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Chambers Chatter

William S.
Chambers Chapter

June 2020 Newsletter

Serving: Ohio, West Virginia, N. Kentucky and W. Pennsylvania



Dick Fullmer

Chambers Chapter President

"President's Pondering"

As we fight through the Covid 19 crisis, we have positive and negative reasons for getting together in large and small groups. We just missed our Spring Reunion and now wonder if we will be able to gather in the Fall. My thanks to **John Carney** who chaired and planned the Spring event, scheduled for the Cleveland area. I was looking forward to all the fun

things planned and seeing all of the Chambers friends. But we are in uncharted waters and we'll have to wait to see all that was sometime in the future. I also want to thank **John Mack**, who is chairing our Fall Reumon and has recruited **Lowell Nees** and **John Carney** as committee members. If we can do it, great things are being planned and I hope we can gather on the Lake Erie shores and have a wonderful time renewing friendships, meeting new friends and enjoying the great outdoors.

Guess who stepped up to volunteer? When I asked for a volunteer to serve on the National Task Force to develop National Service Project for Alumni across the united States, **Steve Gunn** raised his hand and said he'd do it. I told Lou Falk, who is chairing this important project for Dale Packer, that he was getting a good one! Steve has provided great Leadership as part of the Chambers Chapter an I'm sure he will represent us all at the National level!



ymca
ALUMNI

The **Mission** of the **YMCA Alumni** is to enable members to promote a nurturing Worldwide Christian Fellowship that provides educational, social and charitable opportunities.

Connect**Travel****Service**

**Dale Packer****YMCA Alumni National
President**

The pandemic has certainly changed our lives and not for the better but for more reflection on the future for me. **YMCA Alumni** wanted to help. So, this what is happening with the support of our **World Brotherhood Fund**. These dollars were raised about 15 years ago to support our colleagues in other countries with retirement as most countries do not have a retirement plan either with the Y or the country. The funds are managed by the YMCA Alumni.

We have agreed to grant \$200,000 of the earnings, of which little has been spent over the years, to support our retired brethren of foreign countries who are retired and in crisis. We will be distributing this in four payments of \$50,000 over the next six months to Secours Speciaux a committee of the World Alliance of the YMCA. YMCA Alumni should feel very good about this commitment to help.

We had a good membership and finance report at our Board meeting May 14, 2020. We have over 300 members subscribing to the **Travel Newsletter "Going Places"** published 6 times per year. If you would like to subscribe, go to the YMCA Alumni website and click on the button to subscribe to "Going Places." I realize that we are not going many places right now, but I know we will in the future.

The Board made a change in the restrictions to the World Brotherhood Fund grant that has been made to the World Alliance YMCA Secours Speciaux in negating the need for a 10 year employment requirement to receive relief money to our foreign colleagues during the pandemic. The change was agreed upon by the founders and past chairs of the fund.

President Elect Jean Carmichael has been working to fill the vacant positions that will occur at the end of this triennium and has been successful in filling all the positions for

2021-2023. The election of the nominees will take place in October at a meeting of the General Council to be announced in September.

Yours in fellowship, G. Dale Packer, President YMCA Alumni



**Fall Reunion
September 16 - 18, 2020**

Details later in Newsletter.



Tony Delisio

World Service Chairman

YMCA Stands Together

Thank you to every individual, family and organization who contributed to YMCA World Service so far this year in response to our special Covid-19 Request. To date, the **William S. Chambers Chapter** has contributed \$3,505 from 20 donors. Collectively, **YMCA Alumni** giving is ahead of last year with \$100,039 from 190 contributors to support the life-changing work of YMCA's in more than 50 countries.

Global YMCA Update: YMCA World Service Funds are used to strengthen the long-term sustainability of YMCA's so they can continue to maintain and train staff and volunteers,

serve their communities and meet the most urgent local needs. Here is just one of many examples of YMCA work worldwide:

Work of **YMCA Columbia** provides a snap shot of what we are learning across the globe, depending upon how hard they are being affected by Covid-19. In the last month, Humanitarian Aid, Food Security and Solidarity Support Network initiatives have been developed to improve dignified living conditions for YMCA participants, communities and families in vulnerable situations. Here are the number of people served in Columbian cities through the YMCA: Bogota 794, Cali 202, Medellin 30, Quindio 73, Risaralda 819, Santander 1, Tolima 170.

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of our 2020 World Service Campaign and the work of our global partners:

Paul Atkinson
J. Richard Bennett
John Carney
Carol A. Carraway
Constance Clark
Anthony R. Delisio
Lois A. Doughty
Thomas J. Feller
Mike Frith
Christy Gordon

Stephen Gunn
Harold Hewitt
Richard N. Jones
Michael B. Lieber
Bruce D. McAtee
Ronald P. Moore
Peggy A. Ottke
Wayne Uhrig
Charles E. Zech
Chambers Chapter of the YMCA Alumni

If you made a contribution to World Service in 2020 and your name does not appear on this list, we deeply regret our omission. Please give me a call at (614) 581-8417 or email me at tdelisio58@gmail.com so we can properly recognize your gift.

Finally, we want you to know that you still have time to support World Service this year. Gifts will be accepted through the end of 2020. Your gift, no matter the size, is important and creates positive change. You can visit www.ymca.net/world-service to contribute online. If you have any questions about World Service, please call me at (614) 581-8417 or email me at tdelisio58@gmail.com.

Thank you for **Changing the World for Good!!**

Stay In Touch: 'Like Us' On Facebook

There's lots going on with **YMCA Alumni** and it's **Chapters**. Events, People and Places, Newsletters, Board Decisions and much more. At least one-third of



YMCA Alumni members visit our Facebook Page each week. **Give it a Look!**



Steve Gunn
EAF Chairman

As many of you already know the most recent crisis we are all going through with the **Covid-19** has taken many of us back a notch or two. Everyone has been affected in one way or the other and many of us have been affected in many ways from not being able to get together with our family, to not going to church or restaurants or ??? You get the picture.

One thing, however, that we all can be **thankful for is our Y Retirement** and the faithfulness of it for ourselves and our family. Our pensions and the regular deposits into our account are not what many of our working Y staff have to lean on. They don't have this blessing. Many have been furloughed, laid off or terminated due to the closing of almost all Ys nationwide.

I recently spoke to a CEO in Ohio who shuttered 14 branches in one day. Along with that came furloughs of 1355 part-time staff and 322 full time staff. Only 49 full time staff remain and they each took a 15% cut in pay. There is no certainty right now how many branches will be able to be re-opened. Needless to say, unless they were able to collect unemployment or collect the Stimulus check, they had no money to pay their bills.

Why do I speak of this? These are people who at one time, could have been us in another time. Yes, we are very fortunate. The Y staff across the country are in the same boat and need our help now. National EAF has reported a tremendous amount of grant applications for our Y colleagues.

Recently our editor sent out to each of you a letter about the need not only for EAF but also for World Service. I hope you have had an opportunity to receive the letter and have read it. If not, I am sure the editor can resend upon request. It is quite unnerving to say the least.

Please pick up your checkbook or credit card and **send in your donation today**. Remember **John 17:21** when you do this, "that we all can be one" is a part of the Bible familiar to us all. It speaks to the need as well today. **Thanks to everyone** who has responded thus far and to those who have not, I am confident you will. Send your contribution to YMCA of the USA-Finance Department, 101 N. Wacker Drive, 16th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606 care of EAF or on-line at: www.ymcaalumni.org. Click on Donate now! Be sure to write on the check or online, Chambers Chapter!

Celebrating The Life Of:



Philip Jon Frawley 1952 - March 2020

Philip passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Although his human heart had challenges, his emotional heart did not. He loved deeply, evidenced by his long and happy 30-year marriage to his wife, Janet: as well as his Toledo and Colorado YMCA friendships.

Phil and Janet loved to travel all over the world. Phil's real favorites were Venice and Paris. He loved photography, gardening, skiing and his two dogs Barnum and Bailey.

Phil was known for his signature laughter and his great sense of humor. He had a long hotel management career punctuated by his tenure at the YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado.

Phil was predeceased by his parents, Jon and Doris Frawley.

Phil was laid to rest at Toledo Memorial Park.



Merle Porter

June 1, 1930 - April 12, 2020

Merle passed away after an extended illness and 4 hospitalizations in the months leading up to his passing. In a weakened state, he suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack, and passed away early Easter morning at the age of 89.

He was married to the love of his life, Mary Lee for 66 years. Merle and Mary Lee have 3 sons, 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Merle began working at the downtown Columbus Y as Assoc. Program Director in 1952, while attending Ohio State University. He retired in 1995 from the Greater Miami Valley YMCA where he served as CEO.

A memorial service will be held at YMCA Camp Campbell Gard when possible.



Wayne Uhrig

Chamber's Historian

History



Railroad YMCAs From Spring/Summer 2001 Discovery

“The industrial revolution gave birth to YMCAs serving men away from home. The first railroad YMCA was organized in 1872 to serve the religious and recreational needs of men working on the railroad.”

Prior to that date the YMCA office had hired Robert Weidensall in 1868 as the first railroad secretary. He traveled the country to promote YMCA work along the Union Pacific Railroad lines. And, just a few months earlier the YMCA Pacific Railroad Mission was established in Omaha, Nebraska.

Members of the New York and Chicago YMCAs joined in with lay preachers to travel to temporary towns inhabited by railroad workers as the railway worked its way across the nation. They were committed to bring the Christian message to those towns that had the reputation for crime and vice.

Henry Stager, a train dispatcher, organized the first railroad YMCA in the Cleveland Passenger Station when he decided to do something after seeing a body being carried out from the station and a bystander said, it was “only a railroad man.”

With the support of the railroad management the railroad YMCA movement grew rapidly. They sponsored Bible study, first-aid classes, clean beds, good meals and showers 24hours a day. By 1883 there were 59 railroad branches, 24 other YMCA branches serving railroad men and 62 YMCA railroad general secretaries.

The effective work of the railroad YMCAs led to the establishment of the Industrial Department in 1903, and the YMCA began serving all industries with the attempt to fill a void that the employers could not meet.

Connect



Chambers Chapter Prayer Chain

Tony Delisio

Prayer Chain Chair

We Shall Overcome

Dear Y Alumni,

We want you to know that we continue to think about you and your families during these unprecedented times of Covid-19. We hope and pray that you are doing well and staying healthy.

As a YMCA family, we stand together knowing that WE SHALL OVERCOME. Back on April 1st. we asked you to join us in prayer in the battle against the Coronavirus Pandemic. Your response was most inspiring. But the battle wages on. Please join us again as "Prayer Warriors" by praying/sharing this new prayer:

"Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask You to protect us from Covid-19 and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working on containing the spread of the illness, grant them fortitude and

success; for those afraid, grant peace. May Your Precious Blood be our defense and salvation. By Your grace, may You turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we ALWAYS fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to Your infinite mercy and place ALL our trust in You."
Amen

Prayer does make a difference,

Do you have a **need for prayer**? Whenever you, a family member or a friend is in need of prayer, you can turn to your friends with the Chambers Chapter to help lift up your concerns to God in prayer.

You can email your prayer request to us utilizing the attached **Prayer Chain Request Card**. Phone calls and text messages are also welcome. Simply contact me, Tony Delisio, with your prayer request and we will send a message to all Chambers Chapter members (via email) asking for prayers and healing.

Please send your Prayer Chain Requests to: Tony Delisio

(614) 581-8417 OR Tdelisio58@gmail.com

Thank you and May God Bless You.

Chambers Chapter of YMCA Alumni Prayer Request Card

Prayer Request for (please print):

**I have this person's permission to add their name
to the prayer chain for:**

2 weeks 1 month 2 months 3 months

Daily prayer will include healing, comfort, strength and peace.

Please keep us updated.

Check appropriate box(s)

Surgery _____ Traveling _____

Illness _____ Military _____

Death of loved one _____ Injury _____

Difficult relationship _____ Guidance _____

Challenges at home, work or school _____

Joy _____

Comments: _____

Your Name: _____





A fun and relaxing two to three day retreat with friends on the Lake Erie Islands and North Coast. Enjoy fellowship and explore hidden treasures like Perry's Monument, Glacial Grooves' Crystal Cave, Lighthouses, Craft Breweries. Wineries, Unique shops, and more. Registration includes most of the Island admissions and some meals. Enjoy the quaint charm of the Island House Built in 1870. When it opened, it

had fifty rooms and only one bathroom. Since then it has been remodeled, thank heavens, and has a bathrooms in every room.

Come join us in the Fall fellowship.

Fall Reunion Three Day Event

Wednesday, September 16th

Day one: For those of you who are early arrivals the fun and fellowship begins with a delicious lunch at **Twin Oast Brewery**.

Then it is off for a choice of afternoon activities. It may be golfing at the **Catawba Island Club**, and Arthur Hills designed golf course kept in pristine condition.

Or it may be a guided tour of the **North Coast** including the **Marblehead Lighthouse** the oldest operating lighthouse on the Great Lakes, the Port Clinton restored lighthouse, a short beach walk, and a chance to explore **Port Clinton downtown**.

Check-in to your room at the historic **Island House** and make your way to the oldest winery on **Catawba Island**. No need for a ferry since the lake bridge is 10 minutes from the hotel.

Enjoy a delightful dinner and program followed by a social fellowship gathering.

Overnight at the Island House in Downtown Port Clinton.

Thursday, September 17th

Day Two: Begins with breakfast and a short Chapter Business Meeting at the Island House. Then we board the Jet Express to **Put-In Bay** (located across the street from the hotel).

When we arrive at Put-In-Bay (the island where Commodore Perry defeated the British in the war of 1812) we'll pick up the prearranged golf cars to travel the island.

Our first stop is the top of **Perry's Victory and Peace Monument**, 352 feet in the air. It is the tallest Doric column in the world. We'll learn more about it at the **Perry's Victory Museum**. Then it is off to lunch and fellowship at the **Broadway waterfront restaurant**.

Our next tour after lunch is **Heineman's Wineries** founded in 1888 and still run by the 5th generation. On the property is **Crystal Cave**, the world's largest geode. We'll tour both.

We can drive to see the **South Shore Lighthouse**, then back downtown to check out the shops or **Antique Car Museum** which is free.

Dinner is on the island at the **Forge Restaurant** ---no great backstory but good food and conversation.

Then you are free to stay on the island to shop or walk the waterfront. The Jet Express can take you back to Port Clinton at any time that you want as late as 11:00 p.m. Your second night at the Island House downtown Port Clinton.

Friday, September 18th

Day Three: Starts with breakfast on your own downtown at a local restaurant or at the hotel.

Check out of the hotel room for a short car trip to the **Liberty Aviation Museum** with its restored airplanes including B25 bomber, TBM torpedo bomber, Ford Trimotor (the first commercial airliner) airplane, a PT Boat, and so much more. Lunch can be at the Museum's 1950's themed restaurant "The Tin Goose Diner".

Hope you can join us for a fun filled 3 days.





Fall Reunion Registration Form
Reservations need to be received by Sept. 1th

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Email Address: _____

Projected Arrival Time Wednesday September 16th: _____

AM / PM

Choices for Thursday Night Banquet and Friday Dinner will be ask at a Later date.

___ Will be asked at a later date once restaurants are back in full operation.

Options I am Interested in - pick one each day please

___ Day 1 Wednesday Sept. 16th - Guided tour of the North Coast

___ Day 1 Wednesday Sept. 16th - Golf outing at Catawba Island Club

___ Day 2 Thursday Sept. 17th - Antique Car Museum on PIB

___ Day 2 Thursday Sept. 17th Shopping downtown PIB

Please enclose your check for \$120 per person to:

This includes Dinner Wed., breakfast Thurs., Ferry Boat, Golf cart rental, all tour admissions, and dinner Thurs.

Does not include lunch Wed., golf, wine or beer, lunch Thurs., and breakfast Fri., or lunch Fri.

Checks made out to: YMCA Alumni Chambers Chapter

Send to: **Reservation needed to be received by Sept.1st**
Attn: John Mack
310 N. Crest Drive
Port Clinton, OH 43452
H - 423-968-9622 johnmackiii@juno.com

Please understand that you need to make your own hotel reservations at:

The Island House Hotel

102 Madison Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419-734-0100

Room Reservations Link: <https://clients.innroad.com/ihh/properties..aspx>

Island House Rooms (YMCA 15% discounted rate)
Wed & Thurs nights (per night)
Queen \$76 King \$85 Double Queen \$93 Suites \$110

Reservations need to be received by September 1st.



The word is out: New Orleans will be the host city for YMCA Reunion '22. Details will be released as they are decided, but in the meantime, know "connecting...and all that jazz" is happening in January 2022. Plan now to attend.

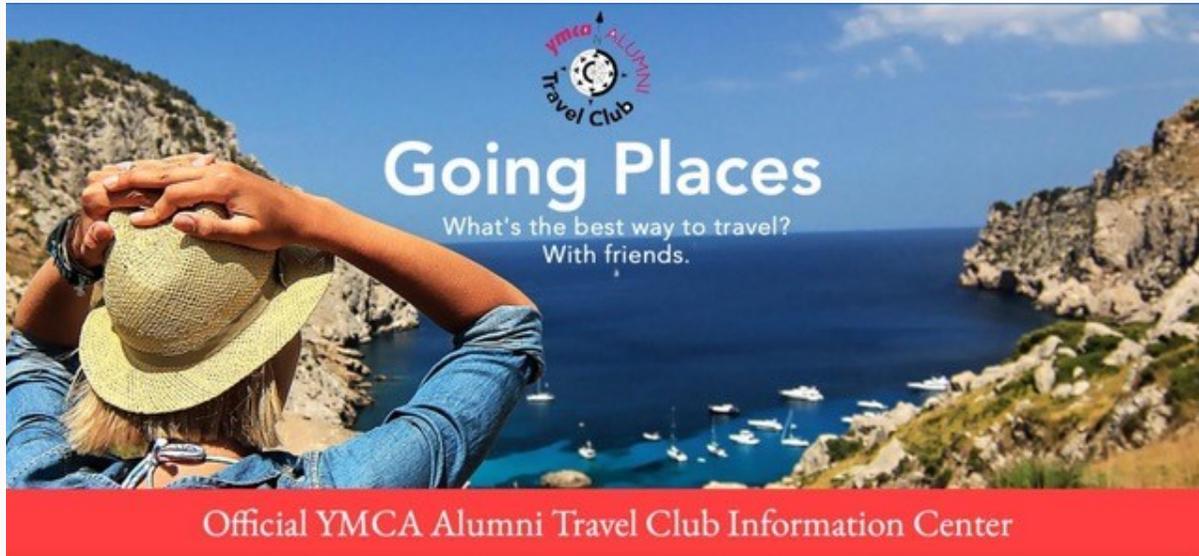


Travel





YMCA Alumni Travel Club



New England & Canada Cruise

Sept. 30 - Oct. 8, 2021

"Maritime Colors" --- A delightful ocean cruise through New England and Maritime Canada during the height of autumn's spectacular color show with Royal Caribbean's Freedom of the Seas.

Rhine River Cruise

Sept.28-Oct. 5, 2021



Adventure and discovery for new and experienced cruisers.



April 25 - May 9, 2021

Trade routes of the Middle Ages

Viking Cruises invites you to embark on a week filled with enriching experiences daily.

For additional travel and information go to the official YMCA Alumni Travel Club site for more information.

[@ymcaalumnitravelclub.org](https://www.ymcaalumnitravelclub.org)

Serve



Sioux YMCA Volunteer Project

From the ISC Task Force

We have been informed by the Sioux YMCA staff in Dupree, South Dakota, that they are on lockdown until July 31st, 2020. We will continue to keep in touch to see if there may be some volunteer opportunities later this summer or early Fall. I will keep our Chapter up to date as best as I can over the next several weeks. Wayne is also planning to discuss ISC at the next meeting for our Chapter. Anyone who is interested in volunteering in the future

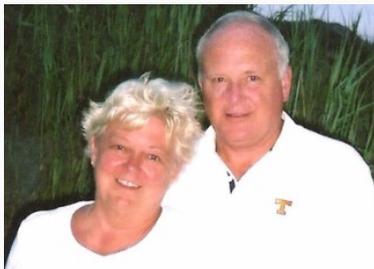
can reach me by email.

Thank you you, Wayne E. Uhrig
wuhrig.msusports@gmail.com

Service Projects

Not only is the National Task force looking for service projects, our Chapter is always looking for project that can be performed by a few in a certain area or of a project that our Chapter can participate as a whole.

If you have any ideas or needs please let our President know of the need!



Editorial Notes

Mike and Jackie Frith

As our country begins to open, I am sure we are struggling with staying inside for so long. Hopefully, we all will be smart and stay safe with our actions in the next few weeks.

During a time such as this two verses comes to mind that will comfort all of us: (1) **Joshua 1: 9** *"...Be not terrified: do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* (2) **Isaiah 41:13** *"For I am the LORD, your GOD, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."*

Special Notice: Effective January 1st we will not be able to edit the newsletter. I will become President at that time. In a Chapter like ours, I know that there is someone who would take over the job of Newsletter Editor. We will have two issues to work along-side of you (September and December) to train you so that in March you will be very comfortable with the process. You should know that 95% of the material is provided for you by other members. Of course, we will be here to help you if needed.

Anyone or couple that would like to talk about this position, please email us at
mjfrith9395@gmail.com



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