-lot complete with wildlife, and travelling to Florida and Arizona. Lisle feels that God has truly blessed him and his family.

George and Barbara Williams received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Greenbrier Valley United Fund in Lewisburg, WVA on December 4. The award was given for 15 years of service. George raises money and Barbara heads the Allocations Committee.

John and Beth Zimmerman spent a wonderful two weeks in Germany this past summer. Their oldest daughter, Malia is a freshman at Northern Kentucky University.

Judy and Dudley Bryant are looking forward to the annual family gathering (or shall we call it invasion) over the New Year's weekend. This year there will be nineteen and one half eating and sleeping at the family home.

When winter comes, can spring be far behind? The Madisons say "no" and here they are in the strawberry patch last spring with son Richard and his wife.



### *We Will Miss Our Friends...*

*They may be gone, but will not be forgotten. They will live in our hearts and memories and we will thank them for their service.*

*Al Grasso  
Mary Ann Kramer  
Jewell Lennon*

Just in case you may have forgotten, Chambers Chapter 2012 membership is due in January.

Retiree Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Dues **\$15.00**                      Contribution \_\_\_\_\_                      Total \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about you and yours \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send check to: Richard Madison, 9357 Chester Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147