



Y's MEN INTERNATIONAL

PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS' CLUB

NEWS LETTER

June 2021

Our Motto: "To acknowledge the Duty that accompanies every Right"

Service Club to the YMCA

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Club de service des UCJG

Service Club fur den CVJM

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Club de Servicio para la ACJ

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From Chair/Editor – PIP Isaac Palathinkal



We have never faced such a situation in our life before. The spread of the pandemic is increasing in geometric progression over time. Let us all continue to be vigilant as we face the challenges.

Many countries are now undergoing a second wave or are still under the threat of newer waves of the pandemic. It is only the degree of suffering and restrictions enforced that seem to vary from country to country.

In India, the pandemic has taken away a few of our Y's Men friends from amongst us. We can only sit and watch things happen. At the same time, it is heartening to note that Y's clubs in India as well as round the world are doing their best to help their brethren by arranging free supply of food and other essential items as well as Covid prevention kits to those in need.

Man is helpless by himself. Take heart. God is with us. Jehova Jireh. God will provide. Let us pray to the Almighty to save all of humanity from this deadly pandemic. Remember:

'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.'

This issue contains messages from the two outgoing officers (IP and IT), an article from ISG, Area news from USA and LA and another two articles of interest from two PIPs. I thank all of them for their support and co-operation in making this issue of the Newsletter lively.

I look forward to similar support from all other members for our future issues of the Newsletter also.

Happy reading!

Thank you.

PIP Isaac Palathinkal

Why worry? Think positively ...

A positive approach

(Translation of a Hymn in my mother tongue into English)

*There is no rain that has not ended, There is no wind that has not calmed
There is no night that has not turned into dawn, There is no pain that has not subsided
The Lord Almighty is with us in the boat, when we are in the turbulent sea*

My IP Year 2020-21

by IP Jacob Kristensen



When will we be back to normal times again - we ask each other? The abnormal has now become normal! Memories of our normal club life and activities have indeed become past memories. Just think when was the last time we greeted

each other with a handshake or a hug. It's as if we had not been breathing for a whole year.

After the first few months of the first wave of the Corona fright, we breathed a sigh of relief at the cautious relaxation of various restrictions. Back then, many felt and believed that it was probably all over and that we would soon be free. Meetings and activities were booked and planned but that was not the case. All the negatives grew: infection rates, contact rates, hospitalization rates and death rates.

A little later we gasped gently as the first vaccine trucks rolled through Europe. We gasped with expectations. Soon it would be our turn to give the joy of life the whole arm - with a blissful shot in the upper arm. We gasped with impatience. To go to the cafe again. To meet and greet in the club again. Little did we know that all the while the death toll around the globe was rising. 'Have patience', you hear everywhere, a little more.

YMI rose to the occasion and did what was unthinkable - Ingenuity, togetherness at a social distance. Creativity flourished. Virtual meetings were established and loneliness became a little less burdensome. Meetings and activities were held using computer screens. Some club activities were suspended while others saw the light of day.

Creativity has been at its best and now we are bracing for a new club year, where the new norms would be complied with, to keep infections at bay.

Even the club year when IP was firmly chained to his office and when travel and meeting activity was zero, the club year 2020-2021 was not put away! YMI has not been on the lazy side.

From day one we had decided that activities would be as high as possible at all levels. It spawned a lot of screen meetings across the board. Over 100 virtual meetings were held with IP's participation. Yes, we managed to keep the flag high and tell each other that even if Corona rages, we will continue all our activities to the best of our abilities.

The year has offered 68 new clubs in 4 different Areas. We now have clubs in 73 countries. We have focused on Youth to make YMI more attractive and to continue our movement with more vigour. Shortly, we will see a new youth programme as a replacement for the YEEP programme, which has long since been dying. We have launched a New Communication Channel system for better communication and circulation of news to all users. We have planned to buy a building in Geneva for IHQ with space for all employees. The PWA legacy fund needs money to purchase this property. We all must now hit the drums for this necessary project. All committees have run intensively with the tasks set. What will our movement look like in 10 years from now? How can we prepare for the future? To solve this task, we have allied ourselves with a consulting firm named 180

The Centenary Team is working to celebrate the 100th anniversary with activities at all levels.

In order to make the road shorter between International level and club members and give all members the possibility to follow the latest news in our movement, I had sent out IP NEWS every month, which included coverage of programmes from Emphasis Months, News from IHQ, IP's greeting and commentary and various features from club level: Tell a Good Story. IP NEWS is published in 10 different languages and carried on our web site at <https://www.ysmen.org/about-us/structure/international-president/>.

Looking forward to be one among you soon, as a PIP. Best regards.

Jacob Kristensen, IP

Why worry? We have the assurance.....

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

My tenure as International Treasurer

by IT Philips Cherian



Dear PIP Isaac Palathinkal

Thank you very much for the invitation to pen some lines regarding my tenure as IT. I take it as a blessing and great opportunity to be part of the top management of international voluntary organisation.

Working alongside international Presidents from countries Thailand, Canada, Norway, Korea, Australia and Denmark and ISGs from Japan and India gives a real International experience. During all the six years there was total harmonious functioning and the IEOs meetings were all peaceful, participative and progressive. My special thanks and appreciation for all those who wholeheartedly dedicated their time and resources for the organisation. I could comfortably discharge my duties supporting all of them.

It is worth mentioning here that I did get full support for all the finance related proposals for strengthening the organisation and streamlining the controls to ensure proper end use and maximum utility for our valuable funds. Wholehearted support from the team and the IHQ staff has helped being on a strong wicket financially all through my term. The bold initiative of PIP Moon Sung Bong, the Legacy project is well suited for celebrating the centenary.

Recognising and celebrating our founder's contribution at the birth place of our organisation and

making a permanent monument gives us the satisfaction of carrying out our duty towards our forefathers.

The proposal to have our own headquarters in Geneva is a long cherished dream for many of us. All the scepticism about where are we headed when we started a satellite office in Thailand is put to rest. Being headquartered along with international organisations like United Nations, Red Cross, YMCA etc in itself talks about our international nature and stature.

While stepping down I have the satisfaction of not slipping into deficit in any of the years and handing over a strong treasury to my successor in office. Relaxing foreign exchange control regulations in India has enabled us to receive some of the dues to IHQ, directly from members.

Finally I would like to profusely thank each one of you for the excellent cooperation and support which has helped me in performing my role. I will be failing in my duties if I do not recognise and thank the members and leaders at different Areas and Regions, which I visited, for the excellent hospitality, fellowship and arrangements, all of which will forever remain afresh in my mind.

Philips K Cherian
International Treasurer

Y's Men Staying Strong and Moving Forward

by ISG Jose Varghese



I am writing this article from my home office in Kerala, India. I continue to work from home over the last several months and the IHQ staff also work mostly from their home as well. It reminds me the history of Y's Men International in 1925 our first ISG Henry Grimes

home in Lawrence Massachusetts served as the first office of the organization. History is repeating in a different context at least for a short period of time. This global crisis certainly will define the future of our movement and we are not just witnessing a test but also a testament to the health of our movement. It is

hard to define the state of Y's Men International today but I can confidently say that Y's Men Staying Strong and Moving Forward. We have clearly demonstrated our ability to adapt, to change, to be a resilient organisation. We had to cancel several physical meetings but our mission is driving ahead. Sadly, COVID-19 has taken several of our club members. However, thankfully most are safe and we are able to stay connected through digital means. As a movement we believe in our ability to overcome. We did not waste time looking back and lamenting things, which we cannot change. It was, in fact, time for change, for new energy and attitude to embrace new opportunities.

In 1951, our founder Judge Paul William Alexander said:

“... To be a Y’s Man has never been predicated upon what a man believes but upon what he does... The virtue of unselfish service, which we insist shall be the hallmark of the Y’s Man is an exemplification of love for one’s fellow man...”

This statement of our founder continues to inspire us to move forward with visible and impactful actions. During the last year our movement made progress in the area of Extension with 80 new clubs chartered in five Areas. Zimbabwe, Honduras, Burundi are welcomed as new countries into our International family. We bore witness the establishment of several new IBC relationships and the strengthening of existing ones through online interactions. A significant initiative came from Y’s Men’s Club of Toledo-Central. As the first Y’s Men’s Club in the world, is seeking to establish IBC relations with oldest clubs in all the Areas. Our movement continues to increase its support to YMCAs at this critical time through solidarity funds and volunteerism. The Manual Review Committee was able to update several core documents to make them contemporary and relevant. We have activated the fundraising for Paul William Alexander Legacy, looking towards the purchase of an IHQ office and fulfilment of the other projects envisioned under the PWA Legacy initiative. In an effort to raise resources for our centennial, a fundraising campaign was launched, in which Honorary Membership is conferred to club members and friends of YMI in exchange for a one-time contribution of USD 2,500.

Our long-cherished dream to have an online supplies store is realised now. We have witnessed a great success and engagement of clubs around world for the Week 4 Waste project. We have launched the Heal the World as our next Unified Global Project to fight the impact of COVID-19 and the first project is implementing in India together with the Y’s Men India Area at District levels. With the generous contributions from our members, we could make a major donation of USD 100,000 to the Global Fund to step up our fight against malaria worldwide. We were able to strengthen our digital communication to have information directly reach club members in different languages. YMI was able to successfully conduct the international elections through online platform with 86.7 % participation rate by the clubs even this pandemic time. Our international and Area leadership team succeeded in developing a worldwide celebration plan for our 100th year. Our vibrant youth constituency was able to produce a strategic plan for their involvement in activities and elected the IYR through an online election. Virtual platforms enabled us to provide training for APEs, RDEs and Area leaders at different levels during the last months and it continues. Our Regional and District leaders made significant progress in empowering clubs to engage virtually and implementing meaningful community service activities.

Undoubtedly this is a most exciting time to be a YMI club member and with deep respect I bow my head before all Y’s Men leaders around the World for making this happen and **STAYING STRONG AND MOVING FORWARD!**

News from Areas

Area Latin America by AP Rossana Croci Reyes



As Area LAM AP, it is a privilege to write for the PIP Newsletter, for the PIP Club, group of distinguished leaders of our beloved Y’s Movement, many of whom I have met in my life as a Y’s member.

Latin America is deeply immersed in the greatest health and economic crisis ever, due to the covid,19 pandemic, information amply shared by the international media. The covidvirus has directly

affected Y's club members, their direct relatives and friends, plus a large number of the continent's population. Several members have been infected, some have already been vaccinated and many are still waiting for the vaccine.

There are clubs whose membership has dwindled and all have been affected in their fundraising activities for local and international projects. Many members lost their jobs or saw their income directly affected by restrictions.

Despite all this, and keeping an optimistic outlook, we reactivated the YSC Cochabamba, Bolivia, almost lost, through effort and support from the

entire Area and the Latin American Region. Training and constant communication resulted, on March 2021, in the online induction of 10 new club members, mostly young people, completing a total of 13 and with the intention of reaching over 15 in the near future.

In turn, the Magdalena del Mar YMC, Peru, with an average age over 80 years, and very scarce membership, also worked to induct new members of various ages, including young adults and has reached 15 members.

The YSC Montevideo, Uruguay slightly increased its membership, with a member in USA, becoming a Glocal Club!

Before Christmas 2020 a new club was chartered: Tegucigalpa YSC in Honduras adding a new country to our Y's map, sponsored by the North Jersey YSC, USA. Several international authorities were present at its Charter ceremony, including IEOs and PIP Isaac, instrumental to this chartering.

Much work was invested in training at all levels, from club members to RDs, RDEs, APE and Young ICME, to help club members towards effective leadership while keeping them updated on the activities and programs that Y's Men International develops, work carried out by both RSDs LTOD.

The Week 4 Waste project was promoted by young people from Latin America through an online meeting; with others via email or WhatsApp, actively involving several Clubs within the possibilities of performing face-to-face activities wherever relatively safe. Clubs from both Regions

have been able to continue with their local community support tasks at a limited extent, benefiting needy people in vulnerable situations with food, cleaning products, kitchen items, clothing, toys.

I must admit that it is very difficult to be an AP in times of covid, with very large losses of members, with great economic difficulty, with technological restrictions not only due to lack of knowledge by the elderly, but also to the reluctance that so much time of confinement without the possibility of carrying out field projects directly with those affected has generated.

Life goes on, fortunately our organization remains standing firm and we must continue to advance on the foundations that support us as Y's members, faithful to our principles and purpose. Our work to keep and increase our membership will proceed, while continuing to develop projects to improve the lives of those who need it.



Area LA Meeting on line



Week 4 Waste and Cleaning tasks by Y Service Club Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, Y Service Club Santiago de Chile and Y 'Service Club Cochabamba



Region Brazil, providing food to different communities at the time of Covid spread



Aloha Oe is a Hawaiian song written by Hawaii's last Queen of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1878. Queen Lili'uokalani intended this to be a love song, but, instead, it ended up being a poignant farewell that has since become a world renowned classic song of parting. I am from the Hawaii Region, and I am proud to serve as the U.S. Area President of Y Service Clubs International. My term will end this June 30th and before I say, "*Aloha Oe.*" I want to share three ideals that best describes the U.S. Area of Y Service Clubs. **MISSION. VIBRANT. RESILIENT.**

KŌ I KA PONO - Carrying Out Our Mission. This theme for the Area was unveiled at the 2019 Joint U.S.-Canada/Caribbean Area Convention. I believed the purpose of the Area is to ensure the programs and services provided for and with members must be **mission-driven** and reflect the promise of the Y's Men International. To me this is the 'north star' that guides our work as servant leaders of our organization. A **vibrant** organization does not just happen. It is born and perpetuated from exceptional leadership and support of the Area Executive Officers, Area Council

and Service Directors. We have created a strong sense of belonging, a strong sense of pride and a strong sense of self-worth through the values of caring, respect, honesty, and responsibility, echoing those of the YMCA. We created a vibrant Area worthy of service for another century. And finally, the ideal of being **resilient**. When the world fell to its knees due to a worldwide pandemic, many Area clubs and members continued the mission of service through creative fundraising projects to fund local YMCAs, many of whom had laid off staff and even closed their doors. Club's feed and clothed the most vulnerable in our communities - the homeless, seniors and children. For many of our 'active older members', they have learned new computer skills and have kept in contact with each other through Zoom and other virtual platforms. The spirit of service - while dampened, was never destroyed by COVID-19 and the spirit of Y's Men lives on. **Proud History. Exciting Future.**

Aloha Oe to my fellow members of the U.S. Area and Y's Men International. God be with you and keep you in His in loving care.



US Area and the Regions



2020 PWA Legacy Campaign



North Atlantic Region Community Service Project



2019 Joint U.S./Canada/Caribbean Area Convention

How I became a Y's Man? – by PIP Henry J Grindheim



Together with my family, I moved to Asker in autumn 1980 to take up a new job in Oslo. At that time, we had some friends in Asker, where we settled, and they quickly included us among the younger families in our local church, Østenstad kirke.

Both my wife and I became involved in some of the local activities organized in Østenstad. I remember very well from our first years an annual flea market which was held in the church, run by an organization called Y's Men. My wife and I, together with our children used to visit the flea market in spring to look for curiosities and some interesting second hand items.

In 1986 I was elected as member of the local church council. Another member of the council was Arvid Malme, who at that time also was involved in Y's Men work on Area level. Arvid asked me whether I knew about Y's Men and also told me about the movement. My reply was I felt it was not time for it at this stage. With three small children, and my wife going back to work again, it would not be fair for them to become a member.

But Arvid and four or five other men whom I had learned to know in the local church, invited me to visit the club and attend some meetings now and then without any special obligations, which I accepted. Visiting the club, I felt they all welcomed me, and I discovered a fellowship which I decided would be an

ideal place for me later. As I through my professional work was involved in international matters within publishing and the book trade, the international reports Arvid gave now and then at our meetings also opened my eyes for this part of Y's Men International, revealing that the movement was global, had a service aspect besides combining Christianity with those already mentioned.

After a few years, our family situation gave room for further activities outside our home and in 1990 I started to take more regular part in the activities in the club. I asked to be enrolled on the guest list, thus receiving more information from the club. I also learned to know more of the members in the club, which I also found very valuable.

In spring 1991 my club had an installation ceremony for new members at a special meeting, but as I was on a business trip abroad, I was unable to attend. However, I was told that another new membership installation was scheduled for the autumn, where they hoped I would participate.

Then, in October 1991, I was installed and welcomed as a regular member of Østenstad Y's Men's Club. And what happened after this, is quite another story. I had never in my wildest dreams considered what this membership would lead me to, when I received the membership pin and the membership diploma that night in October 1991. That night in Østnstad Y's Men's Club another chapter started in my life, but that is another story.

What We Need To Know About Scams – by PIP Jennifer Jones



Keeping safe in the digital world is a very important consideration to keep in mind these days. In modern society, technological demands show up in all aspects of life. We are fortunate to enjoy the benefits of technology, especially in endeavouring to keep the “wheels in motion” in YMI. But on the other hand, there are some pitfalls that we should be aware of, doing our best to keep our personal information out of the hands of the wrong people and keeping our equipment safe and useful. With this in mind, the following article is a short report of an Adelaide Club event centred around passwords and scams.



Inquisitive listeners of the Y Service Club of Adelaide

Paul is employed by the Eastwood Community Centre with funding from Be Connected and the Good Things Foundation to speak to community groups about “SCAMS”. Paul approached club member Russell at a club barbeque and made arrangements where Paul could share important information with the club members of the Y Service Club of Adelaide.

It is recommended that your password contains 12 characters with small changes bringing lasting benefits.

- Don't use passwords in multiple places
- Don't use any year or date of birth
- Don't use part of an address
- Don't use your name, the name of your spouse, name of your child or pet's names.

The most valuable password belongs to your EMAIL ACCOUNT so make it strong. Don't be part of the “low-hanging fruit” who get caught and hacked into. To give an idea of what is needed, here are two examples of good passwords showing how symbols can be incorporated:

- F!v3Wh!t3R0s3s (FiveWhiteRoses with some modifications)
- M*ydo&gh1asaPHD (mydoghasaPHD also with modifications)

There are many password managers available for use if there are a lot of passwords to remember – check on Google to see what might suit. Because Paul has chosen to use a password manager, he only needs to

remember two passwords – one for his email and one for his password manager. There is though, some pain in transferring the information across.

Scam callers generally try to mimic reputable businesses such as Telstra, the Australian Tax Office and many of the big banks. Try to pick out the rhythm of the call, where often there is a gap while the computer dials its way through the phone numbers in the program. Hang up quickly if possible. Usually if a name and number is asked for to enable a return call, the scammer will often hang up. Research the caller's phone number and company on Google to check on authenticity.

What can we do?

- Keep your software up-to-date
- Always have antivirus software
- Make your passwords long eg 12 characters
- Use a password manager.

A website.....haveIbeenpwned.com allows users to search across multiple data breaches to see if their email address or phone number has been compromised.

Regarding receiving unwelcome spam, email addresses such as Google give better protection than the use of Hotmail or Outlook in keeping unwanted emails out of sight.

All in all, a very informative evening thanks to Paul and now for the task of making all our passwords resilient!!

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries (June to September 2021)

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Marie Iversen	8th Jun	Kiyoko Aoki	24th Jul
Ameena Bashir	8th Jun	John L.Choa	2nd Aug
Kumiko Nishimura	26th Jun	Isaac Palathinkal	8th Aug
Donna Ward	30th Jun	Mary Wabule	15th Aug
Saby Philips	10th Jun	Dr. Paik Seung-ho	17th Aug
Rachelle Reeg	10th Jul	Alice Magit Breum	17th Aug
Ingvar Wallin	11th July	Gloria Dalmas	25th Aug
Jean Fotheringham	23rd Jul	Erik Breume	20th Sep
		Dal – ho Hwang	21st Sep
Couple	Wedding Anniversary	Couple	Wedding Anniversary
Christian Bach Iversen and Marie Iversen	8th June	Dave & Clare Morris	7th Sep
Henry Johannes Grindheim & Brynhild Vethe Grindheim	19th Jul	Philips K.Churian & Saby	10th Sep
Erik Breum & Alice Magit Breum	22nd Jul	Ingvar Wallin and Christiane	22nd Sep

PIP Club members wish all of you many more happy returns of the day