

# Messenger Bits from the **ymca** MESSER-BRANDENBURG Chapter **ALUMNI**

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July 2022

Summer

**President's Message** Good afternoon Messer-Brandenburg Y Alumni members. This president's update comes from me as your new chapter leader following the unexpected death of Bob Heger. Bob and I had worked closely together, and I believe he would have wanted us to continue to focus on seeking support and volunteer opportunities with the National Service Project and growing and engaging our membership through multiple program offerings.

More than \$530,000 has been raised to date for our National Service Project with the "YMCA of the Seven Council Fires" in Dupree, SD. Ground breaking took place on May 1 and opportunities to volunteer on site are now available to assist with construction of the Tiny Homes. Our own Linda Dean just returned from helping start to build the first 4 homes. There are still openings for teams working in waves in late October and early November. Please visit [ymcaalumni.org](http://ymcaalumni.org) to register.

Our program planning coordinators have done an excellent job of lining up occasions across Illinois and Wisconsin. Below you will see photos of some recent events and also a listing of upcoming gatherings. We hope that you will consider joining us at one of these soon.

I invite you to save the date of October 26 to participate in our Annual Meeting. This year's event will be held at YMCA Camp Duncan in Ingleside, IL. More details to follow. Also a final reminder that the registration deadline is July 31 for the National Y Alumni Reunion in New Orleans from November 2-5. Cindy and I look forward to seeing you in "The Big Easy" for some good food and fellowship.

Yours in Service,  
Denny Mohrman, Chapter President

**Board Members** Denny Mohrman Cathy Adams Linda Dean Jim Furrie  
Rick Gattoni Denny Handrow D'Ann Lagerblade Pat Nelson  
Bob Reinke Martha Rolf Tom Scott Larry Stinson Dianne Warrick

## Welcome New Members

Tom Denboer Connie Laidlaw Gloria Morningstar  
Donald Quinlan Tom Sutter Greg Weider



**May in the Chicago Area -**

Chapter Alumni Cathy Adams, Linda Dean, Joan Holland, Connie Laidlaw and Barb Taylor met at Lilacia Park in Lombard on May 19. We explored the park's many species of lilacs and beautiful flower beds. Then we enjoyed a great outdoor lunch at Babcock's Place. We all agreed we would love to come back here again for the fabulous food and the outdoor setting.



**June in Central Illinois -**

On Friday, June 10th a small but enthusiastic group gathered in Normal, IL for an outdoor patio luncheon at Destihl Restaurant. Those in attendance were: Don & Connie Heller, Rich Escutia, Mike Hardy, Linda Dean and Denny & Cindy Mohrman.

Due to the rain, the scheduled golf outing was cancelled. Instead, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to tour the new BN YMCA which was still under construction. The 70,000 square foot facility is scheduled to open in late August.

Following the YMCA tour, the group enjoyed some shopping in UpTown Normal and then enjoyed refreshments and snacks at the Stave Wine Bar.



**July in Rockford -**

A Y Alumni gathering was held on July 8 at Camp Winnebago. 39 people attended; mostly Y Alumni from the YMCA of Rock River Valley and their spouses. It was the first Y Alumni event for 12 of our guests.

The weather was perfect for being outdoors at camp. A buffet dinner and beverages were enjoyed by all. There were lots of laughs, reminiscing, stories and catching up with each other.

Wray Howard encouraged all attendees to consider joining Y Alumni and showed a video about the National Service Project.

The next gathering for this group will be a Christmas party in December. All members of the Messer-Brandenburg Chapter are welcome to attend. Details will be sent in a future newsletter.

*Photos from Camp Winnebago*



**Upcoming Alumni Events:**

***Celebration Belle River Boat Cruise -***

The Y Alumni River Boat Cruise is coming up on **August 11** in Moline, Illinois. We currently have 19 registered to participate in this 4 hour cruise. The cost of \$64 per person includes a hearty buffet lunch and Classic Oldies Theme with 50's & 60's music and live entertainment. Event coordinator, D'Ann Lagerblade can be reached at 309-236-0842 if you would like to inquire about joining us on the cruise.



***Veteran's Day Gathering - Friday, Nov. 11th***

Join Denny & Cindy Mohrman at the historic Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica, IL. We will gather in the Great Hall at the Lodge for some social time beginning at 11 am. At noon we will move to the Porch Room to order off the lunch menu. Please send your RSVP's by email to [dennis.mohrman@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.mohrman@gmail.com) by **Nov. 4th**.

***National Service Project:***

National Service Project Chapter Representative, Linda Dean, went to Dupree, SD along with 9 other alumni/friends of alumni for Wave 3 of the building schedule. Linda will share a recap and more photos from that experience at our Chapter Annual Meeting in October. There are still openings for teams working in waves in late October and early November. Please visit [ymcaalumni.org](http://ymcaalumni.org) to register!

***In Memoriam***

***Robert “Bob” J. Heger*** passed away on March 12, 2022 at the age of 69. He was serving as our chapter board president at the time of his death. Our Messer-Brandenburg Y Alumni Chapter sent a Memorial Gift to the National Service Project as requested by his family.

***Lawrence “Larry” Spink Hemdal*** passed away on March 20, 2022 at the age of 80. He had been a long time M-B Chapter board member serving many years as our treasurer. Our Chapter sent a Memorial Gift to the Joliet YMCA as requested by his family.

***David C. Bast*** passed away on June 22, 2022 at the age of 74. He served many years on the M-B Chapter board including multiple years as our president. David also served a term as the National Y Alumni board secretary. A chapter memorial gift was sent to George Williams College of Aurora University as requested by his family.