

Messenger Bits from the Messer-Brandenburg Chapter



December 2022

Winter

President's Message

Here's wishing this newsletter finds you safe and warm following the bone-chilling blizzard that winter storm "Elliott" brought our way last week. Despite the challenges, my hope is that all of you enjoyed a blessed Christmas with family and friends.

As we move toward the new year, our focus will be on renewing and growing our Y Alumni membership. Many of you have already renewed and many are likely to do so soon. I know that we can encourage even more prospective members to join us in 2023.

Planning for year 2 of our National Service Project will begin shortly. Your chapter fundraising team will be holding a zoom meeting in early January. I'm confident our chapter will respond positively when asked and that we will be able to continue the momentum that was established in year 1 of the project.

Before we leap into 2023, please enjoy reading about and seeing photos of chapter events held in the last 3 months. Thank you to everyone who helped in the organization of these gatherings. I continue to look forward to opportunities for us to connect, travel and serve.

Yours in Service,
Denny Mohrman, Chapter President



Board Members

<i>Cathy Adams</i>	<i>Linda Dean</i>	<i>Jim Furrie</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 Members

Joanne Mitrenga

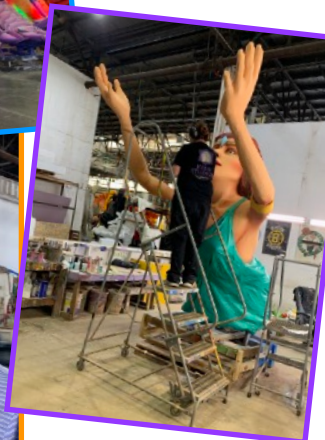


National Y Alumni Reunion-

From November 2-4, Denny and Cindy Mohrman represented our Messer-Brandenburg Chapter at the YMCA Alumni Reunion in New Orleans, LA. They were joined by 133 other Y Alumni members from across the country including Mary Tikalsky and the David Phelps family from our chapter.

They heard presentations on the National Service Project and the YMCA Retirement Fund on the opening day of the conference. On Thursday, Denny attended the General Council Meeting with representatives from all 17 Y Alumni chapters. All attendees enjoyed a visit to Mardi Gras World and then a City Tour of New Orleans to see historic landmarks, impressive architecture and to learn about the city's history, culture and famous figures.

There was plenty of free time to "catch up" with other Y Alumni members and enjoy group dinners at some iconic New Orleans restaurants. Before adjourning, it was announced that the next reunion will be held as a YMCA Alumni Reunion at Sea from January 26 - February 2, 2025. It will be a Western Caribbean Cruise from Galveston, Texas on the cruise ship Harmony of the Seas. Registration information is available at www.ymcaalumni.org.



Veteran's Day Gathering

Twelve Y Alumni members met at the Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center on Friday, November 11 for our Annual Veteran's Day gathering. Those in attendance included Bob and D'Ann Lagerblade, Don and Connie Darnell, Linda Dean, Cathy Adams, Don Heller, Wray Howard, Ken Buss, Rich Escutia and Denny and Cindy Mohrman.

The group enjoyed a wonderful sharing session in the Great Hall near the stone fireplace. Later we moved to the Porch Room for our lunch.

Following lunch, Rich Escutia presented a very informative outdoor education program featuring 2 hawks that he brought with him from southern Illinois. He shared that he has been flying and hunting with Birds of Prey for almost 30 years. As a bonus, other families who were at the park that day were invited to join us in hearing his program. Everyone had an enjoyable time.



Traditional Christmas Parties - Wednesday, Dec 7th



Wisconsin Cluster

The Wisconsin Y Alumni from the Messer-Brandenburg Chapter enjoyed fellowship, friendship, and reminiscing with new and old friends when they gathered for the Annual Holiday party at Davians in Menomonee Falls on Wednesday, December 7th.

We enjoyed some plain old visiting time before our wonderful meal. Then everyone shared a time where their involvement or actions had created a "moment". Stories ranged from a life that changed because of a youth program to an experience at camp that changed a child forever... Others had been teachers or moms that raised their children into unique and successful roles in life. It gave us each a chance to learn more about the people whom we don't know as well.

"Oh if life were made of moments
Even now and then a bad one--!
But if life were only moments,
Then you'd never know you had one."

Stephen Sondheim, [Into the Woods](#)

In closing we looked forward to the holiday season by singing, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" followed by "Auld Lang Syne" in gratitude for the friendships we've had through our YMCA service.



Illinois Cluster

On December 7, Illinois Alumni gathered at Chuck's Restaurant in Darien for a lovely time of eating and reconnecting. Lots of laughter and many hugs among our group of Cathy Adams, Jean Bast, Justin Bast, Kathy Bosco, Jane Bowers, Steve Dahlin, Linda Dean, Joan Holland, Fred Matthews, Cindy Mohrman, Dennis Mohrman, David Phelps, Martha Rolf and Barbara Taylor.

We encourage all our fellow Alumni to put this event on your calendars next year as soon as we announce the date!

