

Messenger Bits from the Messer-Brandenburg Chapter



July 2023

Summer

President's Message

In today Summer Newsletter you will read about a couple of recent gatherings held in Normal and Chicago. You will also see details on gatherings scheduled for Rockford (Aug. 4) and Utica (Nov. 10).

Information about the expansion of our chapter's charitable giving options as well as Travel Club opportunities are shared. Looking for ways you can volunteer with the National Service Project? Dates for upcoming Waves are listed.

My thanks to all who have stepped up to assist as we continue to find ways for our Y Alumni members to Connect, Travel and Serve. Happy reading!!!

Yours in Service,

Denny Mohrman, Chapter President

Board Members

<i>Cathy Adams</i>	<i>Linda Dean</i>	<i>Jim Furrrie</i>	<i>Rick Gattoni</i>	
<i>Denny Handrow</i>	<i>Wray Howard</i>	<i>D'Ann Lagerblade</i>	<i>Denny Mohrman</i>	<i>Pat Nelson</i>
<i>David Phelps</i>	<i>Angie Rester</i>	<i>Martha Rolf</i>	<i>Larry Stinson</i>	<i>Dianne Warrick</i>

Welcome New Member

Mark McKelvey



June in Central Illinois - On Thursday, June 1st a small but enthusiastic group gathered in Normal for an indoor luncheon at the Destihl Brewery and Beer Hall. Those in attendance were: Don and Connie Heller, Rich Escutia, Linda Dean, Cathy Adams and Denny and Cindy Mohrman.

Don and Denny enjoyed 18 holes of golf with friends at Ironwood Golf Course while the others took a tour of the newly completed BN YMCA. The 70,000 square foot facility is home to the YMCA and Easter Seals of Central Illinois.



July in the Chicago Area -

Chapter Alumni Fred Matthews, Almarie Wagner, Carm Gallo, Dorothy Burns-Hicks, Carolyn Royster, Barb Taylor, Celeste Wroblewski, Kathy Clark and Linda Dean met at Manny's on July 19. The group enjoyed a meal and social time together. Fred was interviewed by my CBS-Channel 2 journalist Maica Ponder about his relationship with Manny's and why he enjoys eating here. We hope that many of you saw the interview when it aired in the Chicago area!



Rockford Area Gathering- Friday, August 4th

All chapter members are invited to the Y Alumni gathering on Friday, August 4 from 6:30-8:30 pm at Camp Winnebago in Rockford. Please RSVP to Martha Rolf, rolfi2705@comcast.net by August 1 if you will be attending. The \$15 fee can be paid at the event.

Veteran's Day Gathering- Friday, November 10th

Join Denny & Cindy Mohrman at the historic Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica, IL. We will gather in the Great Hall in the lodge for some social time beginning at 11 am. At noon we will move to the Porch Room to order off the menu. Details on our afternoon program are still being finalized. Please send your RSVP's by email to dennis.mohrman@gmail.com by Nov. 3rd.



Chapter Contributions Update-

By action taken by our Messer-Brandenburg Y Alumni Board at the June 28 meeting, an additional \$1500 has been set aside for discretionary support of YMCA related activities or programs in 2023. These funds are in addition to our annual commitment to the National Service Project of \$2500 per year in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Letters of request for funding consideration should be submitted by mail or email to Dennis Mohrman, 711 Ironwood Drive, Normal, IL. 61761 or dennis.mohrman@gmail.com by September 15, 2023. These request will be shared with the members of our executive committee for consideration at their meeting in late September. Recommendations will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting to be held on October 25, 2023.



YMCA Alumni Travel Club

Don't forget that as a member of Y Alumni you are eligible to participate in the Y Alumni Travel Club. You, your family and friends can all enjoy a group travel experience at a very reasonable cost. Be on the lookout for news about upcoming opportunities for travel in "GOING PLACES", the travel club newsletter or by visiting the Y Alumni Website:

<https://www.ymcaalumni.org/>

Here is a list of some of the upcoming trips:

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|---------------------------|---|
| * September 20-28, 2023 | Mackinaw Island - Grand Hotel |
| * October 15-25, 2023 | Gems of the Danube - Prague |
| * Jan. 27- Feb. 4, 2024 | Winter Warm Up in the Caribbean |
| * April 21- May 3, 2024 | Atlantic Crossing |
| * May 6 - 12, 2024 | Italy by Rail |
| * August 2 - 8, 2024 | Scottish Dream & Tatoo |
| * Sept. 27 - Oct. 4, 2024 | America's Music Cities |
| * Jan. 26 - Feb. 2, 2025 | Alumni Reunion at Sea Cruise |
| * June 17 - July 3, 2025 | Land of Midnight Sun & Summer Solstice Cruise |

For details, incentives & deadlines for these trips go to this link:

<https://www.ymcaalumnitravelclub.org/>

PS. As of this printing the Scottish Dream trip has a waiting list and we didn't list the trips that were full without waiting lists.



National Service Project Volunteer Opportunities

NSP Chair Lou Falk has shared that concrete is now being poured for the 3 remaining tiny homes. Because of this, volunteers will be able to start erecting more tiny homes when they gather this fall in Dupree, South Dakota. In addition, interior finishing work will begin on tiny home #1.

Wave 5 starts on September 12, Wave 7 starts on September 26 and Wave 8 begins October 3. Up to 25 volunteers per wave can participate. Please consider signing up! There are jobs for everyone.

For information on how to register please go to

<https://national-service-project.constantcontactsites.com/project>

Or send questions to: alumni515@gmail.com

Save the Dates:



Wednesday, October 25th 10 am - 2 pm

Fall Annual Meeting & Social will be held on Wednesday, October 25th from 10 am - 2 pm at Webster Lodge at YMCA Camp Winnebago in Rockford, IL. More details regarding our program that day and directions to the site will follow in our Fall Newsletter.



Wednesday, December 6th

Wisconsin Area Christmas/Holiday gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 6th. Angie Rester is coordinating this event. Time and location TBD.



Wednesday, December 13th

Illinois Area Christmas/Holiday gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 13th. Cathy Adams is coordinating this event. Time and location TBD.

Roger J. Brown passed away on May 21, 2023 at the age of 96. Roger had a 57 year career with the YMCA starting in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and concluding as a financial consultant to YMCA's across the USA. Our M-B Chapter sent a Memorial Gift to the Sheboygan YMCA as requested by his family.



Wisconsin Cluster Y Alumni recently gathered for Roger Brown's memorial service.

Louis "Lou" Krenz passed away on July 1, 2023 at the age of 80. Lou served YMCA's for over 40 years beginning in Wichita, Kansas and concluding at the Hamilton County Y near Chattanooga, Tennessee. His longest tenure was as CEO of the Quincy Family YMCA in Quincy, Illinois. Our Chapter's Memorial Gift was sent to the Quincy Family YMCA as requested by his family.