

From: Peggi Simmons peggisimmons@icloud.com
Subject: Fwd: Thanksgiving Gratitude + Christmas Invitation + MBC of Y Alumni Bits & Bytes
Date: November 24, 2021 at 3:42 PM
To: Altschul Craig caltschul@icloud.com

PS

Begin forwarded message:

From: "rj heger" <rjhegermke@gmail.com>
Subject: Thanksgiving Gratitude + Christmas Invitation + MBC of Y Alumni Bits & Bytes
Date: November 23, 2021 at 11:47:06 PM MST
To: "rj heger" <rjhegermke@gmail.com>

A Gracious Greeting YMCA Alumni Members – This week we focus our thoughts to offer thanks and prayers for the many gifts we enjoy in life, our families, friendships, wellness, and the comfort of our communities. It is a time for reflection, appreciation, and recognition of all those around us that contribute to our safety, comfort and well-being. Here is a Prayer of Gratitude to anchor thankfulness:

Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings you have sent to me in my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have asked or even imagine. You have given me the best friends and family who care and help me in good or bad times. Lord, thank you for keeping me safe during my life journey and for protecting me from bad situations. You always help me to make the right decisions, you speak to me in so many ways directly or through other people. I am so grateful to you for all the blessings you gave to me. Lord don't let me forget to show my gratitude in my prayers. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Christmas Invitation - Thanksgiving week is also a reminder that the Christmas season is upon us, and we invite all Chapter members to come together for a **Messer Brandenburg Celebration** on December 8, 2021. Our hosts, **Dennis and Cindy Mohrman**, offer gracious hospitality and time to meet up with the Messer Brandenburg Y Alumni Family, all from the comfort (and warmth) of your home. More details will follow. Let's help Denny and Cindy prepare by indicating your intention to attend. Include your name and return email to mbcofymcalumni@gmail.com.



YMCA Alumni Happy Holiday Zoom Party
Wednesday, December 8th at 2 pm

Join Zoom with this link:
<https://illinoisstate.zoom.us/j/99915384474>

Meeting ID: 999 1538 4474
Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

New Members – this past month 2 members joined our chapter; we welcome Pamela Calhoun and Mary Tikalsky to the Messser Brandenburg Chapter.

Other News - Twenty-five-chapter members attended our Annual Meeting on October 27 at Camp Duncan. A gloriously beautiful fall day greeted us, and the time together was a delight for all. We reconnected with friends not seen over the past year and met some members who attended for the first time! The camp staff hosted our meeting, providing use of a lodge and served lunch complimentary to our Chapter. Following the meeting the Chapter sent a contribution to YMCA Camp Duncan and this week I received a thank you from Bobby Thomas the camp Executive Director.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATION TO YMCA
CAMP DUNCAN & CAMP INDEPENDENCE.
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR PAY AT
CAMP & WILL RETURN TO VISIT
SOON! STAY WELL, FRIENDS!

Bobby Thomas



National Service Project - Linda Dean, an MBC Board member and our representative on the NSP planning task force shared plans being put in place for a 2022 startup of the National Service Project to serve youth and families of the Sioux YMCA in Dupree South Dakota. We had a robust discussion on plans for the tiny homes and “twigs” in various locations within the 4,267 square miles of the Cheyenne River Reservation which is the service area of the Sioux YMCA. All Y Alumni Chapters are preparing to share more information with members early in 2022. For more information on the National Service Project go to <https://www.ymcaalumni.org/serve>.

We believe that you as a member of YMCA Alumni, a retiree from years of service in the YMCA profession, will be motivated by this purpose-driven opportunity to serve.

If the housing insecurity and difficulty of providing YMCA programming to the youth and families of this vast service area, calls you to act, you will want to support our YMCA Alumni National Service Project.

Board News – the Messer Brandenburg Chapter board will meet on Wednesdays in 2022 - February 23 and June 22. All Chapter members are invited to attend the October 26 Annual Meeting, location to be announced. Also, the board approved (2) charitable gifts in the amount of \$325 to George Williams College for scholarships and to World Service / Kosovo YMCA to support service to Afghanistan Youth

Refugees.



November 10, 2021

Robert Heger
YMCA Alumni Messer-Brandenburg Chapter
340 E Jewell St
Oak Creek, WI 53157-1113

Dear Bob,

Thank you for the gift from the YMCA Alumni Messer-Brandenburg Chapter to George Williams College of Aurora University. This generosity is deeply appreciated and truly makes a difference in the lives of our students.

With this help, we provide support to students as they advance in their academic careers. Their passion for learning is remarkable. Their appreciation for the opportunity to attend GWC is nothing short of inspiring.

As we continue to move forward together, thank you again for this investment. We are incredibly grateful for this steadfast commitment to our students and our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meg Howes'.

Meg Howes
Vice President for Development

Gift Date: 11/9/2021
Amount: \$325.00

Constituent ID: 2006-1001337

Fund Designation:	Amount:
Loring Wilbur Messer Scholarship	\$325.00

[Cathy Adams](#) was elected to join the board along with our 2022 Officers, Denny Mohrman (VP), Rick Gattoni (Treasurer), Martha Rolf (Secretary), Denny Handrow (Past President), and 2022 Members, Linda Dean, Jim Furrie, Wray Howard, D'Ann and Bob Lagerblade, Pat Nelson, Bob Reinke, Angie Rester, Tom Scott, Larry Stinson, and Dianne Warrick. We offer our gratitude to D'Ann Lagerblade for her service as Secretary and welcome Martha Rolf to this role.

Membership Update - The **Member Renewal Campaign** is currently underway. For 2022 our Chapter is participating using the National YMCA Alumni renewal program. If you have questions call or text me at 414-520-9622, and if you are a lifetime member, you are already renewed. By now you have received a letter from Dave Patterson, the National Membership leader. His mailing included an addressed, return envelope to use if you choose to renew by mail. Complete the form and return payment by check. The renewal form is like what we used for 2021. Cindy Koenig the National Board member responsible for accounts receivable will process

and acknowledge the mail in renewals.

A new option is renewal on-line. Dave Patterson's letter describes how to use the YMCA Alumni website: <https://www.ymcaalumni.org/renew>. Online payments by credit card are processed securely and are received by Bob Hastedt, the National Board Treasurer. Members may also make a charitable contribution to the Messer Brandenburg Chapter and/or YMCA Alumni National with the annual renewal. The process (mail in and online) includes an option to add a designated Chapter and/or National gift. We truly value and appreciate your continued support. Members wishing to join more than one Chapter need only to name the additional chapter(s) and Dave Patterson will take care of the details; additional chapters are complimentary.

I renewed via the online method and found it easy to use, quick and complete, providing email documentation of the completed membership and contribution elements. Give it a try!

Bottom line, our mission is only viable if we have members to join, connect with other members and become active participants. Now is a great time to invite non-members to become involved through Y Alumni. Remember, all new members joining now receive a complimentary membership for the balance of 2021 and all of 2022.

As of November 15, 44 of the 89 current memberships have renewed. If you have not renewed, please take a few minutes to do so, and if affordability is in question, please contact me to discuss assistance.

Local Get Togethers - We experimented with two Local Member Get Togethers this summer and found the results encouraging. Board members Wray Howard and Martha Rolf hosted the first, for Rockford area Y retirees. They met on a Friday at their camp, had a great turnout and received positive feedback on doing this again. Rick Gattoni and I hosted the second in early August at my home, also on a Friday and had a similar experience.

The opportunity for colleagues that shared a YMCA background to gather, chat, catch up in person is welcomed and highly valued. I believe there is so much to be gained by conducting local gatherings that welcome both existing members and "not yet" members. When we open the door to new friendships, we will grow our Chapter membership organically and ultimately gain a greater foundation of people to realize the mission of the YMCA and Y Alumni.







These get togethers can happen anywhere, restaurant, home, coffee shop, park, camp, you get the point. One critical element is putting together a list of invitees, sending invitations and making the follow up calls to build participation. This is much easier to do that you think and members that do not attend do appreciate being asked. Another is keeping it simple to stage and easy to participate. Ask Martha, Ray, Rick, or myself about how to get started. I ask that you join in to make local get togethers a strong part of our chapter's 2022 program schedule. Who is ready to organize one in 2022? Email your interest and questions to mbcofymcalumni@gmail.com.

National Bits - Y Alumni Reunion '22 is taking place in New Orleans, LA, January 12 – 15, 2022. Keep up to date with all the exciting activities planned at the Reunion by checking the website, <https://www.ymcaalumni.org/>. I am looking forward to this winter get away, come join us. There is still time to register for the Reunion!

Time is Running Out!



Still time, but act now

You can still make plans to join us at Reunion '22, but the sooner the better. Do it now so you can sign up for tours and attractions on our participants' form coming in November.



Registration underway

Register now and be eligible for the Early Bird special. Registration fee is \$175 per person and includes our Opening Night dinner at Mulate's, full-day city tour, Mardi Gras World and more.



Opening night at Mulate's

We open our reunion Wednesday evening with a very special dinner at the famed Mulate's, New Orleans original Cajun restaurant. N'Awlins food, music and good times.



Extend your winter getaway by joining the **YMCA Alumni Travel Club Caribbean Reunion**, sailing from the Port of New Orleans, just half a mile from the Embassy Suites, the reunion hotel. Welcome aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) Breakaway to cruise from New Orleans to Costa Maya, México; Harvest Caye, Belize; Roatán, Honduras; Cozumel, Mexico and back to New Orleans. No meetings, just fun at sea and in ports for everyone.

National Board - At the October Board meeting, two motions were accepted and passed, to continue financial support of Secours Speciaux with grants from the World Brotherhood Fund. Secours supports international YMCA employees and retirees in times of need, much like our own EAF does. This past year the need has been great and \$500 grants have been awarded to both retirees and active employees in some 20 countries. The Board approved the final \$10,000 payment of the original \$50,000 grant to be disbursed in 2022, and approved funding at a \$10,000 per year level for an additional 5 years starting in 2023. As YMCA Alumni members we should all be proud of this ongoing commitment.

The Board also approved the first-year budget for the National Service Project starting in January 2022.

Larry Garvin, East Region VP and Reunion Chair, gave an update on the Jan.12-15 New Orleans gathering. Enrollment continues to increase, and registrations are now over 130. The search continues to fill a position on the National Board: Treasurer, Bob Hastedt has resumed his role as Treasurer until that vacancy is filled. Dave Rogers has been selected to serve as our Central Region VP.

So, that's all for now and a peaceful Thanksgiving to all,

Bob Heger

Chapter President / Contact me:

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Communications

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