

Weidensall "WANDERINGS"

An occasional publication of the WEIDENSALL Cluster of the Grand Canyon Chapter which serves YMCA retirees in most of the Western states: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and western flat areas of Kansas and Nebraska.

NOVEMBER 2011

This first part, in bold lettering, is a repeat on our announcement about the October Grand Canyon Chapter gathering in Durango, CO. You need to read this again to "save the dates", "make plans" and "volunteer to help out".

Hi there! Time for a communication from the Weidensall Cluster editorial office. If you remember, our cluster is hosting the 2012 fall gathering of the Grand Canyon Chapter. Well, the cluster planning committee has been at work putting together a fantastic program to be held in DURANGO, Colorado, October 15-18.

First of all: Save those dates and plan to attend so we can host other chapter members from New Mexico and Arizona. There may be opportunities for car pooling and we'll talk about that during some of our luncheon meetings.

Second: We need some volunteers. A few for hospitality to welcome our guests. Ed Glass is already planning for a first day gold outing. We need someone for an opening prayer for our opening banquet on Monday night. And we need to provide a devotional for Thursday morning heading up our traditional business meeting for the chapter. Norma will want to present an EAF report along with John Brooks. So, if you can help out, let Stew know.

This is an event we can be proud to host...so save the dates, plan to attend, and volunteer to help out.

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The San Diego national AYR reunion was a success in terms of program and fellowship, at a great location. More details on the event will be in the Grand Canyon ECHO's, coming out soon. Peter is working hard on putting it together.

The GC Chapter had the largest turn out of members in San Diego, and from Weidensall our group included: Ed and Mary Lou Glass, Norma Hansen, Rich & Susan Hill, Clark & Nancy Lupton and Stew Brown. Sometime Weidensall members, the Johnson's and Lipscomb's were also in attendance. Norma was recognized at the Reunion for her cluster role in EAF leadership.

Some changes with AYR, in that the chapters are now organized into three districts or regions. The new Central region is made up of chapters on both sides of the Mississippi River. We remain in the west region. Jack Tillman is our Vice President, from the Lyon Chapter. Jack did a great job with registration and other assignments for the reunion.

Also with AYR: Rich Hill is now VP for Membership along with Pat Ritter (Reunion Chair). Rich will continue as Asst Treasurer along with Dottie Eley and our new Treasurer is Ken White. Our new President is Len Wilson, and we expect he and his wife Joyce will meet with us in October. New VP's other than Jack, include Ralph Christian from NYC for the East and Dave Bast, Messer Chapter, for the new Central area. Bill Cameron will be a Board member at Large. We wish the new Board members an exciting term of service, which has been returned to three years from two. Representing the Y Retirement Fund, and now attending chapter meetings with the YRF presentation, pens, and golf balls, is Bob Hastedt

Time for our CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DETAILS. Mary Lou Glass has scheduled our group at the **Country Buffet**, where we have met several times, **7475 Park Meadows Pkwy, in Lonetree, Co**, just south of the PARK MEADOWS Mall and the new IKEA store. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, December 6th, 11:00am**. We'll gather in that rear meeting room for fellowship, stuffing ourselves with a wide variety of buffet menu items, and then trying to select one to four different desserts to finish off the meal. The IKEA store is worth a side trip adventure on our way home. For a directions map, just check GOOGLE with Country Buffet and the address, but you remember the way I'll bet. Only Stew gets lost because he comes in from the west. Remember, it's just off I-25 or C-470.

MEMBERSHIP: Many thanks to all who have renewed their membership in AYR (Association of YMCA Retirees) as well as the GRAND CANYON CHAPTER. It's a whole new ball game, but now we've had two "seasons" to get used to where we send our dues. Remember: Membership in AYR gives you the AYReports newsletter and especially the opportunity to apply for EAF financial help if needed. Of course there is a whole list of benefits, but these are the two important ones. For the Grand Canyon Chapter, you receive the newsletter ECHO's, the membership directory, and can attend the annual 3-4 day chapter fall event. For our WEIDENSALL Cluster group, there are no dues and old members are kept on the mailing list for WANDERINGS, just to keep in touch and all are invited to our seasonal luncheons. An updated roster of Weidensall folks is included with this newsletter.

ODD NEWS: Stew Brown has been working on the AYR history, which goes back to include the years we were IARD and NAFYR, and of course has a big section on the 2000 Reunion with all your names. The project has been completed, and now the job is to cord "HISTORY IN THE MAKING" as new officers move the fellowship forward. Stew was recently invited to meet with the Messer Chapter (Illinois) about chapter history and what to do with it. Messer was celebrating their 80th anniversary at George Williams College Camp. Stew then hurried back to visit with Pres and Dee Johnson who were volunteering at the YMCA Estes Park Center.

END OF THE YEAR THOUGHTS: We hope all of our Cluster family members have made their annual contribution to EAF (Emergency Assistance Fund) and WS (YMCA World Service) The need and work to be done is always present with both these important groups that we contribute to. If you have forgotten, or have an end of the year extra check, here are the mailing addresses:

EAF: AYP Office, Stitzer YMCA Center, Springfield College, 263 Alden St., Springfield, MA 01109

Y-WS: YMCA International Division, 101 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606

Be sure to include you are a member of the Grand Canyon Chapter.

EAF is part of the Association of YMCA Professionals (AYP), but makes grants to YMCA retirees who have been AYR members for at least six months, or were AYP members at retirement. **AYP** is forming a separate **EAF Board** to take charge, rather than a committee, and this will start on January 1st, 2012. Stew Brown will be representing AYR on this new Board. Dale **Ventres** is continuing as our own AYR EAF Chair. He plans on the 2012 EAF Campaign for retirees to get underway in early 2012.

There will be a test to see if you can remember all these titles: EAF, AYR, AYP, Y-WS, and don't forget the Sioux Indian YMCA, they can always use our help.

OK, we're out of room, so watch for the attachments on our Weidensall Directory, and the 2012 Grand Canyon Durango Gathering.

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"Bless be the tie that binds!"

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