



Newsletter of the Greater Ozark Chapter

Ozark Trails

of YMCA Alumni

Dave Rogers, President

Spring 2022

Mary Ching, Newsletter Editor

The mission of YMCA Alumni: "to enable

members to promote a nurturing worldwide Christian Fellowship that provides educational, social, service and charitable opportunities. "

From the President's Desk...

A Tale of Two Cities

The last weekend in January, I was invited to Minnesota to tour the Rochester Y. When I worked on the Camp Olson YMCA staff in the 80's our winter office was in that building. On January 31, 2022, the Rochester Y would be closing its doors for good, and so four of us who used to work there gathered for one last walk-through (photo #1 courtesy of the Rochester Post Bulletin). While it was great seeing former colleagues again, it was nevertheless a sad occasion. Sad not only for the people of Rochester, but also for the Y movement, as a whole given, that the third largest city in the state would no longer have a YMCA.



Photo One: Fellow workers at Rochester YMCA

From Rochester, we drove 45 miles to the east to Winona, Minnesota, to spend a couple days with our son Chris. He was pleased to show us the new YMCA which opened in January 2021. Winona is less than a third the size of Rochester, but the people there teamed up with Winona Health to build a beautiful, shared facility costing over \$20 million. On the Saturday morning Marty and I visited, the new YMCA was packed with youth basketball, fitness classes and exercise machines going full tilt (photo #2). The community is rightfully proud of the new building. And, seeing it, my faith in the Y was restored.



Photo two: Marty and Dave Rogers
Photographer Chris Rogers

As we get older, it's inevitable that some of the places we knew when we were younger no longer exist. Whether an elementary school, church, camp or the downtown Y, we lose places that we were attached to. Or they change for the worse and we no longer recognize them. The good news is that we have lived long enough to see great changes, both good and bad.

Over a century and a half ago, Charles Dickens wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." That summed up my weekend. Maybe things haven't changed that much since 1859.

See you in Branson April 19th-21st!



Branson Greater Ozark Spring Chapter Meeting

Hotel Accommodations

Branson is always a fun place to gather for the spring meeting and April 19-21, 2022 will be no exception. The hotel where the event will be held is the **Comfort Inn at Thousand Hills**. It is centrally located at 203 S. Wildwood Drive and is convenient to all the action in Branson. Parking is free and hotel rooms are **\$84 per night** before taxes. The rooms are double

queens with interior entrances. It is a smoke-free hotel with free parking and free Wi-Fi. The hotel features a full hot breakfast, an exercise room, game room and concierge service for tickets. It also has a heated, saltwater pool with hot tub. Check in time at the hotel is approx. 3:00 pm. To make reservation, call **417-335-4727** and tell the reservation desk that it is for the YMCA Alumni group. **Make your reservation by March 30th, please.**

Danna's Bar-B-Que is a crowd pleaser in Branson, a local favorite of residents. The Tuesday evening meal will be catered by Danna's at the hotel, complete with drink and side dishes so come and relax. Conversation and Bar-b-que -what a great way to get together after such a long time! Renew and refresh your YMCA spirit!



The Pierce Arrow musical group has been part of the Branson scene for many years. They have created an additional new show called Decades which features a one-of-a kind music and comedy journey through the 50s, 60s, 70 and 80s.

After a long, cold winter, this heartwarming, toe-tapping show will brighten your day. The show is NOT included in the registration fee.



<https://www.branson.com/videos/pierce-arrow-decades/>



**Greater Ozark Chapter YMCA Alumni Chapter
Meeting
Comfort Inn Thousand Hills
Branson, MO**

Tentative Schedule for Spring Meeting

Tues April 19:

- 2:00-4:00 p.m. Registration and Sharing at hotel
- 4:00 Crowd Mixer
- 5:30 Welcome: Dave Rogers, President
- Introduction of new members
- Invocation: Tedd Maxfield
- 6:00 Catered dinner at hotel*
- B-B-Que dinner: Danna's B-B-que
- 6:30 World Service Report- Dick Flynn
- International Service Core Report- Ken Wold
- 7:00 Game Activity and socializing

Wednesday April 20:

- 7:30-8:45 Breakfast in hotel*
- 9:00 Devotions: Bill Ching
- 9:15 "An YMCA International Experience"
- Jared Beard, COO Gateway YMCA
- 10:00 Coffee/tea break*
- 10:15 "YMCA Delivery System Today"
- Patty Miller CEO Missouri/Kansas Alliance
- 11:00 "How Serious Are You About Your Home Computer safety?"
- Dan Schultz, Director of IT Gateway YMCA
- 11:45 Update of National Service Project: Nels Bagnardi, Chapter Chairman
- 12:00 Free time and lunch on your own
- Enjoy your afternoon!
- 5:00 Carpool to *Little Hacienda Restaurant*
- Order whatever you like from the menu
- & eat as a group
- 7:15 Carpool to Pierce Arrow Decades Show*

Thursday April 21:

- 7:30- 8:45 Breakfast in hotel
- 9:00 Devotion: Renee Godinez
- 9:15 "Update on Y's Men International" Debbi Redmond
- 10:00 Coffee Break*
- 10:15 Chapter Photos
- 10:20 Memorials
- 10:30 Greater Ozark Chapter Business Meeting
- Election of new officers
- 11:00 Installation of Officers
- 11:30 Adjourn- Safe Travels!

*Included in registration fee

**YMCA Alumni
Greater Ozark Chapter Meeting
April 19 – 21, 2022**

Conference Registration Form

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: _____

(As it should appear on name tag)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Primary Member Cell: _____ Spouse/Partner Cell: _____

Email primary member _____

Email spouse/partner member _____

Emergency contact - home: _____ Relationship _____ Tel. # _____

Registration fee includes Tuesday dinner, coffee and snacks and door prizes. The Pierce Arrow show is not included in the registration fee.

Early-Bird Registration Fee (before March 31) - \$25 per person

Persons _____ \$ _____

or

Registration Fee (after March 31) - \$30 per person:

Persons _____ \$ _____


Tickets to Pierce Arrow *Decades* show - \$40 per person

Persons _____ \$ _____

Voluntary contribution support to help support the Greater Ozark Chapter: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to YMCA Alumni Greater Ozark Chapter



**Print Registration Form and
Mail Registration Form and Registration Fee To:**

**Naomi Hundley
160 Victoria Lane
Hot Springs, AR 71901**



Questions about the National Service Project or scheduling? Call Nels Bagnardi at 573-210-6228

Web sites to explore: www.tinyurl.com/wawokiye

Look for: Project - National Service Project
Volunteers - National Service Project
Giving - National Service Project
Sioux YMCA – National Service Project

<https://www.ymcaalumni.org>

Look for: Serve – YMCA Alumni-National Service Project
Facebook –YMCA Alumni-National Service Project

<https://siouxymca.org>

Learn about the Sioux YMCA

Email contact information for National Service Project

alumniy515@gmail.com

Do you have questions? Email for help and information.



Nels Bagnardi: Greater Ozark Chairman National Service Project

Mailing address for gifts paid by check

Cindi Koenig
YMCA Alumni Assistant Treasurer
P.O. Box 725
West Chester, OH 45071

Be sure to note "For National Service Project" on the check's memo line.



Smile! It's time for a photo of all the members. Please be prepared for a photo shoot on Thursday morning April 21 at the hotel. We need to refresh our photos!

Let the good times roll...' Nov. 2-4, 2022

Now is the time to make plans to join us at YMCA Alumni Reunion '22 in New Orleans, Louisiana Nov. 2-4, 2022. Perfect weather, perfect time, and fabulous company- what else could you ask!?



The next **YMCA Alumni Reunion** will be held **November 2-4, 2022** in fabulous New Orleans. More information will follow as details are set but it promises to be a fun and exciting event. Make plans for fellowship, fun and excitement in this charming, lively southern city!



Register by July 31...

Early birds are eligible to win one of 10 \$100 bills to be used at one of our "Dinner with Friends" evenings. You must be registered by July 30 to be eligible. So, don't delay.



The ISC met on January 19th. The committee looked at the current projects and opportunities and how best to get the word out. At this point the ISC has several opportunities for retirees looking for an international experience. The Dominican Republic Y is looking for someone to teach English, swimming and basic computer skills. Mary Tikalski is working on setting up volunteer opportunities in Tijuana. Future contacts are being made in Gabrovo, Bulgaria, Greece and Macedonia.

If you are interested in working with Camp Marrowbone operated by the Sioux YMCA in South Dakota, a work week has been set up to accomplish a few projects. May 31 - June 4 are the dates. Building a second platform for a platform tent, replacing boardwalk, upgrading the main entrance archway, extensive cleaning of cabins and waterfront to get them ready for campers are a few of the projects identified. There are more projects depending on time and talent.

Other things discussed included the World Council meeting in Denmark July 3rd through the 9th.

News from around the Chapter



Dick and Naomi Hundley

Considering covid 19 restrictions, we have been able to get out more, and spend time with family and friends. We attended our grandson, Scott's wedding in September in Marceline, MO. Our daughter, Lisa, who lives in Connecticut, came for the wedding, and spent a couple of weeks with us. October 15, we ventured out for the first time since covid, and went to the movie and had dinner afterwards with friends. As it turned out, we were the only people in the theater. We saw the recent James Bond movie. We were able to enjoy our season tickets to the Celebrity Broadway shows at Robinson Center in Little Rock. We attended the "Simon and Garfunkel Story" in October, and "Anastasia" in November.

Naomi and I continue to remain active in our church. Naomi covered the church office while the church secretary took her vacation. She continues to prepare and run the Power Pint slides for our church service each week and she is the church treasurer. Dick continues to teach an adult Sunday school class and takes his turn serving as worship leader at Sunday services. In December we "attended" the Matt and Savannah concert (online). Matt and his young teenage daughter Savannah, sing duets together.

Lisa and our other daughter, Beth, and her husband, Gary, spent Christmas with us in Hot Springs. On a bit of sad news, Naomi's brother, George, who lived in Indiana, passed away after an extended illness on January 25. We were unable to attend his funeral, but our nephew's wife zoomed the service for us. It was a very nice military service.

Dick was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is receiving hormone injections, and radiology treatment. He feels great, no different than before the diagnosis. However, the hormone treatment causes him to have hot flashes. Not fun! He can sympathize with ladies who have experienced hot flashes. We hope covid will allow our chapter to meet in Branson in April and look forward to seeing our Y friends.



Nancy Battersby

Not much to report this time. My dad has had a number of health challenges this past fall and made the decision to move out of his house and accept the invitation from Craig and me to move in with us. This has involved some modifications to our house (bathroom remodeling to be accessible, construction of a wheelchair ramp at the front door, and the addition of a stairlift). As a result, we've stayed close to home and limited visitors (hence the not much to report). We are grateful for this time with him. Dad is writing his autobiography, recounting his adventures as a computer pioneer involved with the creation of the first personal computer. I've been helping edit, gather photos, and obtain copyrights and permissions. It will be published in May, in time for his 97th birthday.

Otherwise, our only news is that our oldest grandchild, Paige, will turn 18 on February 17th. (That's so hard to believe!) She is off to Indiana Wesleyan University next fall. We will miss her so much but are excited for this new chapter in her life.

I've been having a good time visiting with friends and family. I went on a couple road trips to visit friends, spending time with family. We had extra fun going to school plays,



Laura Slane

children's musical concerts, Polar Express, and just enjoying playing games. I am still active with my quilting and genealogy research.



Ken and Mollie Wold



Mollie and I were hosts for our family at Christmas this year. Everyone made it and it was nice. Activities included: Granddaughter spoiling, Sawdust firing pottery, Dominos, Basketmaking, Hiking, Yoga, Gym, Building a Raku Kiln, and of course, lots of food. Everyone was responsible for at least one meal during the weeklong stay.



Mollie and I will be heading to Arizona in February to visit our daughter and son-in-law. We will be taking our Scamp trailer and hopefully getting a visit in to Joshua Tree National Park.



Dave and Marty Rogers

Dave and I are currently working on the committee to pass a school bond issue this April, the second step in bringing all elementary students into one modern building. Although we don't enjoy politics, we both believe strongly in education.

We also spent a wintery week prepping two rooms for repair and painting, which included the unenviable task of stripping wallpaper. Professionals are doing the rest, thank goodness!

Jim and Eva Knight celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary this January. They had a quiet celebration compared to their wedding trip. Being married in January causes some challenges and a major snowstorm caused Eva and Jim to be snowed in at a motel by KCI. For two days they had no food except for crackers and juice so they lived on love!

Jim and Eva are justifiably proud of their four granddaughters, and they have a variety of occupations. Granddaughter #1 is in San Francisco and is a fashion designer; granddaughter #2 is a Respiratory Therapist having studied at KU, granddaughter #3 is a



Jim and Eva Knight



Geneticist in Agronomy at KState, and granddaughter #4 is thinking about her future after high school. Congratulations to Jim and Eva on their anniversary and having such a lovely, talented family!

The big leaguers may strike again - so what is new? But the Minor Leaguers are scheduled to report on time for Spring Training! I am in Surprise, AZ studying hard as you can see! I hike in the White Tank Mountains southwest of Surprise as well as attend College and Junior College baseball games! There is baseball out here in Arizona 24/7!

After Spring Training, I will be back in Wichita Coaching Little League with the Northwest YMCA! I also serve as President

of the West Wichita Optimist Club which is meeting irregularly because of Covid-19. I just finished up my stint as the board-chair at St John's Episcopal Church in downtown Wichita! I also sit on our Westlink Neighborhood Association Board and am in process of writing a book about my college days in the mid 1970's. The book will include my semi-pro and Minor League Baseball experiences, my college "dream girlfriend" and spirituality in the form of connecting with our Angels and Spirit Guides! My ghost-writer lives in Arizona so another great reason to visit the sunshine state! I hope that you guys are doing well!



Charlie Lord

It seems as if we are topping the hill for Covid and heading down the slope to normalcy. I just pray there is not another variant as bad as omicron was. As being vaxed and boosted, I am now starting back to singing in choir, a huge joy for me.

While I'm still teaching my religion class virtually, I saw my children Thursday night when they made their first Reconciliation. As far as the family is concerned, we only see our elementary school grandchildren a couple of nights a week after school. Their daddy is at Edward Jones so is still home.

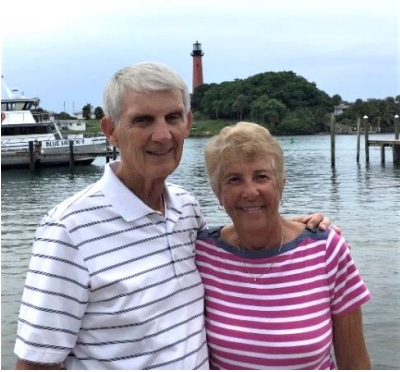
Linda Pourchot

One of our college age grands, unfortunately, tested positive so was not able to celebrate Valentine's Day with us. She has no symptoms and has been also vaxed and boosted. Both of our college kids are out of town so I was very upset to have her test positive since I couldn't see her.

I have been walking about 6000 steps a day. I'm trying to get prepared for walking at Disney World which we are strongly considering for summer. The family with the little children wants to go there; the family with the college age kids are not interested. I hate to be in the middle. Went to the Van Gogh exhibit before Christmas; I strongly recommend going if you have the chance. The nine-year-old had studied it and thoroughly enjoyed it also. (See picture.)

Blessings on all you retirees, enjoy that every day is Saturday and every night Friday night!





Dick and Jani Flynn

Life in our “pandemic” world continues – planning trips and then cancelling trips, etc. We enjoyed spending time during the holidays with our children and grandchildren. It was especially fun catching up with the three college grandkids – college life appears to be quite different today than just a few years ago! Many say it will be nice to return to normal, but unfortunately, the new normal has yet to be defined!

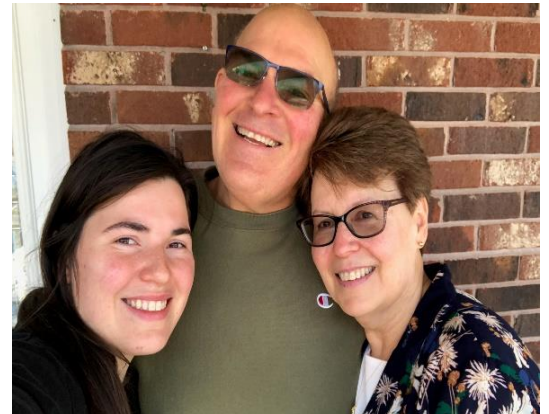
After quietly celebrating New Year’s Eve with some close friends, we headed to our Florida condo. So far, the weather has been unusually cool for Florida but much better than up north. We are looking forward to enjoying Spring Training and Cardinal Baseball if those players and owners who are negotiating begin to truly negotiate in good faith – so that we have a baseball season this year!

We are especially looking forward to seeing our Greater Ozark Chapter colleagues at the April meeting in Branson. It should be a fun time!



Nels Bagnardis and Leonberger

The Bagnardis had a wonderful Christmas holiday. Our daughter (Emma) who is a farmer in Great Barrington, Massachusetts came home and spent 2 weeks with her parents. Judy and I had an amazing time catching up with her, going for walks, cooking together, watching Harry Potter movies and Hallmark flicks, and spending lots of money on her (lol) - It was really a joy to have her home. Also, our 194lb Leonberger (Maximus) enjoyed the holidays with the whole family. He thinks that the couch is his bed!



Emma, Judy and Nels Bagnardis



Mary Reid and Butch Michael

Mary Reid and Butch Michael have survived the Covid-19 thus far...have vaccinations and boosters... no illness. Both continue to sing in church choirs (Masks still worn). Exercise classes five times per week at the YMCA for Mary and she volunteers for Asst League Thrift Shop on Mondays. Butch has a new exercise routine three times a week near his home.

We enjoyed live theater musical “Bright Star” which was excellent. We were pleased to see Dave and Connie Snow at Runza eatery. Mary and Butch has been assisting Richard Beem, 92 so he can stay in his home for now.

Trip to Maine – September 2021

By Renee Godinez



It was time for a 'road trip'. I had been retired for about a year and a half and hadn't seen either of my children – or grandchildren – for close to two years. I had furniture in my basement that my daughter in Maine wanted, and what better way to see them and scratch an itch for a trip than to transport some cherished items.

So as not to drive two days from Potosi to North Yarmouth ME by myself, my son flew up from Dallas to accompany me on the journey. He was to ride shotgun, but soon advanced to driver. This was much appreciated. We drove through 9 states, with each state offering something unique to see and appreciate. We drove through the Poconos, crossed the Hudson

and on up the eastern states.

Once in Maine we feasted on fresh seafood daily, toured the famous lighthouses along the Maine coast and road the "mail boat" which delivers supplies to six islands around the harbor in Portland. No need for us to disembark as we were allowed to bring our adult beverages onboard and sit on the foredeck and just enjoy the scenery. Back on land there were many local microbreweries and wineries for us to sample and compare. A trip to Maine wouldn't be complete without a trip (several) to LL Bean and all the other outlet stores.



On the trip back, somewhere in western Pennsylvania, we passed Nelson and Judy Bagnardi heading east on the route we just traveled to see their daughter Emma in Massachusetts. Curious timing of two old friends!

Maine is beautiful, peaceful and people friendly. It was a great getaway and I got undivided time with my children Victor and Elise. It's time together we all cherish with many fond memories.



I traveled to Milwaukee for Christmas for family gathering. Enjoyed a 8 inch snow storm in February. Welcome to Missouri, right! I am beginning to prepare for a monthly session with Cross Trails Outfitters, teaching young men build their Fly Rods, and learning to tie flies. In spring and summer I have plans to travel with my camper and I am hopeful that I will be able to go to the AYR service project as a part of my travels, (Health permitting.). Looking forward to seeing everyone in April. Bruce is excited to have the hip replacement finally in place after five surgeries in this last year. He has therapy twice a week with his Physical "Terrorist"! He has progressed to just a cane, and that's when he can find where he left it!

Dave Moliga

We were able to go to St Clair, MO for Thanksgiving, a little cribbage, and great food with Derrick and family, including oldest granddaughter and husband who were there from Atlanta. Early December we went to the Chings for a great holiday visit and to see the Ambassadors of Harmony Christmas performance. We didn't get snowed in like two years ago, but we did spend Friday evening in their lower level due to tornado warnings! We celebrated three family December birthdays a couple days before Christmas. After early worship service on Christmas Eve, we did our traditional celebration at our house with taco salad bar with daughter Tiffany and her boys.



Bruce and Karron Wands

We totally enjoy watching our grandboys (15 and 17) play basketball. We are loving having the 19-year-old live with us while attending the local community college. I spend a lot of time playing cribbage online with 'cheating' son; I'm not sure how he does it, but I'm sure he must be! Karron keeping busy with supporting church activities – though must admit very limited due to covid concerns.



We are hopeful that the Omicron variant goes away, and we can gather in Branson with our Y Alumni family in April!



Sixteen years ago, I simply went to Peru to hike the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, or so I thought. God had something else in mind. While watching impoverished, indigenous Quechua children working in salt pools high in the Andes Mountains, I was "called" to help them. In 2006, I founded the international charity: *Kindness In A Box*, whose mission is to provide humanitarian resources for the education, health and well-being of the indigenous Quechua children and families. My book "The



Lynda Burgman

Sand Dollar Cross" tells of this amazing spiritual journey. Because of my work with the indigenous women, I am honored to be one of four speakers at the 13th Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.