

Weidendall “WANDERINGS”

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

OCTOBER 2010 EDITION

This is an important issue of WANDERINGS as we get fully integrated as a “Cluster Group”, one of four, as part of the GRAND CANYON CHAPTER. Enclosed is a membership renewal form and a letter from Grand Canyon Chapter Co Treasurers; Everett and Marjorie Heer. Read the letter and instructions, complete the membership renewal form completely, and mail it back to the Heer’s. It’s as simple as that.

You will then be a full member of the Grand Canyon Chapter and the Weidensall Cluster. You will receive a newsletter from the Chapter, and occasional WANDERINGS from our cluster. You can attend any of the meetings promoted in either newsletter. I hope you all send in your dues with the form and continue to be part of our fellowship.

AYR – ASSOCIATION OF YMCA RETIREES. Forget the old name NAFYR, we’re now AYR, with a new logo. And I’m pleased and proud to announce that the new logo was created by Peter Gabel, among a number of entries in a national contest, also entered into by Ed Glass.

Now, if you remember, membership in AYR is separate from our Chapter and Cluster membership. The dues are \$25 for single or Couple, annually. Many of you joined our parent group and receive

The new AYReports, bi-monthly newsletter, looking very professional. Our national AYR membership records are kept by the professional group: AYP: Association of YMCA Professionals They bill us at the end of each summer for our national renewal.

If you haven’t yet joined AYR, you can do so through our own AYR WEB site: www.yretiree.org

OR to the AYP office, include your name and mailing information, And check for \$25, made out to AYR (don’t get confused – keep AYP and AYR separate in your mind, two different groups)

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

Did you notice the office has moved to Springfield College?
Any questions, contact Stew Brown.



The emblem above is the new design, but the “Y” part is in a sharp red color. Watch for it.

Note: The YMCA of the USA has also changed it’s national emblem. Sort of a more relaxed design, in two colors, and there are four different color combinations. And we will now be known as: “the Y” (with a little YMCA along the lower side of the Y on the right side.) Because everyone says “I’m going to “the Y”. There is no change to the national values and mission.

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GRAND CANYON CHAPTER FALL MEETING – Folks from all over this six state western area will be gathering in Tucson, Arizona - November 1 – 3 for the Chapter’s annual fall “round up” of

members. You need to be there to meet all the folks from all over the west. Pete Smargon, who has been a Weidensall member, is in charge of registration and this reunion information and form is included with this newsletter. There's lots to do, people to meet, good food, great location, and you'll have a GREAT time. Contact Stew with any questions.

2011 AYR SAN DIEGO REUNION – Save the dates: September 13 to 17. Save your money for a great time to: “**RENEW THE SPIRIT...FUN, FRIENDS, FELLOWSHIP**”. Both Ed Glass and Stew Brown are on the Planning Committee, and we are so anxious to be part of the gathering. What a great spot, so many things to do and get to, and the resort has a fantastic low price, and is in a park like setting. This will be the place to go in 2011. Details and registration information will be mailed out to everyone after the first of the year. Five meals, special fun speakers, and awesome entertainment are included in the program.

2012 GRAND CANYON CHAPTER FALL MEETING - Oh Boy, do we get any busier? The Weidensall Cluster in 2012 will be hosting the annual Grand Canyon Chapter event. Stew Brown is already working on details, and we're going to Durango, Colorado to ride the train, play golf, shop, visit Mesa Verde National Park, have great meals, and especially great fellowship with all the members in our new chapter area.

TIME FOR REFLECTION – We've recently lost several members of our Weidensall Cluster: Melvin Seeley (Rocky Ford), Stuart Reid (Canyon City), and Ned Linegar (Estes Park). Melvin and Stuart's distance from Denver made it difficult for them to attend meetings, but Ned was always present when we met in Estes Park and the Lupton's brought him to our recent June meeting. At 96, he was always sharp, and had that ever present warm smile.

*Do not stand by my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow, I am a diamond glint on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awake in the morning hush, I am the swift uplifting rush,
of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft star shine at night, so not stand by my grave and cry,
I am not there....I did not die*

Anonymous

WHERE HAS BOB TAYLOR BEEN? - Earlier this summer, Robert spent three weeks in China. In some respects it was a personal mission. The basic motivation for the trip dates back to the time he was 13 years of age. And it's roots are in the YMCA in Pittsburgh, PA. Bob had his first job there in a Boys' Department. The pay was good at 10 cents an hour. The story finds Bob developing a friendship with a Chinese young man who was attending medical school in a local university. He lived in the Y building. Bob learned that his father was governor of Yunnan Province. He therefore, grew up in the Governor's mansion in Kunming. He shared fascinating stories about his life and a great deal about China. Since then Bob has wanted to visit that country. Bob had visited other adjoining nations, but never set foot in the mainland of China until July.

Portal to portal covered 25,000 miles of travel. Nine aircraft, two ships, two trains (one of which traveled 276 mph), several buses and lots of shoe leather. Bob was impressed! Their present culture is a product developed over many thousands of years. And they are a proud people. Bob visited in homes, factories, schools, hotels and others. He felt welcome wherever he found himself. And, yes, He has a library of stories to tell about it all.

The seniors occasionally said that now they are getting even with us. Everything they had in their formative years was "Made in the USA". Also, many "toasted" Richard Nixon for freeing their people. Much of what Bob learned on his trip was from his old Chinese Y-buddy.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND - Contributions have gone well this year, and a good thing too because we've had several AYR members request grants, which have been approved. Credit for this help is because of the Chapter Representatives getting involved to gather information needed, and feeding it all in to EAF Chair Dale Ventres, who stays on top of every possible issue and claim till it is resolved.

Our contributions are now integrated with the Grand Canyon Chapter, who has 33 gifts totaling \$2926. We are about three-quarters in the Chapter giving year with those ahead of us having more members. The grand total thru September is 759 gifts for \$74,459. Pat yourself on the back.

NEW AYR OFFICERS - The AYR Nominating Committee has selected the following for the 2011-2014 (3 year) term: **Len Wilson** (Philadelphia and BRIDGES Editor) President; **Jack Tillman** (California and 2011 Reunion committee member) VP West, **David Bast** (Illinois) VP-East and AYR WEB site Master, **Vickie Hennessey** (Minnesota) Secretary, and **Rich Hill** (CO and AZ) Treasurer.

These folks will be joining the current officers in January for a Board meeting in Orlando. This will help them be up to date for the start of their term at the 2011 Reunion in September.

AND MORE NEWS - Your Editor contacted **Dwight Johnson** at his cabin in Tincup, but after mid summer Dwight had returned home to Nebraska. I followed thru to see if all was OK, which it was, but at his age, and being alone in the old gold mining community, he felt he should return home early.

AND CHECK OUT THE AYR WEB SITE - When you have nothing else to do, or even want to spend some interesting time, and take time to visit the AYR Web Site: www.yretiree.org

AND WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS - Stew Brown is Editor, Printer, and Distribution chief. The USPS is responsible for delivering this document to your door. Any miss information, new news, comments, or political comments can be sent to your Editor for inclusion in the next **WANDERINGS**.

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**We'll be having a December luncheon with
Norma Hansen as our host. No date set yet**

**PLAN ON ATTENDING THE GRAND CANYON CHAPTER
MEETING IN TUCSON, AZ, NOVEMBER 1-3**

**SET YOUR 2011 CALENDAR FOR ATTENDING THE
AYR REUNION IN SAN DIEGO, CA
SEPTEMBER 13-17, 2011**

NOTE: This publication is being sent to AYR and Chapter leadership by e-mail without the logos on page 1 or the Grand Canyon Chapter membership renewal and November Reunion items. Weidensall members are receiving theirs' by USPS mail with everything 44 cents will allow.