

Messenger Bits from the Messer-Brandenburg Chapter



November 2024

Fall

President's Message

Ready or not, here come the holidays! They say time flies when you are having fun. I must be having more and more fun every year because the years just keep flying by.

My hope is that in this busy holiday season we will each pause to give thanks for the many special blessings we have received. Relationships with family and friends are so important to cherish. Although we may hold differing opinions, it is important for us to be respectful and kind to each other. However difficult, we need to remember that even though we might disagree, we have much more in common than not.

In this fall issue of our Messenger Bits newsletter you will learn about some recent chapter events including our Annual Meeting and Social held in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and our Veteran's Day gathering held at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois. You will also read about our upcoming Christmas/Holiday parties to be held in December.

As you will note from our annual meeting election results, this will be my final correspondence as co-president of our chapter. I want to say a big THANK YOU to Wray Howard and all those who served on our board team during the past 3 years. I am confident our new leadership will continue to provide our chapter opportunities to CONNECT, TRAVEL, and SERVE.

Yours in Service,

Denny Mohrman & Wray Howard
Chapter Co-Presidents

2025 Board Members Cathy Adams Linda Dean Jim Furrie Rick Gattoni
Denny Handrow Wray Howard D'Ann Lagerblade Denny Mohrman Pat Nelson
David Phelps Angie Rester Martha Rolf Larry Stinson Jan Tullock Dianne Warrick



Messer-Brandenburg Y Alumni Annual Meeting and Social

Our Annual Meeting and Social was held on October 22 and 23 at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin with 26 in attendance. On Tuesday, the group enjoyed an afternoon fall cruise on Geneva Lake, a Happy Hour at Popeye's on the Lake and a dinner at Lake City Social Restaurant. Many stayed overnight at the Cove Hotel.



On Wednesday morning we gathered at the Geneva Lakes YMCA for our business meeting. During the noon hour we enjoyed visiting with each other while dining on box lunches from the Cheese Box. We heard updates in the afternoon regarding our EAF, World Service and the National Service Project.



Many thanks to David Phelps for his assistance in organizing the Social portion of our get-together and to Mike Kramp, CEO of the Geneva Lakes YMCA, for hosting our business meeting. Everyone agreed it was an outstanding 2 day event! Below you will find our election results.

Messer-Brandenburg 2025 Executive Board

Co-Presidents - Wray Howard / David Phelps

Vice-President - Linda Dean

Treasurer - Jan Tullock

Secretary - Cathy Adams

Past President - Denny Mohrman

Veteran's Day Gathering

Fourteen Y Alumni members met at the Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center on Friday, November 8 for our Annual Veteran's Day gathering. Those in attendance included Bob and D'Ann Lagerblade, Howard and Jan Schultz, Cathy Adams, Ken Buss, Steve Dahlin, Linda Dean, Rich Escutia, Wray Howard, David Phelps, Fred Hauser and Denny & Cindy Mohrman.

The group enjoyed a historical tour of the Lodge conducted by Kathy Casstevens, marketing director at Starved Rock. Everyone had an opportunity to sample some complimentary Leinenkugel's special brews in the Back Door Lounge after the tour. Following lunch in the Porch Room, the group shared memorabilia they had saved from their "working days" at the YMCA. The gathering adjourned around 2 pm with everyone agreeing it was a wonderful time together again this year!



Lifetime/Centenarian Members:

As many of you are probably aware, Y Alumni has a *LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP* category for members who are 90 years of age and older.

Here is a list of our **Messer-Brandenburg** folks:

Janet Beltman**

Marvin Erdal

Kay Holtz**

Edith Krok

Hilda Masica-Szabo

Melba Ott

Robert Rhodes

Mary Lee Rhodes

MP Ricker

Ralph Wood**

***Congratulations to Janet Beltman (103), Ralph Wood (101) and Kay Holtz (100) who are Centenarian Members in addition to being lifetime members.*

Wisconsin Christmas/Holiday Luncheon - Wed., December 4th



Wisconsin Area Christmas/Holiday gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 4th at 11:00 am, Grafton Ale House in Milwaukee, WI. Angie Rester is coordinating this event. Watch for registration details coming soon.



Illinois Holiday Luncheon - Wed., December 11th



Illinois Area Christmas/Holiday gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:30 at Chuck's Southern Comfort BBQ in Darien, IL. Cathy Adams is coordinating this event. Watch for your invitation/registration coming soon.



In Memoriam:

Wally Allen recently passed away at the age of 90. He and wife, Deb Allen were married for 27 years and between them had 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He participated in both the Indian Guides and Indian Princesses programs at the Elmhurst YMCA. As requested by the family, our M-B Chapter memorial gift was sent to the Tri-Town YMCA in Villa Park, Illinois.