



IP e-NEWSLETTER

Y's Men International July 2019



Dear club members!

Welcome to the first IP e-Letter for this year. The IP e-Letter is designed to keep YMI members informed through articles and updates each month with a variety of contributors throughout the year. I am pleased that IHQ is now able to send this out on my behalf to each of you personally. In this edition, PIP Henry Grindheim has written about his thoughts on the completion of his term as an IEO. We find out some interesting facts about AP Sherif Shoukry Awad and ISD Korason Varghese has shared his wisdom on Public Relations. Finally, PAP Peter Unmack has given us an insight into his long life as a Y's Man in Australia.

A New Chapter Begins:

We are at the beginning of another year for Y's Men International (YMI), a new chapter in our history. Many of you, like me, are taking on new leadership positions. I hope that this will be a rewarding time for you and your team and that you will be able to see how your efforts have made a difference to YMI as a whole in the future.

Congratulations to the new incoming International Officers both the new International Council Members (ICMs) and the new International President Elect, Poul-Henrik Hove Jacobsen. It will be a pleasure working with you all, getting to know you and forging new friendships while serving and offering guidance to the movement. The Area Presidents on the team for this year are: Sherif Shoukry Awad - Africa, Hiroyuki Tanaka - Asia Pacific, Murray Dunbar - Canada/Caribbean, Ulrik Lauridsen - Europe, VA Thankachan - India, Kim Sang-chaе - Korea, Sonja Marly Müller - Latin America and Bobby Stivers-Apiki - USA. This will be a unique and exciting team to work with, coming from a wide variety of backgrounds and occupations, some still in the workforce and some not.

Leadership is about change in an ever-changing world, and capable leadership is needed to help bring about that change in YMI. IPIP Moon Sang-bong's theme for his year, "Yes, we can change!", has helped to shift our thinking somewhat and we are now more willing to try something different. The best reformers in the world are those who begin the change in themselves – a challenge for each of us to see how we might become more effective operators in our lives and with each other.

"**Building Today for a Better Tomorrow**", is my theme for this year. I know that many of you are already working steadily behind the scenes to make sure that the future for YMI looks bright. Some of the hard work is paying off with membership rising back up to over 25,000 recently and with good prospects of further growth shortly. An exciting area of growth has occurred in partnering with the YMCA, especially in Europe, India and Africa. Great work and thanks to those who are very enthusiastic instigators of membership growth!! Thanks too for the impetus that

has come from new ISG Jose Varghese who brings with him a wealth of knowledge and the experience of being a long-term employee of the YMCA.

Many of you have also been very generous in your wonderful donations to the Legacy Project, guaranteeing that we can fund these special projects adequately while also ensuring that YMI's future is going to be financially secure too. Many thanks for becoming an important contributor to the legacy and history of our movement, especially in this period leading up to 2022 where we will be able to celebrate the our centenary of this wonderful organisation. I look forward to meeting you somewhere in the Y's World!!

IP Jennifer Jones

Why choose a service club like Y's Men International?

The goal of our public relations efforts is to project the mission, vision, beliefs and activities of Y's Men's Club to a wider and diverse world. It will help establish a strong presence of the Club in the communities we serve by integrating into those communities and working closer with the people.

By definition, public relations should be the process of creating a favourable public image for an entity by deliberately sharing positive news and information about it. Y's Men public relations transcends the standard definitional boundaries to elevate PR to a higher realm. We bring about public relations with our service to community and place it at the centre of PR efforts.

The task of declaring the message of Y's Men's Club in 65 countries with 1,500 clubs and 25,000 members is an honorable calling. It is a great privilege as well as an enormous task. The activities of the Club cover a broad spectrum of events: fun and fellowship, community service, world understanding and brotherhood, self-development, leadership and youth development, family involvement and enjoyment, and spirit of volunteerism. News and information of these ventures need to reach members of the Clubs, the population they serve and all the stakeholders. It must be accomplished with sincerity and dedication, rising above superficialities that comes with the territory. That is the mandate of the public relations at Y's Men's Club. We accept it wholeheartedly, without any mental reservation and dedicate ourselves for the cause.

Varghese Korason, ISD-PR, vkorason@yahoo.com, New York

Time To Say Goodbye – We'll Meet Again



Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli have made a wonderful duet called «**Time to say Goodbye**». This tune comes to my mind now just before my soon ending three years term as a member of the IEOs (IPE, IP, IPIP).

In spring 2016, I was elected and became IPE in summer 2016, which was the start on a fantastic, memorable and challenging three years period, which now comes to a close. I had several friends in Y's dom before, but now I feel I have a huge number of personal friends in almost every Y's Men Region within the different Areas. I have been visiting countries and places I never thought about visiting, and met dedicated women and men having a sincere wish to serve our wonderful movement, for the benefit of Y's Men.

There has been hard work, long days, evenings and nights filled with work or travel across the continents, delayed or cancelled flights with late arrivals and hours spent on airports all over the world. I have been facing challenges and problems which needed serious consideration and solid judgment, not only by me but also by the other members of the IEO team. I am privileged to have worked so close together with the other IEOs these three years: PIP Wichian, PIP Joan, IP Moon Sang Bong, IPE Jennifer, IT Philips, PISG Nishi and ISG Jose. PIP Isaac in his LTOD position and PIP Finn, (who has been my mentor and advisor for many years), have also given me support and inspiration along with various ICMs, Area and Regional officers.

As an IPIP I had a different role in the IP troika, no longer chair, but acting as an advisor and mentor for IP. You shall not be a laid back person, but work actively as an IEO troika member, giving advice, sharing experiences and be a sparring partner for the IP, without being a dominant IPIP. I hope that I have managed to do this well.

In my IP term the search process and the appointment of the new ISG took place. As IP I was deeply involved. I am very happy that we now have Jose as the new ISG. His background from YMCA, his optimism and working capacity combined with his psychological skill, his sense of humour and human behaviour, make him definitely the right person to take over after Nishi, who after many hard working years retired earlier this year. I especially wish to thank Nishi for his guidance, support and for the fellowship we have shared on our travels and meetings through many years, both when I was an ICM and later as an IEO. A big thank you also goes to the staff at IHQ: Tracy, James and Amine for their continuous service and support, always at hand when help was needed.

It is my hope that my theme as IP, «**Let us walk in the Light - Together**», shall be valid and be the guidance for Y's Men all over the world, as we are soon reaching 2022 and the celebration of our centenary jubilee. I end this farewell letter by mentioning the title from another well known song, made unforgettable during World War two by Dame Vera Lynn, when she performed it to the British soldiers. The title also reflects my hope and wish for the years to come, but now in a PIP position wishing that: «**We'll meet again**» in various Y's Men connections. Thank you for your support. May God bless you and keep his hands upon Y's Men International.

Henry Grindheim, Asker, Norway



Area President—Africa

My name is Sherif Shoukry Awad, a long-standing member in the YMCA and now Y's Men International Council Member and Area Africa President. I was raised in Upper Egypt, Minia City and most of my time I spent within the Y as my late father, Shoukry Awad, was one of the main founders of the movement of the YMCA and the Y's Men in Minia. He was so dedicated to the Y that my mom used to complain about that!

Within the Y, I was a regular member, a volunteer leader and later a Board Member for many years. I also attained positions representing the Youth within the National Assembly of the Egyptian YMCAs. The Y has enriched my life experience and prepared me well for success.

I graduated from Medical school in Minia and specialized in Dermatology. I have many degrees in my specialty and received one of my PhDs in Tokyo, Japan where I lived for 5 years. I felt so grateful to the Y which enriched my personality enabling me to join the international community and even attain student leadership positions in Tokyo.

In my profession I teach now as a Professor in Faculty of Medicine, Minia University and have many international publications specially targeting Vitiligo disease.

When I returned back from Japan I was convinced to revitalize the Y's Men of Minia and for 20 years Minia club has been active within the international movement. I attained all possible positions in the Club, District and Region and now Area. The noble service movement of the Y's Men is a ready path that follows the mission of Jesus Christ and it is so satisfying and rewarding to go through that.

"One Family, Ready to Serve", is my theme during my leadership term and helps me to carry out what I do believe is the great fellowship of Y's Men. In Y's Men you will meet many spectacular people and you will engage in many great programs and activities and serving the Y and the community. My hope is that many more people will get involved in this service and I believe that the Y's Men would be a Nobel Prize winner for peace in the near future.

Sherif Shoukry Awad is in the second year of his term as Area President for Africa.

My Adventure with Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

Peter Unmack, PAP South Pacific, Australia

At age 23, I was introduced to the Bendigo Ys Men's Club in March 1962, by Allan Martin, a member of long standing, who became a close friend. I began my steep learning curve about Y's Men International (YMI) when I recorded the Minutes of an Australia/New Zealand Regional Meeting. I thank Ian McDowall for this experience, and his lifelong friendship too

When Shirley and I married in 1962, she joined the Bendigo Y's Menettes Club, and always supported my Y'sdom involvement. We attended many functions such as Changeovers, Club Charters, District and Regional events, Conventions, and Inter Club visits. The acceptance of Club Office positions increased my knowledge and experience - Secretary for several years, President in 1970-71 and moving into District and Regional positions. As District Governor in 1974-75, I received an Elmer Crowe Award.

The South Pacific Area hosted an International Convention in Melbourne in 1978. Chaired by Arthur Cowling, it was my privilege to serve on the Organising Committee, being responsible for House Arrangements at the venue, the Melbourne Hilton Hotel. It broadened my experience of YMI as a worldwide organisation.

In October 1978, on a Brotherhood Fund Travel Grant, I visited Canada and USA. This included Club visits and attendance at two Regional Conventions, one at a Canadian YMCA Campsite, and the other in North Carolina. Both were excellent events, but markedly different in style. On my return, I visited many Australian Clubs to relate my experiences and observations. After my 1978 BF tour, I introduced the idea of a "Used Book Fair" to my Club, based on a Club project I observed in California. Our "Easter and Spring Book Fairs" now have exceeded all expectations and are the major Club fund raisers, along with Christmas Tree Sales. Even though members are aging, they are still willing to be book sorters every week in preparation for the sales.

I held several Regional Service Director positions before being elected International Council member and Area President for the South Pacific Area, 1983-86. This was a rewarding time as our membership was quite strong during this period. My Club involvement continued strongly and, meanwhile, Shirley was making her mark in the Y's Menettes organisation, being International Director for 1991-93. Our daughter, Michelle spent 1989 in Denmark as a YEEP student and we hosted two Danish students. Michelle has joined Y's Menettes and is currently Australian Regional Director.

When the Y Service Club of Bendigo South was chartered in 2005, I was one of five members from the Sponsor clubs who joined this club with dual membership. This club was started with a different focus, as most of the members are older and are residents of retirement villages but the club continues to be strong and continues to attract new people each year. Shirley has now become a member too.

Shirley and I have travelled extensively, with our focus on International Conventions, helping to maintain some of the friendships that were forged when serving on ICM.

YMI has had a tremendous influence on my business life, giving me confidence in dealing with staff at all levels, professional and business contacts, and developing the administration skills to manage the Pharmacy Department at Bendigo's major hospital.



Peter pictured left with CP Dennis Dole at club's 80th celebrations. Peter has been an inspiration and guide to all of the Australian clubs over many years, sharing his infinite wealth of knowledge with us along with many friends and contacts overseas too.

COMING UP!!

- ICM 2019 at Sendai Japan, 13-17 July
- Asia Pacific AC 19-21 July, Sendai Japan
- YMCA 175 Celebrations, London 4-8 August
- CAC and USA AC 15-18 August
- Korea AC 24-25 August
- Africa AC 31 August—3 September
- RDE Summit—14-17 November, Toledo



Thank you for reading this first issue, I hope you have enjoyed finding out something new, something interesting and something challenging. There is no success without hard work and many of you are already doing your best to make YMI ready to take on the challenges of moving into the next 100 years of our history. Thank you for all that effort, it will be very rewarding and very exciting as we journey together.

Regards and blessings, **IP Jennifer Jones** I can be reached using the contact form on our website www.ysmen.org