

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

A Feeling Of Oneness

By Julius Jones

We have made great strides with our AYR agenda over the past months. You've been reading *AYReports*, our newly re-developed newsletter. The newsletter, combined with our new name and logo, create a growing feeling of oneness within the organization.



Julius

Many of us have felt a sense of excitement about the new AYR logo, which is now being widely used by chapters and the AYR Board. Your board asked the Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Bill Cameron, Vice President/East, to conduct a contest to develop a new logo for AYR.

The committee, after reviewing the entries, made a recommendation to the Board. The Board voted to adopt Peter Gabel's entry as the winner. Some of you know Peter, but others may be interested in knowing a little more about his background.

Peter has been involved with the YMCA for a long time, starting in Middletown, Conn., as a student volunteer, and continuing in that mode while a graduate student at the University of Denver. His first professional YMCA job was as Boys' Work Secretary at the Pueblo, Colo., YMCA.

He also worked for the YMCA in Wichita, Kan., before eventually returning to Denver where he finished his career. He is a member of the Wiedensall Cluster of the AYR Grand Canyon chapter. Peter has had a "retirement business/hobby" called Newsletters, etc.

Great job on the logo, Peter, and thanks to everyone who submitted an entry for consideration.

I hope you have all marked your calendars for AYR Reunion 2011 and plan to join us in San Diego, Calif., Sept. 13-17, 2011. ♦

Julius Jones is AYR National President. E-mail: jayjaygp@msn.com.

What's In Our Names?

Meet the real person behind the McCoy AYR Chapter, located in Northern California and Nevada.

Henry J. McCoy (1874-1921), after a visit with Dwight L. Moody in 1880, became the first General Secretary of the San Francisco YMCA, a post he held until through 1915.



Henry J. McCoy

McCoy was a dynamic leader and, within a few years, the association focused on educational, technical, and personality

training for young men. He was one of the first General Secretaries of a large city to develop branches serving members in different social communities, including the military.

It was said of McCoy: "He was gifted with that type of personality which enabled him to go to rich men and ask for money and make them feel he was doing them a favor." Two U.S. presidents were involved with new building ceremonies. McCoy traveled to the East Coast after the Y's central building was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake. He secured replacement funds from philanthropists John D. Rockefeller and J. Pierpont Morgan.

—Stew Brown

AYR POP POLL:

One More Survey On Membership

Our AYR Strategic Planning Committee is finalizing its work and asked two important questions for this issue’s AYR Pop Poll. Once again, more than 25 percent of our national membership responded. ♦

1. Currently, YMCA retirees interested in AYR are required to make a choice: join “national,” join a chapter, or join both. For some, this is confusing. Should AYR:

Go to a “single-tier” membership, with one payment covering both national and chapter dues?	60%
Retain the current two-level membership arrangement?	40%

2. AYR is trying to strengthen its recruitment of new YMCA retirees and is working to improve its understanding of how retirees regard AYR. Which of the following applies to you?

I joined AYR (or NAFYR) within a year of my retirement.	75%
I joined AYR (or NAFYR) 1 to 3 years after my retirement.	13%
I waited more than 3 years after my retirement to join.	12%

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

International Work?

By Ryan Bean

One of the most beautiful aspects of the YMCA Movement to me is its international appeal. The massive success of the YMCA in America can cause us to forget that the Movement itself was given to us by Sir George Williams in London.



Ryan

The concept of the YMCA spread organically around the world. However, it was not until 1889 when John T. Swift

was sent to Japan to capitalize on the interest of Japanese students to form a YMCA that an intentional, robust, international field of work was established. The work exploded, beginning with that one location.

The major turning point for YMCA international work came during the Great Depression. The total expenditures of foreign work grew by 274 percent to over \$2 million from 1917 to 1927. However, the collapse of the economy created the need in 1932 to develop a five-year plan to withdraw 59 percent of foreign service workers.

This new reality meant reevaluating the nature of the YMCA’s international work. The goal had always been to create autonomous YMCAs. A new model was built, focusing on

BEAN

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We wish you and yours
a bountiful Thanksgiving,
a Merry Christmas,
and a Happy New Year.

Social Networking: Here's What You Need To Know

By Steve Heye

Desire to keep up with their family and staying in the communication loop are driving more people over the age of 50 to start using social networks like Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Statistics don't lie. Social networking use among persons ages 50 and up has nearly doubled from 22 to 42 percent over the past year, according to 2010 data from the Pew Research Center.



Steve

Additionally, half of Internet users age 50-64 and 1 in 4 users ages 65 and older now use social networking sites. However, there still are questions about privacy, safety, and benefits in social networks.

The experience varies from person to person. Some are comfortable just jumping in, others want help, and other want some information first. No matter your comfort or experience level, I suggest YMCA retirees spend some time learning about a social network before getting involved.

Here's a way to differentiate the social network sites a bit: Facebook is people you already know; Twitter is people you want to know; and LinkedIn is people you need to know.

FACEBOOK (WWW.FACEBOOK.COM), which is the most popular social networking site by far, focuses on connecting people personally.



Facebook is built to share your status, photos, movies, favorite links, and more with your family and friends. Facebook requires

you to confirm your friend requests. Since this is personal in nature you should consider your privacy settings. There is no fee to participate.

TWITTER (WWW.TWITTER.COM) is limited to 140 characters and can include links. When you post to Twitter though, it is always public and searchable on the Internet, unless you make your whole profile private.



The whole concept of Twitter is to be open. Anyone can follow you without your confirming them if your profile is

public. You choose whom you wish to follow. Twitter is a wide-open place to connect around common interests and topics because of its openness and live search functions. Posts, known as "tweets," are limited to 149 characters.

LINKEDIN (WWW.LINKEDIN.COM) is the professional social network. This is the best place to build up that network of connections you have, so



that you are able to say, "Yeah, I know a someone that can

help." LinkedIn makes sense for retirees who are still working, consulting, or wanting to be in touch on a professional basis.

You make connections the same as you make "friends" on Facebook,

but the power of LinkedIn is seeing who your connections are connected to. Ever wonder if someone you know has a connection to someone at a certain company or organization? LinkedIn is the place to find out.

The default privacy settings on all of the social networking sites are set to the most public options when you create an account. Everything will be able to be seen when someone searches the Internet if you don't make any changes. I recommend spending time learning the different privacy settings and limiting most things to friends and family. It is up to you to be as private as you want. Always keep in mind most things are public by default.

Safety is becoming a larger concern as more people use social networks because popularity attracts scammers and spammers. Three things to avoid scams are to limit clicking on any links if you don't know where they go, never give out your password, and don't enter your password anywhere outside of the social network unless you know you can trust the site.

Popularity of specific tools and sites may change, but it does appear that social networks in some form are here to stay for some time. Social networks can be a great way to stay connected, share thoughts, retain friendships, and continue learning. Don't be afraid to jump online and start trying out these social networks. Just use common sense and don't "overshare." ♦

Steve Heye is the Web project manager for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. E-mail: heysex@yahoo.com.

EAF: ON MY MIND

Be Alert For Members In Need

By Dale Ventres

A new retiree asked me if we have given a grant to a YMCA retiree this year. I said “yes,” and remembered other new members also should be informed.



Dale

Three EAF Grants were awarded in 2010 and all have given permission for their names to be released. Phyllis Lyte of the Marston Chapter received a grant in March; followed by Gerry Morse of the McCoy chapter in August; and, most recently, Howard Loveland of the Weatherford Chapter. The three grants totaled \$21,525.

Overwhelming medical/hospital and associated costs in each case were far in excess of insurance reimbursement. Each asked me to express their sincere appreciation for your gifts, which most certainly helped them through their time of need.

All AYR members should remain alert to any possible financial emergency a fellow member may be experiencing. Just notify your chapter EAF Representative or President, even if you are in doubt, so a possible situation might be investigated. You may be performing a wonderful service that could lead to a very welcome grant.

“EAF gave its first grant in January 1904 to Mr. Sheldon, who was a Y Secretary employed by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Branch

in Baltimore for 22 years, and was stricken with a crippling rheumatism.” This was recorded in the document, *50 Years Of Service*, an early history of the Employed Officers’ Relief Fund, as it was then known.

It is interesting to speculate the thousands of grants awarded in these 106 years must total in the millions of dollars. All of these funds came from members just like you and was returned to members just like you in grants. Jesus made mention of this kind of loving action

EAF Contributions:

**So far in 2010:
759 gifts totaling \$74,459
Exceeds 2009 total by \$16,556,
with 255 more contributors**

over 2000 years ago. Our early YMCA Secretaries listened and gave us this plan.

Please send EAF pledges and payments to: Association of YMCA Professionals, Stitzer YMCA Center, 2nd Floor. Springfield College, 263 Alden St. Springfield, MA 01109. Phone: (413) 748-3884. ◆

Dale Ventres is AYR Chair of the Emergency Assistance Fund. E-mail: dventres@aol.com.

Retiree Resource Profile System Available From The Retirement Fund

By Vanessa Boulous

Do you have an interest in giving back to the YMCA Movement? Are you willing to help out a local YMCA in a temporary leadership position?



Vanessa

There are many YMCA retirees adjusting to their retirement lives who may welcome the opportunity to lend their skills to the YMCA in temporary leadership positions, providing assistance while a local YMCA conducts a search. Roles could include being an interim CEO,

CFO, or branch executive, among others.

The YMCA Retirement Fund now offers an on-line tool for retirees to create and maintain their own personal profile, listing accomplishments, skills, and career highlights. This professional profile posting provides a list of potential candidates searchable only by YMCA leadership. A local YMCA representative will contact you to discuss potential opportunities as they arise.

Putting your information online is easy. Simply log on to the YMCA

FUND

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Significance After Sixty: Plan For Meaning And Value

By Norris D. Lineweaver

You are reading this, so chances are, both of us benefit from one of the best-managed retirement plans in the nation. Early in my career, a mentor said: "It is not what you make but what you save."

It was a compelling case for the merits of participating fully in the YMCA Retirement Fund. MaLes and I participated in one of the Fund's retirement planning seminars years ago, long before we retired. While the experience confirmed our mutual confidence in the anticipated benefits, the message was more about planning what we wanted our retirement lifestyle to be as a fulfillment of meaning and value for both of us. The Fund takes care of the investment and annuity on our behalf, but the rest of the plan is up to us.

We have developed plans for the benefit of others throughout our career. Now we can put those skills together with those we care about most. The most important legacy you leave is for your loved ones. It begins with a plan how we define priorities to invest in a dramatic change of lifestyle.



The Lineweaver Family

Letting go of a very demanding and fulfilling career is an important and often difficult first step. Vince Lombardi said: "The harder you work, the more difficult it is to surrender." Demons dance in your dreams of all the things you could have done better. Letting go is not easy. However, it is the healthiest way to make room for the second half.

MaLes and I returned to the homeland wrenched in a deep six economy when I retired from Jerusalem. We realized we needed to develop a written plan before meeting with new advisors. We developed a simple two-page plan headlined with three clearly written goals. Those goals were supported by our priorities of what we wanted to make of our lives to be significant during retirement.

Attached to the plan was a detailed net worth statement, the projected annuity of YMCA Retirement benefits, both of our Social Security benefit statements, and the current copies of our major investment and savings portfolios. We disclosed our retirement plan to each of the financial and investment advisors we interviewed.

The plan put us in the driver's seat of the discussion. No major decisions were made until we sat down with our new advisors to test our assumptions and calibrate "what if" scenarios with the most conservative projections.

Tough decisions about lifestyle become clearer when you have a plan with the full consent of your loved ones. One of the steps we took was to evaluate the total cost of ownership of vehicles. Then we asked, do we really need two vehicles that seemed more necessary in a dual career marriage? We decided we could get by with one vehicle. This is a substantial savings per month that helped to achieve other important objectives such as ramping up our long-term care protection that gave us peace of mind to share with our family.

It has been 18 months since we first wrote our plan. It is now time to review and make some adjustments after successfully achieving many of our priorities. I see the plan as a dashboard to help navigate our desired lifestyle together. The Fund takes a huge burden of worry off our shoulders that allows us to use our career skills to plan for significance after sixty. Letting go has its rewards. ♦

Norris Lineweaver retired from the Jerusalem International YMCA. E-mail: norris.lineweaver@gmail.com.

FITNESS TIP...

Know your options: Pick a program you know you will enjoy. Some individuals like to go to the local YMCA and do a structured workout, while others enjoy a neighborhood walking club. Either will help improve your fitness, ability to function, and quality of life. But only if you do it regularly.

—Senior Journal

Chapter Check-In

... Members of the **Marston Chapter in San Diego**, Calif., met at the YMCA's corporate offices to hear a presentation by **Shelley McTighe-Rippengale**, the Y's vice president for marketing, communication, and development. AYR members heard more about the Y's national "rebranding" efforts and were planning to meet new San Diego YMCA CEO **Baron Herdelin-Doherty**. Members already are hard at work for their role in hosting the **AYR National Reunion** Sept. 13-17, 2011 ...

... The **C.B. Willis Chapter** returned, we're told by popular demand, to **Perry's Resort** in **Daytona Beach**, Fla., for a fall meeting in early October. There was plenty of beach and pool time, a



C.B. Willis Chapter members at Perry's Resort in Daytona Beach, Fla.

seafood boil, and a tour of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. This month will see members touring the Raymond James Art Collection and Heritage Village Living History Museum in Largo, Fla. ...

... Perhaps you were in **Findlay**, Ohio, in September with the **Chambers Chapter** for a three-day late summer event. The group was welcomed by **Mayor Pete Sehnert** and was entertained by **Lucy**

Anders, an award-winning high school vocalist. They heard presentations on the history of Findlay Glass at the Historical Society museum; enjoyed a stop at an ice cream shop; visited the Y's tennis center; tasted a bit of wine and beer (just a bit), and heard a speech by State Rep. **Clifford Hite** ...

... It was the lure of a summertime picnic that brought members of the **Hoosier-Buell Chapter** to Red Bridge Park in **Cicero**, Ind., in July. Twenty-five members enjoyed the good food, fellowship, and even the 90-degree temperature. The picnic was the last to be hosted by **Dorothy and Don Reap**. Dorothy was presented with a "hot dog brat hat" and an apron signed by all was given to Don. Members will head to their Winter Retreat at Pokagon State Park near **Angola**, Ind., Jan. 4-6, 2011 ...

... **Central Atlantic Chapter** members enjoyed a fun-filled day in Philadelphia in mid-September with a Mural Trolley Tour and lunch at the Le Meridean Hotel, the former home of the **Central YMCA**. Next



Merv Bennett, CEO Pikes Peak YMCA (left), and "Sheriff" Stew Brown



Messer, Brandenburg, and Hoosier-Buell Chapter members enjoyed a three-day fall outing to Galena, Ill., the home of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, shown here with his wife, Julia.

up is a Christmas show and lunch at the **Starlight Theater on Long Beach Island** in New Jersey, Wednesday, Dec. 15 ...

... It'll be a Merry Christmas for members of the **Brandenburg Chapter** as they gather Dec. 8 at the **Highlands at Wildwood Lake** in **Menomonee Falls**, Wis. The **Easy Days Quartet** will entertain members with their fast-paced show filled with familiar tunes. Dinner is planned overlooking the lake. President **Dick Protzmann** will pass his gavel to **Bob Reinke** ...

... Members of the **Messer, Brandenburg, and Hoosier-Buell Chapters** enjoyed a three-day Fall Outing to **Galena**, Ill., the home of **Gen. Ulysses S. Grant**. They stayed at **The DeSoto House**, the oldest currently operating hotel in the state, where Grant had his presidential campaign headquarters, and where Lincoln and Douglas stayed during debates. The General and his wife, **Julia**, joined the group for dinner (well, sort of). Professional

harpist **Dawn Bishop** will help members of the **Messer Chapter** celebrate Christmas Dec. 1 at **The Meadows** in Glen Ellyn, Ill. ...

... **Upper Midwest Chapter** members welcome the Christmas holidays Dec. 7 at the Town and

- Country Club in **St. Paul**, Minn.
- Guest speaker is **Dr. Dale Anderson**, known as "The Smile Doctor." Dr. Anderson shows what he calls "vintage people" how to use tools from the performing arts to create health and happiness in the WELLderly years ...



Dave Bast and piggy



(Top photo) "Pickles" cartoonist Brian Crain was guest speaker for the McCoy Chapter's Reno Rendezvous that attracted 22 members to the "biggest little city in the world." Brian's humor was an instant hit and he left a drawing of his main characters (shown in the photo) that will be auctioned off for Y World Service at the next annual Oregon Shakespeare Festival trip. (Bottom, front row) Central Atlantic Chapter members on the Mural Trolley Tour, Don and Julie Painter, (2nd row) Lois Van Zanten with daughter, (3rd row) Marge Ressler.

- ... Cartoonist **Brian Crain**, who creates the popular **Pickles** comic strip, was guest speaker for the **McCoy Chapter's Reno Rendezvous** that attracted 22 members to the "biggest little city in the world." Brian's humor was an instant hit and he left a drawing of his main characters that will be auctioned off for **YMCA World Service** at our next Oregon Shakespeare Festival trip. Next up is the formation of the new **Bay Area Cluster** Nov. 18 at the **Palo Alto YMCA**. It will feature a panel discussion on the pros and cons of "Why the Y Changed Its Name and Logo" ...

- ... The expansive **Grand Canyon Chapter** hosted a western gathering in the Old Pueblo of **Tucson**, Ariz., Nov. 1-3. The chapter's members live in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Nebraska ...

- We can't report what we don't know about. Be sure to send news and photos to Editor Craig Altschul (caltschul@earthlink.net) no later than Nov. 26 for inclusion in the January-February 2011 edition. *Only electronic photos shot with camera setting called "large" or "fine" can be accepted for use.* ♦

GOLDEN TREASURES

- 67 Years** Elizabeth and Ivan, Springstead, Cambridge, Wis., Nov. 6
Martha and Franklin Hoernemann, Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 25
- 66 Years** Mary and Ed Andersen, Big Bear City, Calif., Nov. 8
Frances and Matthew Carter, Sarasota, Fla., Dec. 10
- 65 Years** Janis and Milda Plisis, Lake Geneva, Wis., Nov. 7
Margie and Gene Cornwell, Lima, Ohio, Dec. 8
Genie and Glen Davies, Ankeny, Iowa, Dec. 29
- 64 Years** Jeanne and Bob Swearingen, Encinitas, Calif., Nov. 2
Shirley and John Morgan, Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 19
- 63 Years** Joan and Ken, Pearl, Savannah, Ga., Dec. 27
- 62 Years** Hana and Rudolph Spitalsky, Scarborough, ON, Nov. 6
Helen and Selmer Anderson, Sioux Falls, S.D., Nov. 7
- 61 Years** Marie and Tom Fink, York, Pa., Nov. 12
Edy and Warren Breithaup, Palm Harbor, Fla., Nov. 22
Jean and Dick Carey Nisswa, Minn., Dec. 26
Mary Lee and Robert Rhodes, Downers Grove, Ill., Dec. 29
- 60 Years** Barbara and Norman Connor, Ponce Inlet, Fla., Nov. 18
Lynn and Chuck Micklewright, Helena, Mont., Dec. 28
Dorothy and Don Reap, Tipton, Ind., Dec. 30
- 59 Years** Jean and Dick Olin, Venice, Fla., Nov. 11
Verna and Ted Jacobson, Coal Valley, Ill., Nov. 15
Betty and Jim, Dixon, Richmond, Calif., Dec. 8
Dorothy and Leo Johnson, Westwood, Mass., Dec. 9
- 57 Years** Betty and Victor Paieda, Harbor City, Calif., Nov. 21
Celeste and Bob Tschopp, Chesterfield, Mo., Nov. 21
Ann and Phil Knight, Coral Springs, Fla., Nov. 23
Patricia and Maurice Hight, Cape May, N.J., Nov. 28
Corky and Lyle Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 17
Bette and Wayne Evans, So. Yarmouth, Mass., Dec. 27
Angie and Pat Vest, Weaverville, N.C., Dec. 29
- 56 Years** Barbara and Bill Parkhurst, San Diego, Calif., Nov. 6
Bonnie and Reeder Huddleston, Crawford, Texas, Dec. 26
- 55 Years** Beverly and William Simpson, Sioux Falls, S.D., Nov. 25
Barbara and David Davidson, Onalaska, Wis., Dec. 17
Kay and George, Smith Ormond Beach, Fla., Dec. 26
- 54 Years** Audrey and Bob Richter, Brookfield, Wis., Nov. 3
Norma and Bob Fortune, Columbia Station, Ohio, Dec. 8
Judy and Ken Widlake, Glen Burnie, Md., Dec. 29
- 53 Years** Barbara and Arthur Griffa, Orange City, N.J., Dec. 28
Donna Jean and Jerry Nelson, Ventura, Calif., Dec. 28
- 52 Years** June and William Crews, Detroit, Mich., Nov. 29
Sharon and Alan Marquardt, Eden Prairie, Minn., Dec. 21
- 51 Years** Judy and Clifford Moss, New Britain, Ct., Dec. 6
Francia and Bill Hawkins, Lords Valley, Pa., Dec. 26
Joanne and Bill Newton, Orangevale, Calif., Dec. 27
- 50 Years** Nancy and Bill Olson, Sioux Falls, S.D., Nov. 11
Avis and Chuck Holmes, Bloomington, Minn., Dec. 3

Send your Golden Treasure listing to Clark Koechel, N7576, Sandy Beach Road, Fondulac, Wis. 54935. E-mail: ick2@charter.net. Deadline for January-February listings is November 26.

WHATEVER? *Continued from page 2*

providing support and expertise as opposed to sending our own Y secretaries to run these operations.

This was the birth of World Service, which last year distributed over \$1 million to more than 40 national and area YMCA Movements. The

work of World Service continues to be a profound example of the fellowship we share with YMCAs around the world. ♦

Ryan Bean is Research and Outreach Archivist at the Kautz Family YMCA Archives. E-mail: benx029@umn.edu.

FITNESS TIP...

Get a checkup: Meet with your healthcare provider to see whether you'll need to consider any special modifications before starting an exercise program. Get a clearance to begin a program, if necessary.

—Senior Journal

A THOUGHT FOR YOUR DAY

An Appeal To Men

By Bruce Tamlyn



Bruce

I received a thoughtful e-mail today from a young man who is currently a college student. He is a resident director in one of the dorms on campus and had attended a conference at Silver Bay some time ago. The theme of his e-mail was his concern that the men in his dorm did not have a respectful attitude toward women. He hoped I might be able to help.

I'll do what I can, but the issue is much greater than a hundred guys in a college dorm. The problem is a cultural epidemic that diminishes the lives of millions of women, and men, each year.

The following is hard to hear, but true. One in three women born in the United States will be sexually abused at some point during their lifetime. So, if there are three women in your family, guess what? A National Public Radio reporter shares this alarming statistic: Between 100,000 and 200,000 girls between the ages of 12 and 16 are caught up in the sex trade. Guess where? In some foreign country? Wrong.

The answer is right here in the United States. The most alarming part about this story was that the story never once referred to the ethics, morals, or attitudes of the millions of men who are paying to abuse these young women. I guess it

was assumed this is the generalized behavior of men. How sad.

We can be sure that millions of dollars would be poured into research if one in three woman in the United States had their left ear turn green. But the sexual abuse of women doesn't seem to command the same sense of urgency.

The sexual abuse and exploitation of women is allowed to continue with little intervention in a patriarchal culture where, "boys will be boys," and the power structures are tilted towards men. Sexual abuse is a silent killer that robs women of their dignity, their sense of self-respect, and their right to a healthy psychological life.

What to do? There is much we can do. We men can have honest and open conversations with our sons and grandsons about what it means to treat a woman with dignity and respect. That, if we truly love a woman, we would not do anything that would hurt her in any way.

The lack of initiation opportunities for young men in our culture requires that older men step up to the plate and seize the chance to mentor younger men on issues like sexual awareness and the respect of women.

Let me go even further. I suggest men take the opportunity to reach out to other men in YMCAs, churches, and other social settings to create men's groups where the topic of how to treat women with respect can be discussed. Let's have the

courage to talk about what it means to be a "real man" when it comes to treating women with dignity and respect.

The Biblical imperative is that men are asked to honor women. Let men support one another in creating healthy and joy-filled relationships with women. This is our calling. May we have the courage to respond. ◆

Rev. Bruce Tamlyn is chaplain at the Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks. E-mail: btamlyn@silverbay.org.

FUND

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Retirement Fund Web site (<http://www.yretirement.org>) to access the Retiree Resource Profile System. Call the Fund's Customer Service Department if you need a username. The Fund's mission is to create loyalty to the YMCA Movement. We believe this is a valuable tool that will help us meet our mission. ◆

Vanessa Boulous is Senior Vice President for YMCA Relations at the YMCA Retirement Fund. E-mail: boulous@ymca.org.



AYR appreciates the ongoing support of the YMCA Retirement Fund.

Writing Out Loud: Kelly And Tom And So Many More

By Phil Wortman

A friend of mine sent me the book, *Kelly's Kids*, last Christmas knowing I had worked for Cobern Kelly in 1957-59 at the Athens YMCA while attending the University of Georgia. I also had worked with Tom Thraillkill all during his tenure as director of the YMCA Blue Ridge Leaders' School and Tom is mentioned several times in *Kelly's Kids*.



Phil

We had gone to a Christmas presentation at a local church and were talking to some of the people while visiting some friends in Athens, Georgia. Football came up, University of Georgia was mentioned, and the YMCA somehow was interjected. The person I was talking to had been in the Athens Y program and had named his first son "Kelly" after Kelly (as Cobern Kelly was known), because he had such an influence on his life.

Though entirely different individual personalities and style, both men had incredible impact on the lives of the thousands of kids and teens they touched. I don't know of any other two individuals who more exemplify the mission of the YMCA.

Kelly and Thraillkill never became big urban YMCA CEOs or Y-USA staff or built buildings. They just built better people.

Both of these men impacted the lives of youth and teens way

beyond belief during their years as a YMCA professional. Their influence is still being felt as those they led have become leaders in today's society. Yet neither will probably be seriously considered for the YMCA Hall of Fame. Why? Perhaps it is because their focus was on making a difference in individuals' lives — teaching them values, leadership, and life lessons. Neither was focused on personal achievement or national prominence.

Kelly first became involved with the Athens YMCA in 1930 while he was a student at the university. He became the Physical Director at the Athens Y after his military service, where he served from 1945 until his death in 1968.

The author of *Kelly's Boys*, Darrell Huckaby, writes that Kelly was "one of the most famous Athenians of all-time and his influence is still felt through the now-adult men he molded ... probably the most influential coach/teacher in Athens history."

Mr. T (as Tom was called) began his career at the Covington YMCA in Kentucky in 1952 where he first became involved with teen leadership development and the Blue Ridge Leaders' School. He then served as Physical Director at the Albany YMCA in Georgia from 1956 to 1965. He moved to Asheville, N.C., in 1969 and became the Blue Ridge Leaders' School Director from 1971 to 1995, following a career move to Westfield, N.J.

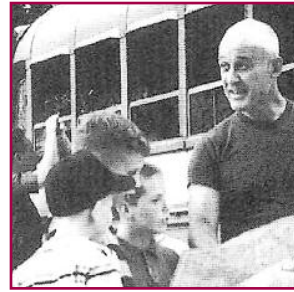
The names of the individuals whose lives these two men influenced are

familiar to YMCA and sports enthusiasts. The number of past and present YMCA leadership who have passed through BRLS under Thraillkill's leadership is amazing, including Robert Gilbertson, President and CEO of Seattle, Wash. YMCA, and Steve Tarver, President and CEO of the YMCA in Louisville, Ky. NFL Football stars like Fran Tarkington, Jake Scott, and Billy Gambrell were some of Kelly's boys. Tarkington, in his book, *No Time for Losing*, called Kelly "a counselor, a brother, a father, and, in general, someone who was a tremendous witness to what the love of Christ really meant."

Both men have received other Hall of Fame honors, though the YMCA's is not among them. Kelly was inducted into the Athens Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001. Thraillkill received the AYP Roberts-Gulick Award in 1976 and was inducted into the Shaker Heights High School Hall of Fame in 1988 in Ohio.

Neither were politically correct. Their beliefs and actions were up front and direct. Discipline, honesty, doing one's best, leadership, and strong Christian principles governed their teachings and actions. ♦

Phil Wortman is a member of the C. B. Willis Chapter of AYR in Florida. E-mail: wortmanll@aol.com.



(Top) Tom Thraillkill in the '60s, and (Bottom) Cobern Kelly in the '50s.

THE LAST WORD

By Bill Cameron

Nervously, I was about to make a phone call to a man I hadn't seen or communicated with for more than 20 years.



Bill

The year was 1977. I was well into midlife, just a few months shy of my 39th birthday.

I had sold my consulting business and was looking for a new job. Through a series of improbable events and coincidences — a story too long to tell here — I had been offered the position of CEO of my local YMCA.

I had no professional experience in the Y. My only YMCA employment was far in the past, when, as a high school student, I worked part-time for the Y in Allentown, Pa., as a desk attendant in the Boys' Department and as a resident camp counselor. What the CEO job entailed, whether I could do it, whether I would like it, were uneasy mysteries to me.

I needed some knowledgeable guidance. I suddenly remembered my boss in those long-ago years in Allentown. I looked in a national staff directory and there he was: Roy Schlessman, erstwhile Boys' Work Secretary and Camp Director. I saw that Roy was now a vice president at the YMCA in Phoenix, Ariz., an association with the wondrous name of Valley of the Sun.

Not expecting him to remember me, I got him on the phone. To my delight, he immediately knew who I was and we had a good time reminiscing. Roy listened patiently while I told him about the job offer and asked for his advice.

I will never forget what he told me: "Take the job, Bill. You won't get rich, but you'll be working with some of the best people in the world."

Roy's encouragement was all I needed. I called the selection committee chairman and — not without some trepidation — said yes. So began the career that would engage me, delight me, challenge me, inspire me, and bring me a sense of vocational fulfillment I hadn't quite found in any of my previous work.

"You'll be working with some of the best people in the world." Roy was so right. I can't imagine any other work, any other organization, that

could have enriched my life with so many extraordinary colleagues and friends.

In retirement, I strive, not always successfully, to stay in touch with some of those special people. Breakfast. Lunch. Phone. Facebook. E-mail.

And, very importantly, AYR.

We're about sharing in AYR, about remembering, about staying connected.

Connected with some of the best people in the world. ◆

Bill Cameron is Vice President/East of the AYR National Board. E-mail: billcameron@comcast.net.

Visit 'Yretiree.org' Often; Stay Up-To-Date

By David Bast

Your AYR resource center is on the Web at <http://www.YRetiree.org>. Click onto it often to stay in the know between issues of *AYReports*.

You'll find plenty of news about chapter officers and national leadership; be able to read and print out numerous chapter newsletters from across the country; and find quick links to places like the YMCA Retirement Fund or Kautz Family YMCA Archives.

Locate chapter meetings to attend while you are traveling; discover things to use in your own chapter newsletters; ready-to-print handouts; personal news and greetings; view the entire AYR membership roster; follow chapter and total EAF grants, and much more.

There is also a special section where AYR members are welcome to sound off about anything on your mind. A current subject (available through Dec. 31, 2010) discusses pros and cons of the new YMCA and AYR logos.

Your Web site is produced by and for AYR members. Make it a "habit click." ◆

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