

IP e-NEWSLETTER

Y's Men International May 2020



Dear Club Member,

Welcome to the May e-letter. I hope that this e-letter will keep you informed through the articles and updates each month with the variety of contributors that have been used throughout the year. In this edition, we will read self-improvement opportunities with Gold 2.0, an article from the International Youth Representative and other current issues.

Living in a Topsy-Turvy World!

In the space of two months, the world has been turned upside down. Who would have thought this could happen? We have left our free-and-easy lifestyle behind for a slower existence, much limited travel, schooling and working where we live - the focus shifting from outside to inside our homes. At this point we are not sure what the future holds for us. We have not lived through a time like this and so have nothing on which to base decisions about that future.

We have already seen that the special events we were looking forward to attending this year – including IC2020 - have had to be cancelled because of the current crisis. Over this time, our thinking and our activities have changed to suit the circumstances and we have been surprised by success of them. Earlier this month, a Zoom meeting was organised with the North Atlantic Region members in USA, many of whom are working in the health sector in New York. It was a privilege to attend that event and hear first-hand, the relentless difficulties faced everyday by those on the front line. The meeting was unanimous in giving recognition to these members for the selfless dedication in their everyday work environment. ISD Christian Emphasis, Carl Hertz-Jensen, wrote afterwards:

“Good morning everybody! I want to give you my greeting after our mutual experience tonight. It was indeed a good and well-planned meeting. It was wonderful and touching to hear the workers tell about their important difficult work fighting covid-19. I would like to honour them and show my respect for their honesty. I was thankful to be invited to open the meeting with prayer, which I will use in the next CE News. I think it will be most relevant and necessary and I hope you will agree. Thank you so much for this very special event, here in my place in the middle of the night. Best regards...”

Another Zoom meeting was organised late April to introduce IPE Jacob Kristensen to his new ISD team. Some ISDs continue from this year and about half are new to their positions – it was an opportunity to exchange something about themselves and their hopes and dreams for their terms and YMI. Last weekend, a Zoom meeting drew the new team for IPE Jacob Kristensen together – APEs and RDEs – about 60 people attended. This time the translation feature was used for Japanese and Korean speakers and worked well, saving time for separate translation. We have so much to learn, but we are getting there, step by step.

An IP Discretionary Grant of CHF 5,000 was given to Area Korea in March to be used in early distribution of supplies for the covid-19 crisis. Korean leaders then generously donated CHF10,000 back to IHQ so that other Areas could receive help too from the IP Discretionary funds. This was increased to CHF17,500 to be shared amongst the seven Areas, providing that the grants were matched with an equivalent amount from those applying, bringing the amount distributed to CHF 40,000. Thank you to those who applied for funds through this process with requests from as little as CHF 100 to CHF 2,000. We were sorry that there were no extra funds left for the other applications received later. Around the world, clubs such as in Coimbatore, India, have been doing their best in limited circumstances to meet the needs of communities in the current difficulties. There have been distributions of hand-made masks, medical masks and other protective gear, meals, food packages for the needy, supplies of hand sanitiser and food for school children. Well done to you all in your willingness to help a suffering world in the middle of uncertain days.

May YMI continue to make its presence shown in new ways and old, making a difference in the lives of many and continuing to strengthen our influence and structure where possible.

IP Jennifer Jones

WE SAY GOODBYE TO A MUCH-LOVED PAST LEADER:

We were saddened to hear about the recent passing of PIP Poul Thomsen on 14th May in Denmark. Poul has been a much-loved and well-respected leader in the YMI movement and we will miss his influence and presence in our lives. He has been successful in shaping and mentoring many leaders who took up international positions in the last five years. He believed in the goodness of humanity, the importance of fellowship, service to others and in the necessity to keep extending and enlarging YMI. Our condolences and love go to his wife Bodil and their family, keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.



May Emphasis!

Youth in YMI

“Let's move forward together”

Greetings to my Y's men family around the world! Hope all of you are in good health. Covid-19 has forced us to stay away from each other physically but I'm sure we'll stay united to fight the pandemic along with rest of the world. IC and IYC 2020 stand cancelled due to the current scenario. At the same time, I'm happy and proud that many of our youth clubs have stood up to the situation and have been involved in many activities following the path of Y's men: by distributing masks and essential goods to the needy, being volunteers in government help cells, our young people are in the forefront fighting Covid-19.

Hence, it is important that we bring in more youths to the organization. More youth clubs are being chartered compared to old days. At the same time, we must ensure that the clubs stay active and we need to come up with more activities and incentives for the youth in Y's men. As you all know, IYC provides a great opportunity of cultural exchange and bonding for the youths. I feel STEP and YEEP programs are underutilized and I hope Y's men would motivate the youths in their clubs to make use of the opportunity. Y's men can help youths to be more empathetic towards their fellow human beings. I could testify that the organization has played a great



IYR Representative Sherin Wilson from India with ICM Svein Rodset and Rigmor from Norway at ICM 19 Japan

role in moulding my character and personality.

By involving young people, the organization is allowing them to carefully develop their leadership potential, so that as they grow and learn. They can become thoughtful, prepared leaders of the society and in Ysdom. As we are completing 100 years in 2022, it's time we encourage a youth- adult partnership to take the organization and its legacy forward. Hope each of you will join hands with us and strive to bring in more youths to the organization.

Thanks and regards

Sherin Wilson

International Youth Representative

How YMCAs are responding to COVID-19?

YMCAs are responding rapidly and on multiple fronts to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. As part of tailored responses to existing and emerging needs, YMCAs of all sizes are helping communities by:

- Running COVID-19 public awareness and hygiene promotion campaigns.
- Distributing food packages, hygiene kits, essential medicines, and financial support to the elderly, isolated and others in need.
- Providing PPE, accommodation, childcare, and other emergency support to healthcare staff and frontline workers.
- Adapting existing delivery mechanisms to continue providing essential services such as housing, food packages and legal support to the needy, including, migrants, refugees and the homeless.
- Providing counselling and psycho-social support to individuals facing anxiety and mental health challenges, and survivors of domestic violence.
- Running digital education/training courses; online health, wellbeing and fitness programmes; and remote prayer groups.
- Conducting needs assessments to better understand COVID-19's effects on communities.
- Advocating and collaborating with governments, health authorities, donors and other actors to enhance support for the most vulnerable.

Taken from World Alliance of YMCA's Covid-19 Situation Overview

TIPS for Running Online Meetings.....

Reliable, easy to use video conferencing platforms like Zoom provide ways to ensure that all your meeting attendees get the most out of the allotted time.

1. *If you are the organiser start the meeting 5-10 minutes early to help those attending get organised.*
2. *Introduce everyone at the beginning.*
3. *Ensure that you have an appropriate background and good lighting.*
4. *Look into the camera when talking.*
5. *Eliminate distractions and focus on the agenda provided.*
6. *Be aware of your audio and video settings.*
7. *Only invite participants who need to be there.*
8. *Stay around until the very end if you are the host.*

An Opportunity to Upgrade Your Skills

Welcome to the **GOLD 2.0 program**, filling the void for members wanting to remain active, during this time when most clubs are cancelling their meetings and projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are like me and want to find ways to keep in touch and to contribute positively to the work of the movement, read on!

We have the technology to bring people together online using programs such as Go To Meeting and other platforms. All we need is a good reason to meet, beyond just exchanging information about what we are all doing to cope. That reason could be to come together, refine our leadership skills and learn new ones, working with others in our club, our Region and even within our Areas.

GOLD 2.0 offers a structure which can make this happen. After all, learning should be a lifelong activity and there is always something new to experience. There are 15 possible modules available, covering eight broad themes so that there is something of value for everyone. By working together in online groups of six or more, there is a new opportunity to have fellowship, to strengthen personal bonds and to have some fun while we practise and share our leadership skills while learning new ones.

From the list of eight, choose a topic that interests you and think about enrolling.

1. Planning an **orientation program for new members** using the GOLD PowerPoint and activities that foster team work and sharing.
2. Improving your **Presentation Skills** with four short PowerPoints broken up with learning activi-

COMING UP SOON!!

- Selection of new leaders for Areas, Regions and Districts
- Preparation of international reports
- International Council Meeting August 2020

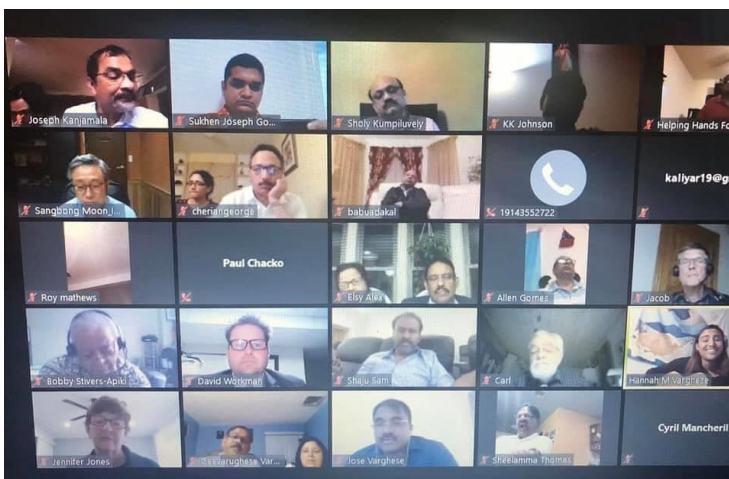
3. How are your **Communication Skills**? Would you like to improve your confidence and prepare more effective ways to communicate within your club or Region?
4. **Decision Making** within a group can be difficult and you want end up with a decision that everyone can support. We have several ideas to share that will add to your skill level.
5. At some point, every leader is asked to **facilitate** or **lead discussions** about current and future actions that we need to take to maintain a properly functioning club. Check out the varied options that you might not have heard about!
6. **Problem Solving Skills** are always needed to overcome problems and turn them into opportunities for growth and success. You can never have too many ideas from which to choose.
7. **Setting Goals**, so that your club is truly able to live out our International Mission, is crucial to your leadership success. Who knows but you might have some additional ideas we can add to our GOLD knowledge bank in this and other areas.
8. Finally, **keeping our current members** is a lot easier to do than be in the recruiting mode all the time. So why not learn the various techniques your club can introduce to motivate and support you members.

Let's invest more energy and time in our greatest resource, our members. You may be just what your club is looking for!

Join in and form a GOLD Team in your Region! Sign up for an online group to start reviewing the GOLD curriculum. You don't need to have an expert telling you what to do. Within the online GOLD group, there will be enough expertise and innovative ideas to prepare you for a more fulfilling role within the Y'sMen/Y Service movement. I can guarantee you will have a wonderful time together, working as a team.

David Hall, ISD, GOLD 2.0.

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Recent Zoom Meeting with North Atlantic Region

CLUB ACTIVITIES during COVID-19

In Japan, masks were made by hand by club members then given to the Mayor of Atami



New club in Lumbini involved in handing out essential supplies to their local community



In South West India, clubs have been busy distributing supplies with the held of the covid-19 grant. 12 boxes of supplies for the District Governors, each containing 1000 masks, 500 masks handed to health centre and 4000 masks handed to State Minister



Thank you for reading this e-letter. Let's continue to make this world a better place in these challenging times. We are all in this together and can support each other. Remember that you are never alone! Keep hold of your vision and have faith and hope for the future where we can be "on the move" together!!

Regards and blessings, **IP Jennifer Jones**

I can be reached using the contact form on our website - www.ysmen.org

PHOTO on front page: International Officers outside Bendigo Town Hall in February