



MESSER TIDBITS

OCTOBER

2010

Association of YMCA Retirees News

By David Bast

I encourage all Messer Members with their computer access to regularly check our national Website which is www.yretiree.org. This up to date site has chapter news, events locally and elsewhere as your travel during the winter, and photos of fellow retirees. It also features links to other useful YMCA and Retiree sites and has copies of most Chapter's current newsletters for your reading and enjoyment.

Mark your calendar now for the **2011 National Reunion in San Diego, CA**. We will have more information for you in the coming months, but the dates are September 13-17, 2011. Registration information, hotel details, and reunion events are listed on the Reunion Tab at www.yretiree.org.

I am honored and pleased to

have been elected as the new **2011-2014 Vice President-East for AYR**. I will take office at the September 2011 Reunion and will work with AYR Chapters east of the Mississippi River. This includes our Messer Chapter. I will be working with new officers including **Len Wilson, President, Jack Tillman, VP-West, Vickie Hennessey, Secretary, and Rich Hill as Treasurer**.

NAFYR has a New Name and a New Logo. But the fellowship is the same.

Julius Jones, National AYR President announced the winning logo (below) in this summers contest, submitted by Peter Gabel of the Weidensall Chapter in Colorado.



have more information in the coming months, but the dates are September 13-17, 2011. Registration information, hotel details, and reunion events are listed on the Reunion Tab at www.yretiree.org. **Register now (pg. 3) for the Christmas luncheon.** Please note the time adjustment. **Brandenburg's Christmas Luncheon** will be Dec. 8th at the Highlands at Wildwood Lake in Menomonee Falls. If you would like to go and need a ride, call Pat at 847- 644-0788.

More Retiree News....
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Interim Messer News Notes Jim Furrrie, Messer Chapter President

Are you surprised to hear from Messer Chapter? We are trying in these interim news notes called "**Tidbits**" to keep you better informed about different happenings. Your feedback will be helpful.

The Messer Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on Oct. 14, 2010 at the BR Ryall YMCA beginning at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend if they wish. As I write this, the Messer Chapter members are scheduled to go to Galena, Illinois Sept. 27-29. Our next social event is the Christmas Luncheon on December 1 at The Meadows.

So, the summer is over..and what a busy summer it was for Mary Ann and me. One of our own highlights was an Intergenerational camp at the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas. The week was sponsored by our church. We took our 11, soon to be 12 year old, grandson with us to this event. Heifer International is famous for partnering with community groups throughout the world. They develop plans, train, and enable people to care for livestock, grow crops sustainably, and help people to lift themselves out of poverty. We participated in classes on beekeeping, sheep herding, and gardening. Another fun one was "Just Doughing It". In it we were taught the basis of providing food from scratch. We ground the wheat, milked a goat, made cheese, picked herbs from the garden, all coming together to make a fabulous and delicious pizza. We attended classes on world economics, classes on "how much is enough", and learned more about the concept of passing on our gifts. Midweek I asked my grandson if this ranch experience was what he expected. He said "I get it, Grandpa". Of course, there was no swimming or campfires, so it was different than the usual camp. But he "got it". **OH YES!** I almost forgot the extreme heat that week in Arkansas and most of the southeast. The average temperature that week was 106 degrees F, the heat index was 118 degrees. We highly recommend the experience of going to camp at Heifer International, Perryville Arkansas, just pick a cooler time than August!

See you soon!

Jim

Special points of interest:

- Association of Y Retirees News
- Messer Christmas Luncheon
- Health Update
- Member Activities
- Galena Trip Summary
- 2011 National Reunion



Updates.....

The good news is that they (the Dr's) have not yet found any reason for Wes 's blood situation . The bad news is the Dr's haven't found any reason for Wes's blood situation . Wes called to keep us informed and the next step for him is the swallowing of a camera and have the system record his inside for a period of time . I believe he said they will do that this next week . He and Connie are looking forward to Galena . And Monty is also doing great. Hope your Labor



day weekend is going ok ,we got word MaryAnn's oldest Brother is in the hospital with a stroke .He is 85. Yesterday 2 of our grand-

children accompanied us to The Wisconsin Highland games .We had a beautiful cool day enjoying the pipe bands and eating traditional Scottish food .The Scotch people were not gourmet chefs nor is their food .My grandson and I tried haggis ,not to bad ,but do not expect me to order it any time soonMore later

A major purpose of the monthly Tidbits is to report the events, trips, and activities of Messer members. So please send all news of your doings to Pat Nelson at pnelson@wowway.com or 2040 Royal Blvd., Elgin, Il., 60123.

Member Activities

Jean and David Bast enjoyed a long planned trip through the western US. David had been in the west many times on family vacations, but this was Jean's first trip through the states, rather than flying over them! The trip was fantastic but the real thrill was seeing the area through Jeans first time view and sharing her awe of the beauty.



We visited her brother and sister in Colorado before crossing Trail Ridge Road and heading for Wyoming and Montana. Highlights included Wind River Canyon, Grand Teton National Park (our favorite), Yellow-



stone, Bear Tooth Highway, and Ten Sleep Wyoming. At Pat Nelson's urging, we added time to the parks and signed up for Ranger led programs, and trips including the Fire and Ice Cruise on Jackson Lake, the Western Chuck Wagon Dinner from Roosevelt Lodge, and a 6 hour yellow bus ranger led tour photographing early morning wildlife in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone.

We then stayed in South Dakota's Custer State Park, visited the Black Hills and Mt. Rushmore, feed the wild burro's, and discovered the Hot Springs, SD Mammoth Dig. This volunteer project is simply awesome and is worth the visit.



Ed and Phyllis Knapp are traveling the Southeast looking for the perfect motor home in which to continue their retirement travels in style. Welcome to retirement Ed.

Pat Nelson vacationed in Texas visiting his brother and then attending his 45th high school reunion in Big Spring, Tx. Larry Hemdal has a new email address: lshymca@frontier.com. Please make this change in your address book.

The Galena Event was attended by members of Brandenburg, Messer, and Hoosier-Buell Chapters. We learned how quality cheese was made, enjoyed wine making and tasting, visited the museum, took a walking tour of Galena, ate wonderful dinners, left lots of cash at the Galena shops and delighted in the special social gatherings in the Hemdal's room enjoying Larry's well stocked refreshments. The highlight was a great dinner with General and Julia Grant and their interesting historic presentation.



Wes and Connie Walker with General and Julia Grant.....

“One excellent reason that talk is considered so cheap is that the supply usually exceeds the demand.”
“Middle age is when your criticism changes from the older generation to the younger one.”