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THE LOOKOUT

Weatherford Chapter



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March 16, 2021

Our Annual Spring Fling in "ON" at YMCA BLUE RIDGE ASSEMBLY.

This newsletter includes information on:

- Spring Fling Information
- Spring Fling Registration Information, Form and Link.
- Chapter Presidents Message
- St. Patrick's Day VIRTUAL Gathering March 17th
- Chapter's Membership Report

- Emergency Assistance Fund Report
- World Service Report
- International Service Corps information
- YMCA ALUMNI Travel Club
- List of Weatherford Chapter Committee Members

Spring Fling Monday May 3 - Wednesday May 5, 2021 YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC

A special thanks to Sherrie and Charles Cleveland who, first of all, planned the Chapter Spring Fling for 2020. That had to be cancelled because of Covid-19. They have now planned the 2021 Spring Fling.

"Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning"...well, except if you make that a Springtime morning! If you have never driven up the road to Blue Ridge Center as the rhododendron are in full bloom underneath the flowering wild dogwood trees with a stray daffodil popping it's golden head from under the leaf cover, you have missed one of the most beautiful times to be at YMCA Blue Ridge!!!!

The Spring Fling will begin Monday May 3, 2021.
Check in at Blue Ridge Center Lobby between 11:00am-5:00pm.



**Lobby and Daxko Dining Room in
Blue Ridge Center**



Monday evening we will begin
at 5:30 with a Wine Reception
in the Lobby!

Bring a bottle to share.

Next Dinner at 6:00 pm
In Daxko Dining Room

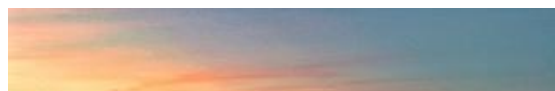
And then after dinner...who's
up for BINGO and
awesome prizes?



Tuesday morning, we will carpool to Asheville where we will marvel at the wonders of man and nature as we tour the Biltmore House and Gardens.



After our tour, you will have a free afternoon to find a cozy place for lunch on your way back to Blue Ridge or explore a bit more of Asheville or Black Mountain.





Tuesday afternoon you are free to simply relax and enjoy the view from the "Rocking Chairs" on Eureka's Porch or take a hike for even greater views of the mountains



Tuesday evening, the Assembly staff is planning an old fashioned BBQ dinner at Blue Ridge Lake Pavilion. Followed by a Sing-along and shenanigans around a campfire.

Spring is a time for new beginnings and where better than the mountain setting of Blue Ridge and Asheville to shake off the challenges of this past year! Dr. Weatherford said it best in his founding principles, "In the busyness of life, we should take time to spend with the Creator in His Creations..." Don't miss this opportunity to see the Blue Ridge campus in its full springtime glory and spend some quality time with old friends and colleagues touring the Biltmore House and Gardens or just rocking on the porch or around the fire pits!!

Wednesday morning breakfast provided 7:30 am in Daxko Dining Room followed by Closing Thoughts at 8:30 am. Checkout 10:00-11:00 am.

Spring Fling Registration Information and Form Link

REMEMBER to make reservations at YMCA Blue Ridge by calling 828 669-8422

Let them know you are with the Y Alumni Weatherford group!!!

Accommodations will be \$89.00 plus tax nightly
plus your meals 2 Dinners and 2 Breakfasts - \$44 per person

AND

Please send your registration form and registration payment by April 1, 2021

Make check payable to: YMCA Alumni Weatherford Chapter

Mail to: Charles and Sherrie Cleveland
2878 Robinhood Road
Winston Salem, NC 27106

Registration for Spring Fling Fee is \$60 per person if you DO NOT have a Biltmore season pass.

If you DO have a Biltmore season pass or Choose to opt out of the Biltmore tour; you will not have a registration fee.

Please bring a bottle of wine or favorite beverage to share with the group at our reception on Monday night as well as individually wrapped snacks for BINGO!!. See You on the Mountain!!!

CLICK ON LINK BELOW TO GET YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Spring Fling 2021 Registration Form

Chapter President Phill & Marti Morgan Message

Marti and I recently got our vaccine (2nd shot). I know that many of you also are either in the process of getting your vaccine or have already completed the shots. So many different feelings come to mind about getting the vaccine. First, we so looked forward to the time when we could be vaccinated. We originally thought it might be sometime this summer. We were so happy to learn that it was available those 65 and over for NC. When we drove our car into the garage...of the Charlotte Motor Speedway... all the staff and volunteers began clapping.

As if it were to say...you made it...welcome...congratulations...we are so happy for you. And I admit that it was emotional to witness this support. When the vaccine went into the arm there was an emotional joy and peace that overwhelmed me. This was not like getting a flu shot. It was life changing as many persons can attest to. And I feel so heartbroken for the over 500,000 souls who died not having the opportunity to get a vaccine. With faith, hope, grace, and science we will get back to some normalcy of life sooner than later.

St. Patrick's Zoom Party

Zoom invitation for the YMCA Alumni St. Patrick's Day VIRTUAL Gathering on Wednesday March 17th beginning at 7:30 pm Eastern Time (6:30 pm Central Time).



There are already 36 persons registered to receive a Zoom invitation for the YMCA

The hour-long fun agenda will include Irish Songs played on the piano by Clark Baker, a jam-packed 6 minutes of the History of St. Patrick's Day by Stan Styers, St. Patrick's Day Trivia by Marti Morgan, Best Irish Costume/Apparel Contest judged by Molly McGregor (bribes not permitted), YMCA Alumni and other Commercials led by Sherrie and Charles Cleveland, a St. Patrick's Day Toast given by Nancy Reece (be ready with a cold or hot beverage that might have some GREEN to it). Does green tea count? Jim Havlick will lead a time of open talk and open conversation. Now we are expecting 50 + persons so don't everyone talk at the same time. And Clark will close out our time together with a special Irish tune. If you have not yet registered to receive the Zoom invitation for the March 17th Gathering just e-mail Phill Morgan at: phillmrgn1@att.net and say you want an invitation and which e-mail address Phill should send the invitation to.

Since we all have been cooped up for the past year is anyone making plans for 'getting out of the house' sometime in 2021? I hope so. We will be at the Chapter Spring Fling May 3 - 5. Hope you can be there. There is a member of our family getting married this fall. We plan on attending. We hope to make it to the beach sometime this summer. And finally, we plan to catch up by visiting with two friends at a nearby NC location soon. That tops our list. I bet you all have a list too. Planning and looking forward to anticipating a trip and/or time with family is exciting and good for the soul.

Phill and Marti Morgan
YMCA Alumni Weatherford Chapter Co-Presidents

Membership Message from Chair Molly McGreor

membership message from chair mery mcgregor

Renewals for 2021 are completed, but that doesn't mean those who forgot can't rejoin and be part of the best YMCA Alumni Chapter in the USA.

Weatherford has 212 members: 90 Couples, 32 individuals. Of all those folks 6 are over age 90!!! We do have 11 widows who have chosen to continue their membership with Weatherford. There are even 5 affiliates; they are part of two YMCA Alumni chapters.

One of my jobs is to be there for the members. If you have any questions about your membership or want to change your contact information, I am the one to call. My phone # is 205-919-5239. You can also reach me via email at mcgregors1575@gmail.com. I also send out birthday cards and wedding anniversary cards to our Weatherford members. If you have not gotten one, its because I don't have your dates. Let me know.

There are a number of benefits to membership besides our semi-annual opportunities to get together. During Covid we have been having ZOOM meetings which are fun, but one of the best benefits is the Travel Club. I have been on the England, Scotland and Ireland trip and have plans for the Rhine Riverboat Trip next fall. I met a bunch of really fun YMCA retirees and connected with folks I had not seen in many years. We've been cooped up way too long. Now is the time to make plans to join us at **YMCA Alumni Reunion '22** in New Orleans, Louisiana: Jan. 12-15, 2022. Watch for more information Go to the YMCA Alumni Website to learn more. www.YMCAAlumni.org.

Members say the best part of membership is staying connected with former YMCA colleagues and friends from our working days. Weatherford does this by twice -a-year get togethers, usually Blue Ridge in the Fall and Spring Fling is in some place within our geographic Weatherford. Our new National YMCA Alumni Service Project and chapter service projects let us continue our YMCA-style service to others. National YMCA Alumni members have free access to exclusive discounts and cashback offers on thousands of brands in **BenefitHub**. You will find deals on travel, restaurants, shopping, family care, car rentals, local establishments and much more. Access is through an easy-to-use online marketplace.

EAF Message from Chairs Nancy & Bill Reece



A huge "thank you" to our Weatherford Y Alumni Chapter and to the 49 members who gave so

A huge thank you to our Weatherford Y Alumni Chapter, and to the 49 members who gave so generously to EAF last year in support of our Y colleagues who needed emergency financial assistance. Our combined 54 member donors and our chapter gifts totaled \$24,950 and significantly helped to relieve the emotional stress of over 50 deserving grant recipients.

Nationally, 17 Y Alumni Chapters, including 294 donors and 7 chapter gifts, contributed \$9.654 to the Fund and enabled us to provide nearly \$175,000 in assistance in 2020, which was a very challenging year. We remind everyone that National Y Alumni Membership, above our Weatherford Chapter Membership is a benefit that enables you to have access to Emergency Assistance Funds if you find yourself facing a financial crisis due to no fault of your own.

With so many YMCA's facing an uncertain future in 2021, due to staff layoffs and loss of revenues due to the pandemic, it is more important than ever that our Y Alumni Retirees continue their support of our EAF.

You should have received your letter requesting that you prayerfully consider your 2021 pledge to EAF. Please also consider increasing your giving this year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Nancy Reece at 615.545.7792.

We want to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for your generosity in these difficult times. If you'd like to contribute additional funds or make your first gift this year, please send you checks made out to the Emergency Assistance Fund to:

**Emergency Assistance Fund
YMCA of the USA
Financial Development, 16th Floor
101 N Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606**

World Service Message from Chairs Glenn & Sharon Mease



Thanks For 2020 World Service Support

Thanks to all our Weatherford Chapter members who provided support for World Service in the turbulent year that was 2020. Your continued generosity and support of World Service is never taken for granted and always wisely spent. It made a great difference as Y's around the world dealt with the corona virus. In many cases our support kept Ys open as they proved flexible in meeting unique needs and challenges.

As of this writing the final figures aren't in, but we anticipate that our Chapter raised in excess of \$25,000, making us a leader among all Y Alumni chapters. In a note from Mary Tikalsky last year she commented

, "When I think of all the good that you create every year for children and families from the Philippines to Liberia, Togo, Belarus and 50 plus more countries, I feel honored to partner with you in this mission."

Liberia, Togo, Belarus and 50 plus more countries, I feel honored to partner with you in this mission work." I can only echo my thanks and specifically add the Sioux Indian YMCA to that list of children and families for which the Weatherford chapter has created good.

Overall, YMCA alumni contributed a significant piece of the overall total of more than \$1,200,000 raised from all sources for World Service in 2020.

As World Service and the Chapter look forward to 2021 we can't stop now. The needs will continue be challenging as the world comes out of this crisis. Our chapter goal is to build on our past success by increasing our number of supporters and the dollars contributed.

In early April this year's effort will begin with information and opportunities to commit sent directly from YMCA of the USA World Service. If you were unable to participate in 2020, please consider World Service in 2021 at whatever amount you are able. If you did participate in 2020, please consider increasing your support.

As always, you can learn more about the impact World Service is making by checking out the World Service web site

www.ymca.net/world-service or contact Weatherford Chapter World Service Chair, Glenn Mease at gmease@aol.com.

THANKS AGAIN TO EVERYONE. We are making a difference in the world.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CORPS (ISC)

Message from Harriet Hoskyns-Abarahall

The YMCA International Service Corps Task Force has been doing much planning to foster relationships with overseas YMCAs during this pandemic, including Tokyo, Nuremberg, , the Bahamas and Peru, as well as here in the US with the Sioux Y and Springfield College. Several alums interested in volunteer international work are on hold until the pandemic abates.

The ISC Task Force ranks have swollen over the past few months to include a representative from almost every Chapter. They will help heighten the profile of the ISC nationwide, and help ensure that when restrictions on meeting in person, and on travel, are finally lifted the Corps will be ready to hit the ground briskly!

I, Harriet Hoskyns-Abraham, have been a member for the ISC Task Force since its resuscitation three years ago and will continue to serve. Our first-ever Chapter representative has recently been announced. Congratulations to Laura Kamperman. We will include a short bio on Laura in our next newsletter.

NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT (NSP)

Many alums across the country are waiting with bated breath to learn of the project chosen by the NSP Committee and designed as an activity to be enjoyed by all 17 Alumni Chapters. But Committee members have been sworn to secrecy. The results of their work since June of last year will be revealed in the May issue of CONNECTION. Watch out for it.

YMCA Alumni Travel Club

Message from Chapter Representatives Jean & Bert Bock



TRAVEL CLUB: Our travel club is gearing up for big years in 2022 and 2023. You are automatically a member and eligible to join us on any trip and bring along family and friends.

[website for YMCA Alumni Travel Club](#)

The YMCA Alumni Travel Club's newsletter "Going Places" automatically goes to those of you who have taken trips with the travel club. The rest of us must sign up to get them.

Travel Tips to keep in mind

as the vaccine for Covid 19 is being distributed.

CHECK FOR THE STAR. Beginning October 1, 2021, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States. REAL ID-compliant cards are marked with a star at the top of the card. For information by state, including where to obtain a REAL ID, visit the DHS REAL ID website.

PASSPORT VALIDITY Most countries require the passport to be valid a minimum of 6 months from your return date.

CARRY SPARE PASSPORT PHOTOS for 2 reasons: 1. IF YOU LOSE YOUR PASSPORT - Smart travelers leave a copy of their passport with a family member which can easily be emailed to them. Combined with having a passport photo ready, it can make replacement of lost passports a breeze. Also leave copies of any visas with the family member. 2. If you need to get a visa as you are travelling, you don't need to run around looking for a photographer. It happens.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS EVERYTHING If you do only one thing before you leave, make it getting travel insurance. If you don't want to cover the entirety of the trip, buy at minimum medical coverage and evacuation. For someone who is 70, cost would be about \$53.00 for \$100,000 medical coverage and \$1,000,000 evacuation.

EXPECT THINGS TO GO WRONG. If you expect everything to go perfectly on your trip, you are setting yourself up to fail. Nobody goes traveling and comes back without any stories of mishaps. No matter how prepared you are, at some point you're going to get lost, miss your bus, miss the train - something! The list is endless! Expect it to happen, and don't beat yourself up when it does. In a month's time, time plus tragedy equals funny. AND DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER WHEN IT DOES HAPPEN-It achieves absolutely nothing. Calm down, rationally figure out an alternative plan and put a smile on your face and think of the great story it will make a one day.

BACK UP EVERYTHING IN MULTIPLE PLACES before you travel, back up your entire computer to the

cloud or an external drive. In non Covid times, Americans leave 12,000 computers a week at airports. As you travel, back your photos up at least every day to the cloud and/or a flash drive. Use the flash drive to keep copies of your passports, visas, etc., and leave it in the safe at the hotel.

LET YOUR BANK KNOW YOU'LL BE TRAVELING. Even traveling in the US, banks will block cards. Using online banking to notify them what cities or countries you are traveling to will make traveling much easier.

CARRY TWO OR THREE CREDIT CARDS. It is smart to travel with two or three cards. Always leave one back in the hotel safe, and never carry all three in your wallet at one time. Don't bring department store or gift cards with you. There is No Macy's in Madagascar.

Weatherford Chapter Committee Members Information

Co-Presidents:

Phill & Marti Morgan phillmrgn1@att.net

Gastonia, NC

Program Vice Presidents:

Gary & Marcy Schlansker geschlansker@gmail.com

Greer, SC

Secretaries:

Pat & Sybil Newman patnewman@hotmail.com

Franklin, VA

Treasurers:

Carl & Janet Ward carl.ward43@gmail.com

Marietta, GA

Membership Chair:

Molly McGregor mcgregors1575@gmail.com

Hoover, AL

Editors:

Nancy & Ed Ryszkiewicz nancyeryszkiewicz@gmail.com

Birmingham, AL

Past Presidents:

Bill & Teri Hooson bhooson@aol.com

Covington, GA

EAF Chairs:

Nancy & Bill Reece, nwreece@gmail.com

Franklin, TN

World Service Chairs:

Glenn & Sharon Mease, gmease@aol.com

Charlotte, NC

Caring Committee Chairs:

Bill & Teri Hooson bhooson@aol.com

Covington, GA

Chapter Travel Club Reps:

Jean & Bert Bock jbock@bellsouth.net

Athens, GA

Chapter Historians

Dave & Gail Cotton davidcotten1942@gmail.com

Morganton, NC

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