



Y's Men International

YMI

WORLD

“To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right”

Only for private distribution to members



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Dear readers

We begin yet another activity year, the ninety-eighth in our historical journey, except that this time a dark shadow of uncertainty hangs over us because of the pandemic. However, it did not deter us from undertaking our basic duty of serving those in distress and need as many reports in this issue and in the two previous issues of *YMI World* would indicate.



We have also strengthened our communication and fellowship to some extent by making use of technology. In fact, for the past six months we have conducted almost all the meetings at various levels – from International President's installation and International Council Meeting at the international level to regular monthly meetings of clubs – on the virtual platform.

This issue of *YMI World* leads with an informative article by our ISG Jose Varghese who writes about the opportunities offered by technology to consider the formation of **Glocal Clubs**, thereby reimagining the concept of membership development in the movement. It is followed by three inputs by senior members from various continents. PIP Joan Wilson, a member of the Manual Review Committee, introduces us to the revised EMC manual while urging club leaders to study that document before embarking on the work of planting clubs nearby and in unexplored areas.

M.J. Mathews, a senior member of the movement in India with over 40 years of standing, strikes a practical note and enumerates the endless possibilities of a mutually beneficial membership where both the new and old members stand to gain when new members are inducted into a club. He exhorts members – both old and new – to energise and engage to grow the movement. Jatau Victor Basom Dilli, Regional Director of Africa North West Region writes from a personal perspective and brings the organic relationship between YMCA and YMI to the fore and how it can enrich each other.

For our micro-history section, we are departing from the

usual practice of highlighting geographies/clubs and take up one of our long-standing programmes, but not given much prominence in the scheme of things by many clubs – **International Brother Clubs**. It is represented here by a case study of the IBC relationship between Hikone (Japan) and Hyderabad (India) clubs that has stood the test of time – 55 years.

Micro-history also answers a question that has been on the lips of many: who are Elmer Crowe and Harry Ballantyne, in whose honour prestigious awards are given away each year by YMI? Thanks to our ISD-Historian Debbie Campbell Redmond unearthing valuable information and pictures from the archives, they are now introduced to this generation of club members.

Beginning this issue, we feature our Past International Presidents in the run up to the centennial celebrations in 2022. We hope you will embrace this little section and take pride in the fact that these great men and women are the reasons why we continue to enjoy this great movement and the worldwide fellowship it offers.

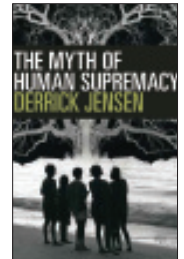
Y'sly,

Koshi Mathew

FROM MY BOOKSHELF

The Myth of Human Supremacy by Derrick Jensen

In this impassioned polemic, radical environmental philosopher Derrick Jensen debunks the near-universal belief in a hierarchy of nature and the superiority of humans. Vast and underappreciated complexities of nonhuman life are explored in detail—from the cultures of pigs and prairie dogs, to the creative use of tools by elephants and fish, to the acumen of caterpillars and fungi. The paralysis of the scientific establishment on moral and ethical issues is confronted and a radical new framework for assessing the intelligence and sentience of nonhuman life is put forth.



Jensen attacks mainstream environmental journalism, which too often limits discussions to how ecological changes affect humans or the economy—with little or no regard for nonhuman life. With his signature compassionate logic, he argues that when we separate ourselves from the rest of nature, we in fact orient ourselves against nature, taking an unjust and, in the long run, impossible position.

Jensen expresses profound disdain for the human industrial complex and its ecological excesses, contending that it is based on the systematic exploitation of the earth. Page by page, Jensen, who has been called the philosopher-poet of the environmental movement, demonstrates his deep appreciation of the natural world in all its intimacy, and sounds an urgent call for its liberation from human domination.

(A Goodreads review)

Cover: File picture of members of Y's Men's Club of Hyderabad with Mrs Keiko Tonegawa, ISD-IBC and others during their visit to Japan. See story on IBC relationship between Hyderabad (India) and Hikone (Japan) clubs on page 10.

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Official Publication of Y's Men International
 Headquartered at: Ave Sainte-Clotilde 9, CH-1205, Switzerland
 Tel: +41 22 809 1530 :: www.ysmen.org

Edited and published by Koshi Mathew for Y's Men International
 Reprinted at the National Printing Press, Bangalore, India
 and distributed by Babu Oommen.
 Production Supervisor: George Thomas.

Reimagining Membership Development in a Virtually Connected World - A Case for Glocal Clubs

The term “Glocal” is generally understood to be a combination of *global* and *local* used to highlight an interconnection or shared considerations between the two levels. Over the last several decades, the Glocal concept has been used to raise global consciousness across many arenas – including business, politics, education and so on – and people’s interactions beyond borders is at its core.

With travel and meeting restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual interconnectedness has become the new normal for people across the world. Every crisis brings new opportunities. For YMI, COVID-19 has brought a new and innovative way to grow and enrich our clubs. During the pandemic, modern video conferencing and social media platforms have increasingly been used by our clubs to stay connected and active. A form of communication largely overlooked in the past has now become second nature. The fact that club members have so quickly learned new technology and put it to use so effectively is not only a tribute to our adaptive spirit in face of an unprecedented challenge but also a gateway to exciting new possibilities – one of which is the YMI GLOCAL CLUB.

A YMI Glocal club is one that will have both a local “regular” and non-local “remote” membership. The local membership should comprise at least five persons in the same Region and will belong to that Region for administrative purpose. Forming a new club with a partially virtual membership is a great option when individuals are pressed for time, restricted by geographic proximity to a club, or have limited mobility, among other reasons. Suggested recruitment pools for Glocal clubs include relocated, former club members, as well as friends, families, colleagues living anywhere in the world. These new members, who are connecting virtually, will add a new dimension to club life, our fellowship and service to the community. Clubs are encouraged to have

inclusive virtual meetings often, while maintaining the regular physical meetings of the locally residing members. The objectives for Glocal clubs are the same as for our traditional clubs and the activities equally based upon the interests, resources of the members and the needs of the community (either local or global.) Virtual club members are encouraged and shall be given opportunities to physically gather and conduct in-person activities as well, wherever possible.



100-Day Membership Campaign

As part of Challenge 22, the clubs and Regions are requested to participate in the second annual 100-Day Membership Campaign from 1 September to 9 December 2020. Last year, we managed to recruit 1,600 new club members through the campaign, and now we aim to reach 3,000 more. The campaign is an opportunity for us to engage in a collective Public Relations effort, as well as a chance to reconnect with our friends near and far.

Our movement will celebrate 100 years of service in two years and our goal is to reach 50,000 members and 100 countries by then. We need to induct 24,000 new members into our clubs and establish presence in 30 new countries to reach our goal. This is possible for us ONLY if all the club members help our campaign by identifying one new club member to join their home club (or any club in the world).

All the clubs are requested to sponsor a new club in their community or anywhere in the world. Club members are requested to consider encouraging their spouses, children or grandchildren to also become club members. Other sources of potential new members may include the YMCA or other NGOs with a mission that reflects our own. Reaching our Towards 22 goals will be a historic achievement for our movement. ONE THAT IS POSSIBLE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL CLUB MEMBERS!

To support the campaign, the International Council has reduced International Dues for all spouses and young people between the ages of 26-35 becoming part of our movement as new club members. This special discount will be valid up to the first semester August 2022. LETS ACT TOGETHER – NOW!

Jose Varghese
International Secretary General



MOVEMENT NEWS

IP Jacob Kristensen Assumes Charge



Jacob A. Kristensen of Denmark (centre) being administered the oath of office of International President for the year 2020-21 by PIP Henry Grindheim (L), with Mrs. Randi Bjerre looking on

Jacob A. Kristensen of Denmark has been installed as the International President of Y’s Men International for the year 2020-21 (98th year of YMI). Congratulations! PIP Henry Grindheim installed the IP at a virtual ceremony organised by the Y’s Men’s Club of Ringkøbing.

Members around the world tuned in to attend the virtual installation ceremony of the International Executive Officers and International Council Members.

Kristensen, a retired school principal, joined Y’s Men in 1981 and is currently a member of the Y’s Men’s Club of Ringkøbing. He has previously served as an International Council Member (2007-10) and was the Europe Area President in 2010. Jacob has frequently engaged his classroom skills within his work with YMI, notably as the Area Service Director for Leadership Training and Organisational Development (ASD LTOD) in Area Europe since 2012.

IBC Directory Editor is Ballantyne Award Winner

Murray Stevens (in picture) of Australia has been bestowed the prestigious Henry M. Ballantyne Award during the installation function held early July. Murry has been the editor of the International Brother Club (IBC) Directory since its introduction in 1983 when he was the International Service Director for IBC. Stevens learned of the announcement as he sat with fellow club members watching the event at a function organised in his hometown of Ballarat in Australia.

Murray Stevens has been an active member of the Ballarat Y Service Club for more than 40 years. Between 1983 and 1985 he was the International Service Director for International Brother Clubs (IBC).

During his term of office, he decided that the recording of Brother Club relationships at the International level could be improved with the aid of a computer. This was at a time when personal computers were only used by enthusiasts and before computers were used in offices or small businesses. Congratulations!



New International Project Adopted

Y’s Men International has adopted a new international project, **Week4Waste** under the leadership of IP Jacob Kristensen and it is hoped that all clubs worldwide will take part in it.

On that day or week volunteers and partners worldwide can come together to rid our planet of trash – cleaning up litter and mismanaged waste from our beaches, rivers, forests, and streets (see www.ysmen.org/week4waste).



World Cleanup Day harnesses the power of everyday people to achieve incredible things by joining together. Its beauty lies in cooperation and collaboration: building bridges between disparate communities and including all levels of society – from citizens to business, to government.

COVID-19 has delayed spring and summer cleanups scheduled in most countries. As a worldwide organization, YMI has settled for two periods – one in September 2020 and a Y’s Men Clean-up Week from April 18th to 24, 2021.

IPAP Ulrik Lauridsen, Denmark

Extension - Build on the Wisdom of Others

PIP Joan Wilson (Canada)

“NEW MEMBERS are vital to the survival of your club. Constant membership growth is the lifeblood of the Y’s Men International (YMI) club. Not only is it the only means of physical survival for the club, but also helps to make the club better - better in service, better in fellowship and better in knowledge. A dynamic expansion of membership broadens the base of the club in the community.

When the performance of the club improves, the club’s stature in the community improves with it. The experience of new members added to the pool of knowledge already accumulated makes the club increasingly capable of meeting the community’s needs and making membership even more stimulating and interesting.

New members bring fresh ideas and potential future leadership.”

These are the opening words of the newly revised **Extension & Membership Conservation (EMC) Resource Manual**. This document covers the key topics related to **Extension**, including the ways to find potential members, steps to properly inform these candidates on the rights and responsibilities of being part of a club within YMI, how to charter a club, as well as how to support the new club after the charter. The document continues to discuss **Membership Growth** and **Conservation of Members**, providing a list of suggestions and considerations to assist our clubs across the globe to develop and flourish. A number of appendices are provided to offer step-by-step guidelines for starting a new club, including the idea of Extension Beyond Borders, the duties of a Sponsor Club, and the procedures for chartering a club.

As we consider the important work of starting new clubs, both nearby and in distant lands, it is critical that leaders review the EMC Resource Manual

years or more! For the past three years, the MRC team has worked diligently on one document after another, and now is nearing completion of a revision and update for all our manuals and policies available for members on the YMI website. This intense work will be followed by a systematic cyclical review of 2–5 years, based on the importance of the document.



Study the Manuals

As we consider the important work of starting new clubs, both nearby and in distant lands, it is critical that leaders review the EMC Resource Manual which will soon be available on the YMI website (www.ysmen.org/downloads). In the same location, you will also find a variety of other resources on relevant topics to assist your efforts in creating a strong and lasting club. These include the “ABC of Y’s Men International”, the “Brief Introduction to YMI” booklet, the “Bulletin Editors Manual”, and the “Public Relations Manual”, to name just some which will directly benefit a new club.

These manuals have been recently revised and modernised to better reflect the realities of YMI today. Likewise, our core policy documents have also been revised and updated for accuracy and ease of use. This revision work is being done by the hardworking team that makes up the **Manual Review Committee (MRC)**, chaired by Svein Håvåg. Several years ago, the MRC’s mandate was changed from being reactive to requests for changes, to being proactive in developing and completing a systemic review of all documents. This meant the team suddenly had the time-consuming assignment to review and update a large number of documents, some of which had not been revised for 20

Components of a Healthy Club

Let’s go back to the idea of extension. It is important for the Sponsor Club to model qualities of a strong and vibrant club. Here is a list of components of a healthy club from the EMC Manual:

- ◆ regular scheduled meetings
- ◆ include fun and fellowship
- ◆ an informative club bulletin
- ◆ good programs
- ◆ partnership with YMCA where possible
- ◆ meaningful service projects
- ◆ effective fundraising
- ◆ participation in international projects and programmes
- ◆ club visitations where possible

Does your own club demonstrate all these qualities? If not, ensure that you are working on them as you look towards starting new clubs. Remember that membership conservation and growth within your own club are vital elements in supporting any effective extension work. They go hand in hand.

I encourage you to check out the YMI website for the various manuals and policies you will find there. These will provide lots of information to support your EMC work – and many other parts of your involvement in our movement as well. Remember that we should look to the wisdom of those who have skills in specific areas, then adjust as appropriate for our specific situations. Together we can do so much more!

ON MEMBERSHIP

Members – Get Energised and Get Engaged

Past Lt. RD M.J. Mathews, South India Region

Y's Men International (YMI) is a membership organisation made up of people who share a passion for and commitment to enhancing communities and improving lives across communities. Together the members of the organisation lead change in their own localities and across communities. Being a member of this organisation gives the opportunity to take an action and make a difference in the community, which brings personal rewards and lifelong friendships in the process.

The unique feature of YMI, unlike other service organisations, is that family participation is encouraged in its activities. Therefore, a Y's Men's club promises its members and their families the personal pleasure of **fellowship** and shared values and ideals, *plus* the satisfaction of making one's community a better place to live in.

By joining a Y's Men's club, one is joining an organisation, which works, thinks and plays in an atmosphere of **service in action**. In short, it is a worldwide fellowship in which **action speaks louder than words**.

Obligations

Under the banner of Y's Men International we are a group of people brought together to do things we cannot accomplish alone. Our collective obligation is to work diligently towards the growth of our organisation through service to the community around us, and thus, sharing our success and happiness with the people around us, in the spirit of enjoyment, support and sharing.

Therefore, during the current 100-Day Membership Campaign, we must work towards boosting membership by

adding new members to existing clubs and forming new clubs. In this regard the idea of virtual membership is very novel and creative one because many professionals, young and old, may not be to find the time to attend physical meetings, yet wish to be part of the global fellowship. Therefore, this digital platform is a good opportunity to bring together like-minded people from various parts of the city, state or nation to be of service to humankind.

The honour and privilege of its membership carries with it many rewards.

A Y's Men's club promises its members and their families the personal pleasure of fellowship and shared values and ideals, *plus* the satisfaction of making one's community a better place to live in ... YMI is not just a club that you join. It is an invitation to endless opportunities.

However, it places certain duties and obligations upon each member. Members are expected to attend club meetings regularly, to perform their share of club services, and to place their knowledge and talents at the disposal of the club in carrying out the objectives of the movement into the daily life of the community.

The basic obligations of a member include:

- ◆ Paying membership Dues.
- ◆ Using one's professional skills and talents and unique position in the society to make a difference in the community.
- ◆ Volunteering to take up

leadership positions within the club and in the organisation thus benefitting the organisation generally.

- ◆ Donating money is one thing but performing an act of kindness or service is also important to see the lasting impact firsthand.

Membership Benefits

As a member, one enjoys many benefits such as connecting with a diverse group of people who share the drive to give back to society. A member can, through regular meetings and events, discuss the community's needs and develop creative ways to meet them; connect with other leaders who are changing the world; expand leadership and professional skills, and catch up with good friends and meet new ones.

The impact starts with members – people who see a world united to take action to create lasting change – across communities and in oneself. In short, YMI is not just a club that you join. It is an invitation to endless opportunities.

Clubs Benefit Too

The impacts a member can make on the club are to be acknowledged. Every new member changes the club a little bit and brings a new perspective, new experiences. We need to embrace this constant renewal. We will grow stronger as we learn from new members and take their experience and knowledge.

Meeting new people and making sure they enjoy their membership is fun. We enjoy each other's company and have a great time doing whatever we do. We need to embrace these joyous experiences. Above all, being together makes us more effective. In this context the story of the porcupine community that tried to brave a harsh winter illustrates this point. They decided to

Concluded on page 12

My Journey with Y's Men Africa

RD Jatau Victor Basom Dilli, Africa Northwest

I am a qualified Mechanical (Production) Engineer. Having graduated from Kaduna Polytechnic, I pursued an advanced training at CJD, one of Germany's largest social and educational organisations. Thereafter, I worked with YMCA Vocational Training Centre (VTC) at Kaduna and retired in 2013 after 35 years of service as Principal of the VTC. Presently, I am a consultant with several NGOs in Nigeria and overseas.

My first encounter with YMCA was through the Boys' Club in 1974 and later I was employed by the YMCA in Kaduna in 1978. I have undergone a number of training programmes in the YMCA and other organisations, both inside and outside Nigeria. This helped me in my work as Principal of the YMCA VTC. During my entire career I have mainly worked on developing and promoting knowledge among young people.

The Y's Men's Club of Kaduna was chartered in 1983. The ceremony took place in the YMCA hall in Tudun Wada Kaduna. As staff of the YMCA, I attended the ceremony, where I was inspired and I later joined the club in 1989. I rose through the ranks, and eventually became Club President in 2007/08. That position came with more challenges and opportunities.

In Leadership Roles

From being a club president in 2007/08, it did not take long to be a District Governor Elect (DGE) of Nigeria District in 2011 and served as DG during 2012/14. As DG, I did my best to resuscitate some moribund clubs and started some new clubs. I started a District rural health clinic in Kakau village in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna state. The clinic was built up to roofing level but due to inadequate funds, we could not equip the clinic as planned before handing it over to the community.

However, the community completed it and put it to good use.

When the position of Regional Director-Elect (RDE), Africa North West was announced, I was asked by some of the leaders to contest for the office. I was reluctant, but had to accept the nomination, and subsequently, was elected unopposed.

An unfortunate incident propelled me into the RD's position without adequate preparation and exposure to the workings of the Region. My predecessor, the incumbent RD, Dr.

Keeping the club members together requires skills, motivation and inclusivity. Once a club has motivating programmes, members will always be ready to attend the next meeting.

Abessolo Mbarga from Cameroon District had an automobile accident earlier that year and that kept him away from his duties as RD. IPAP Sherif Award asked me to take over as RD as soon as the election result was announced. Technically, I did not serve the mandatory one year as RDE before taking over as RD. Since April 2019, I have been the RD for Africa Northwest. It is a two-year term.

Generating Interest among Members

People from diverse backgrounds join Y's Men clubs for various reasons. Keeping the club members together requires skills, motivation and inclusivity. While serving in the YMCA, one of the slogans I cherished most is "YMCA is

Programme." Once a club has motivating programmes, members will always be ready to attend the next meeting. One thing that made my tenures at both club and District level successful was the building of personal relationship with my members. It makes the job of leading easier.



The servant-leadership style helped a lot in achieving the goals I set for the year. One unique thing I love about Y's Men is that every member is a potential leader. Also, the office seeks the person. These attributes are unique to Y'sdom.

Spurred by the Award

I least expected the **Gold Award for Regional Performance** based on various parameters from the International. However, I thank God for the recognition. This award has spurred me to do more. I will do my best possible to surmount the challenges which my Region faces presently. I am optimistic that Africa Northwest is on the way back to its rightful position.

I wish to continue with my pet project for "Out of school children's programme." This is aimed at giving thousands of children orphaned by Boko Haram, herdsmen and bandit attacks the opportunity to go back to school. Presently, due to funding challenges, only 180 children are benefiting from this programme.

A Regional retreat for leaders is in the offing in October 2020 in Accra, Ghana, followed by the Regional Convention in March 2021 in Abuja, Nigeria. These events will give the members the desired boost and commitment to take Area Africa to greater heights. This is my belief and my next challenge.

Y'S MENETTES

Letter from Joy McNamara, Project Coordinator (2018-2020)

Update on Y's Menettes International Project for 2018 -2020 : Coaching for Youth Employment and Starting of a Social Business in Tirana, Albania



As I have previously reported, the project was behind schedule due to the earthquake that caused massive damage to Tirana and other parts of Albania. Then on top of this, just as the club / café was about to open for business the world was put into lockdown with the COVID-19 virus. There was no rent relief available, so both the rent and the utility charges have had to be paid. The director of the YMCA Tirana, Eglá Lula, who is managing the project, has advised that they are finally open for business. However, the staff they had employed had to go back to their homes during the lockdown and are not returning. One new staff member has been employed and Eglá is filling in while they search for another person.

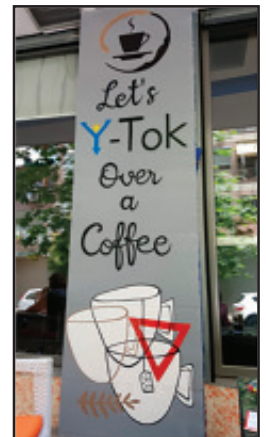
We, Y's Menettes, are extremely fortunate that we have such a dedicated person managing our International Project.

The issues that have had to be coped with are extraordinary and based on the additional expenses and delays that have been incurred I would like to advise that together with our Immediate Past International Director, Jennifer Cameron and our new International Director, Grete Baekgaard Thomsen we have decided to provide a further sum of up to CHF 6000 to allow the project to be fully completed. There are outstanding items to be paid for. Our project for 2020 – 2022 is a smaller project so I believe we are able to increase our support to our current project. The reasons the project has been delayed could never have been foreseen.

I think we need to remember what Eglá told us that the name of the new social business TOK means in old Albanian is **“Together/ness”!**

Y'sly,

Joy McNamara



PostScript: It is my pleasant duty to thank the thirty-three clubs that made the effort to vote for the International Project for 2020-2022. It was a hard decision for you to make as we had three very worthy causes to choose from.

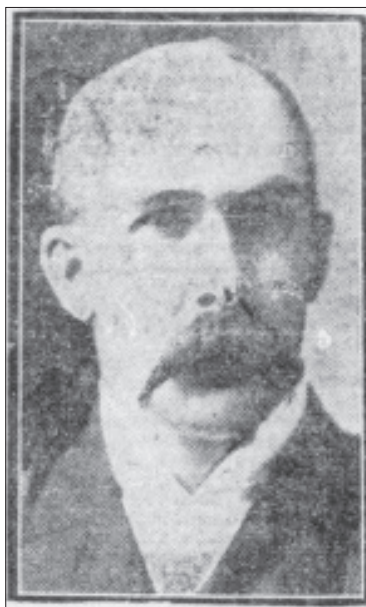
The project chosen is **“Sports and informal education as tools of healthy lifestyle promotion among vulnerable children”** to be executed in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine in 6-12 months with the support of CHF 15,000 from YMI. It will create an outdoor sports playground with gym equipment in the grounds of the Regional Centre where orphans and poor children are cared for. It will be a community asset.



Memorialised through Prestigious Awards

HARRY BALLANTYNE (1876 to 1965)

While the name of **Harry Ballantyne** is known to many Y's Men for the award given out in his name, few know much about the person behind the award. Harry was a professional YMCA employee who lived from 1876 to 1965 in Canada. Skilled in providing support to boys and young men throughout his career, he moved through the YMCA system in Canada until he was appointed as the General Secretary for the National YMCA of Canada.



According to a newspaper report in 1923, Harry had travelled to

Nova Scotia in November to speak about the YMCA at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia (Canada) and the dedication of the men that worked so hard to provide a building for a YMCA. It seems they had purchased an old barracks building and floated it to a suitable location then secured it, cleaned it and spent months preparing it as a YMCA. More than likely, some of these dedicated young men were from the Sydney Nova Scotia club which had been chartered in January 1923. Harry recognised and supported the Y's Men organisation and encouraged YMCAs to establish their own clubs. He attended the 1929 Convention in Toronto and the 1930 Convention in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania as a keynote speaker as well as other ones. His support included obtaining a voting position for a representative from Y's Men on the National YMCA of Canada Council in 1931 (before the National YMCA in the United States provided any recognition to Y's Men on a national level).

When Harry retired from his position with the National YMCA of Canada in the 1950's, he provided to Judge Paul William Alexander an amount of money that could be used to bestow an award to be given time to time to some especially deserving friend of Y'sdom, "who over a long period had rendered service of special value and helpfulness to the Y's Men's Movement." Judge Alexander believed it should be named in honour of Harry Ballantyne since he was indeed a person that had strongly and consistently supported Y's Men over the years.

ISD-Historian Debbie Redmond

ELMER CROWE (1898 to 1938)

When the Vancouver (Canada) Y's Men's Club was chartered in 1924, Elmer Crowe was one of the original members. As the son of a well-known Senator in Vancouver, it seems that public service was an important part of his life. This Vancouver club created its own Y's Menettes' Club which was the first formal club for women and Elmer's wife, Marcia, was a founding member. Paul William Alexander visited Elmer and Marcia and spent time with them in the summer of 1924 and photos of the first Y's Menettes' club were included in his scrapbook of his visit.



Elmer served as Club President and became active in the International Conventions. Elmer was elected District Governor as a part of the Pacific Northwest Region which included portions of the United States as well as Canada. Additionally, he became Regional Director. Suffering from some kind of chronic illness, Elmer became extremely ill while attending the 1937 International Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Travelling by car to return home, Elmer was so ill that he had to fly the remaining trip (from Cheyenne to Vancouver) which was over 1,650 miles by plane while his wife, Marcia, drove home alone. Having recovered but extremely weak by the 1938 International Convention in Toronto, Elmer insisted on attending the key parts of the Council Meeting and Convention. Upon returning home, he died less than three weeks later.

In an effort to honor her husband after his death, Marcia Crowe made a donation to Y's Men International in order to establish an award in the name of Elmer Crowe. Having served and putting so much time and effort into the organisation as a District Governor, it was only fitting to provide an award for Outstanding District Governor.

ISD-Historian Debbie Redmond

55 Glorious Years of IBC Relationship between Y's Men's Clubs of Hikone and Hyderabad (1965 – 2020)

PICM & PISD V. Vijaya Kumar (Y's Men's Club of Hyderabad, India)

The proposal to start an International Brother Club (IBC) with the Y's Men's Club of Hikone (Japan) fructified when Mr. D.S. Chinnadorai, General Secretary of Hyderabad (India) YMCA visited Hikone, Japan, in 1964 and made friends with Happy Nishimori, then in his late 60s, of the Hikone Y's Men's Club and YMCA.

Nishimori-san was an ardent admirer of India and its first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and was an excellent communicator. He used to send extensive cuttings from the Japanese press on matters related to India, especially on Nehru and other leaders. Largely due to the initiative of these two veterans, the Brother Club relationship between the two clubs flowered and flourished.

The Growth

The Y's Men's Club of Hyderabad invited and sponsored the visit of Happy Nishimori to India in in late 1969/early 1970. His visit cemented the bonds of fellowship between Hyderabad and Hikone. Thereafter, he used to send us photos, mementoes, pins, and other memorabilia regularly which we used to auction among our club members and credit the proceeds to Brotherhood Fund (BF). Exchanging greetings during the Christmas and New Year season and on other occasions became a regular feature from both sides, the cards being signed by all the members of the club.

RD Dundoo Balakrishna Murthi (India-Sri Lanka Region, 1973/74), Prof S.R. Kilpady and some others reciprocated with a visit to Hikone and enjoyed the warm hospitality extended by its club members.

After Happy Nishimori's demise in the 70s, the mantle of leadership of the Hikone club was taken up by PRD Yoshimichi Shimano. Under his active guidance, the relationship continued to grow, as did the steady



Happy Nishimori (Hikone, Japan) being received at Hyderabad Airport by Dundoo Balakrishna Murthi and D.A. Shah, President, Hyderabad YMCA.

correspondence and exchanges of goodwill visits between both nations. Shimano-san has visited India and Hyderabad around 40 times so far and has led groups of Y's Men and YMCA members from Hikone to Hyderabad on annual study tours.



Every year, for the past several, in the last week of December, a team of Y's Men from Hikone (Shiga) and YMCA led by Nozomi Tokuda, Director of Shiga YMCA, visit Hyderabad to spend the New Year in Hyderabad and enjoy the hospitality extended by Hyderabad Y's Men. Our "Toast to Japan" programme was immensely popular and was well attended by visiting Japanese men from the YMCA and Y's Men's Club.



Members of the Y's Men's Clubs of Hikone and Hyderabad during the visit of Hyderabad delegation to Hikone in 2018

Building Closer Ties

PICM/PAP V. Narasimha Rao, charter member of the Hyderabad club in 1958, was instrumental in arranging and organising homestays and hospitality for the visiting groups from Japan. His immense contribution to the sustenance and growth of the IBC relationship is laudable. He personally arranged many functions and activities such as get-togethers at local YMCAs and public meetings with a large participation of club members, state government officials and ministers for the visiting Y's Men from Hikone. The 10-day annual visit of Japanese delegations have turned out to be a festive time in Hyderabad. Many families of club members, who provided homestays for the visiting Y's Men, have developed remarkably close family bonds with them that continue till date.

More than 350 Y's Men have visited Hyderabad from Shiga Prefecture so far to learn about Indian culture, the education

system and the way people live. They also visit local historical monuments and are taken for many sight-seeing visits to heritage places in and around Hyderabad. Yoshimichi Shimano-san has become a household name for many families along with others such as Takashi Okubo-san and Hitoshi Hasegawa-san.

Exchange Visits and Celebrations

Narasimha Rao visited Hikone along with V. Gopala Krishna Rao, Dr. G. Sreenivas Chakravarthy and K. Nagabhushanam in 1988. When Hikone club celebrated their fortieth anniversary in 1992, they invited B.N. Murthy and V. Vijaya Kumar as special guests from Hyderabad. Yosh Shimano and his wife Yasuko, a great artist, were invited by Hyderabad club as guests of honour to our fortieth-year celebrations in December 1998.



Hyderabad Team with club members of Numazu Y's Men's Club

That year, there was a grand celebration and release of a colorful poster on the occasion of Hikone and Hyderabad completing 40 years of partnership. Efforts are on to establish sister city relationship between these cities at the Mayoral and Government level.

PICM V. Vijaya Kumar and his wife V. Rama Devi attended golden jubilee celebrations of Hikone club in 2002 as guests of honour. He has visited Japan several times along with members of the Hyderabad club. PDG U.V.L. Ananda, an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer, performed at Hikone Castle Museum during the fiftieth-year celebrations of Hikone club. T. Ramakanth, Past President of Hyderabad club and a renowned artist, organised an exhibition of his paintings at the Hikone Cultural Centre in 2014.



"Toast to Japan" programme organised at YMCA, Hyderabad

IBC Triangle

Hyderabad club has now established an IBC relationship with the Y's Men's Club of Numazu (Japan East Region) and completed an IBC Triangle. Many Y's Men from Numazu under the leadership of Hitoshi Hasegawa visited Hyderabad on some important occasions.

With frequent visits and exchange of ideas and gifts between Hikone and Hyderabad clubs, the IBC relationship has



B.N. Murthy and V. Vijaya Kumar from of Hyderabad club with Shin Tanaka Shigeru Murano during their visit Tokyo in 1992

blossomed and grown to become a 'giant tree' bearing goodwill and pleasant memories and forging an inseparable bond between members in both countries and at the club level. We are confident that this bond will strengthen further and expand into the future with many more branches with flowers of fragrance and delicious fruits of exchange activities.



Dundoo Balakrishna Murthi presenting Y's Men pin to Happy Nishimori



Yosh Shimano presenting a bouquet to Chandrababu Naidu, the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh



Hyderabad team members with PIP Hirotooshi Fujii

“Hidden Gems” - What’s Your Story?

Debbie Redmond, ISD Historian

So many of our clubs tend to work hard to make a difference in our own community by providing not only funds but also services for those in need. However, beyond the club, who knows about this work that is making an IMPACT on the people that need it? We do not brag about our work, we simply do it in the same humble manner that our founder Judge Paul William Alexander did in his time. How long has your club been providing needed services? How many people have been touched by your generosity? In other words, what is the club’s history of service? In two years, we will mark 100 years of providing important

services, yet there are so few stories out there to tell about it.

As an example, the Toledo Central club (Paul William Alexander’s club) worked hard in the first few years to assist a struggling YMCA and raised not only funds to keep the YMCA from failing but also raised money to provide “World Service” for YMCAs in other



Clovis Fresno, 2017

their own community as well as others in need. A club is not required to follow specific guidelines, it is simply expected that it will be there to make a difference for people beyond their own club. What is more important, raising a large amount of money OR making a large impact on the global community (local and beyond)?

“If you want global narrative and global movement involved,” said our Archivist, Ryan Bean, “then you should sit down and evaluate your club, Region, and Area history and narrow it down to 10 moments that made an IMPACT on everyone involved.” **We need pictures of activities – action shots. Indeed, action photos speak a thousand words!** While photos of people at meetings are important to the Archives, photos of club members doing something for someone is an important part our name.



Grand Rapids Santa’s helpers, 2018

countries. There were clubs that provided entertainment for everyone – from soldiers on military bases to young people in summer camps. Paul William Alexander, for example, was an excellent singer and piano player and alongside fellow club members, often provided music for soldiers, children, and fellow Y’s Men.

With the rapid expansion of clubs after 1922, the main issue was always that the clubs needed to provide for



Socks and Sandwiches for homeless in Ottawa Canada, 2019

Members – Get Energized from page 6

group together to keep warm. Although they protected themselves from freezing to death, their quills wounded their closest companions. Hence, they decided to keep safe distance from each other. Soon they began to die, alone and frozen.

But, in order to survive the winter, they wisely decided to regroup and protect each other. They learned to live with the small wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions

in order to receive the heat that came from the others. Thus, they were able to survive.

The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but it is when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other’s good qualities.

To conclude, let us re-phrase a quote from Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric, in the context of a Y’s Men’s

club: “There are only three measurements that tell you nearly everything you need to know about your club’s overall performance – member engagement, community satisfaction, and membership growth. Finally, it goes without saying that no club, small or large, can win over in the long run without energised members who believe in the mission and understand how to achieve it.”

Dear members – old and new – get energised and get engaged with the club.

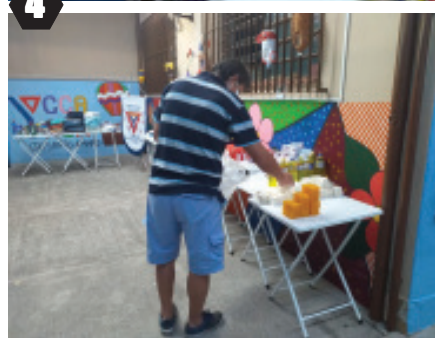
Latin America: Pushing Back COVID-19



1. The Y's Men's Club of San Borja, Peru, made an important donation to the "Cristo Salvador," community made up of 200 people and located in the town of Villa María del Triunfo. This community is organised around a common pot and the contributions the San Borja Club made were to support the continuity of this community initiative. There has also been a donation of warm clothes for the community to face the climatic conditions typical of this time (winter) which are more severe in this town since it is located many metres above sea level.



2. Young people from the Y's Men's Club São Paulo Jabaquara, Brazil, have also taken action during the COVID-19 pandemic; they created the "Solidary Market" project, which helped more than 120 families served by YMCA CDC Leide das Neves and other vulnerable families in the region. Families took home food in quantities necessary for their livelihood and when they needed more, they returned to YMCA to take it, thus promoting a more equitable distribution of food.



3. Six computers donated by the state telephone company ANTEL INTEGRA were delivered by the Y Service Club of Montevideo, Uruguay, together with the Rotary Club, to the YMCA Tejanitos project in La Teja and Piedras Blancas. During COVID-19 pandemic time, having technology to allow education and communication to the most disadvantaged sectors of our community is particularly important.

4. The Y's Men's Club São Paulo, Santo Amaro, Brazil, together with the CDC (YMCA) developed the "Good Market Project" to support families in these difficult times. To deliver food and masks that were made by the club members to each family, a delivery schedule was drawn up to ensure correct security measures and avoid infections.



5. The Y's Men's Club of Lapa, Brazil, during the pandemic period is making food donations for the homeless and people in social vulnerability in their region. Over 17,600 kits were delivered in 60 days.

These five stories were submitted by Mariluz Vásquez S, Bulletin Editor, Area LAM – Ed.

Australia: The Joy of Being Together

Port Pirie is a regional city about 230 kms north of South Australia’s capital, Adelaide. The city services a large farming and fishing community as well as processing minerals from Broken Hill in New South Wales. Port Pirie also provides a gateway for tourists to the beautiful Flinders Ranges nearby and further to the “outback”.

The Port Pirie Y’s Men’s Club has been chartered for over 50 years now, with a strong presence being recognised in the community over that time, while working closely with the local YMCA until recently when the YMCA closed down.

Because COVID-19 conditions in South Australia are not so prevalent or severe at the moment, the Port Pirie club decided to hold their changeover in mid-July. Although not large, the local club comprises a remarkably close bunch of long-time friends, showing solid support for each other and the causes that they have donated to and helped out over a long period.

Over the years, this club has developed a reputation all around the Australian clubs for cooking delicious fish lunches. A large group of members from the Adelaide club joined in the enjoyment and Changeover celebrations, sitting outside in the winter sunshine, noting that the usual high standard of cooking was still maintained, with generous servings of whiting, squid and calamari to share around.



IPIP Jennifer Jones installing the new officers for 2020-21

IPIP Jennifer Jones conducted the Installation Ceremony for the new officers for 2020-21, as DG Ron Farquhar from Broken Hill was unable to attend, because of current border restrictions. The new office-bearers are Peter Standen – Club President, Bob Fimeri – Vice-President, Allan Paine – Club Secretary and Daryl Franklin – Club Treasurer. We wish them all the best as they lead their club through uncertain and unusual times over the coming year.

Most of us returned to our homes feeling satisfied in more ways than one, feeling privileged that here “Down Under”, we were able to celebrate the joy of meeting together, share lovely food and be able to look forward with hope of seeing YMI rebuild and reshape through these challenging days.

IPIP Jennifer Jones

Japan: Helping ‘Children’s Cafeteria’ Battle Pandemic

Tokyo Higashi Y’s Men’s Club of Japan East Region has been supporting the ‘Children’s Cafeteria’ programme of the Tokyo YMCA Toyo-cho Community Centre which started in April 2018. The programme provides meals for children living near the YMCA who do not have the opportunity to eat dinner with their families. On an average twenty youngsters make use of the facility every day.

Before the meal, the staff/volunteer leaders (including an

appearance on Zoom) lead songs and play games. The children enjoy a fun-filled evening and delicious dinner with their peers.

The programme was forced to shut down from March to May due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, it has resumed in June with meals served in containers in a larger hall with all precautions in place - tables spaced out at to maintain physical distancing, well ventilation, shields on the desks to prevent infection, masks, temperature checks, and hand sanitizing.

RSD-PR Daisuke Watanabe



Time for some fun and games before dinner



Members of Tokyo-Higashi club making dinner for the children

USA : COVID-19 Silver Lining

When the virus struck, the Muskegon-Noon Y's Men's Club had just firmed up a place for its 57th White Elephant Sale fundraiser for camp scholarships which often grosses USD 20-35K – an industrial strength yard sale. The governor shut down all public events to battle the pandemic. Camp Pendalouan closed and laid off most of the employees. We did not quit!

Our online auction house for unsold items offered us direct delivery

to them. Our best donor, Nichols Paper, sent us four trailer loads,



Muskegon-Noon Y's Men's Club White Elephant Sale Truck with Past President Harry Arthur (left), Co-President Gerry Nehra (center) and Co-President John McFadden (right).

including PPE. We sold masks for nearly full price.

Our three auctions netted USD 20,000 and the club sent checks totalling that amount to the CEO of the Muskegon YMCA and Camp for unrestricted use. Without the usual costs of an inside sale (electricity, heat, gas), we created an alternate fundraiser equivalent to a USD 25K indoor event. Next auction: September! The pandemic will not stop us!

CP John McFadden

Europe: W4W Gets Off to a Start



The new project of YMI, Week4Waste, to make the world cleaner has made a good start with Chairperson Ulrik Lauridsen (centre) leading the campaign embarked upon by Danish club members picking up litter in Vejle and Kolding. On the right are members of the Y's Men's Club of Duslyk (Ufa, Russia) who cleaned a large territory in a distant village and then ended up gathering medicinal herbs for their families and friends. (Bashkiria is famous for its wonderful herbs!)

Anniversaries Celebrated Recently

40



Ernakulam South club (Mid West India Region): Charter President George C.P. Tharakan being adorned the collar, once again, on the occasion of the 40th charter celebrations in February in the presence of IPE Jacob Kristensen, ISG Jose Varghese and a host of leaders

50



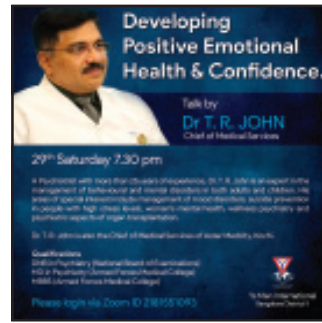
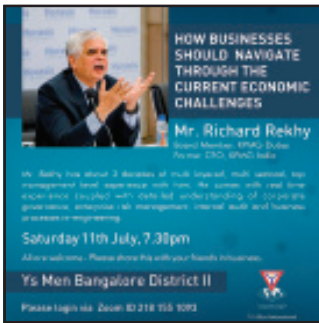
Virudhanagar club, South India Region: AP K.C. Samuel lighting the traditional lamp to mark the year-long celebrations of the 50th charter anniversary in May 2019 in the presence of PIP Isaac Palathinkal and others

60



Kingswood club, Bristol, UK, Area Europe: Three of its founding members, John Gray, Bob Gray and Geoff Ann cut the special 'birthday' cake prior to the celebratory lunch on the occasion of the 60th charter anniversary of the club being chartered

India: Webinars for Club Enrichment



Taking advantage of the shutdown, and facilitated by technology, Bangalore District II organised a series of webinars in the first two months of the new activity year as part of its club enrichment programme.

The first one was for the business community – a talk by Richard Rekhy, Board Member of KPMG Dubai, on how businesses must turn around their strategies to survive through the current economic environment. The second one was led by Dr. Thomas John Kottukapally, a COVID-19 survivor and a renowned doctor based in London. The third was specifically for the Y's Menettes led by Christy Abraham who has vast experience in dealing the well-being of people and human rights. The last one was led by Dr. T.R. John, a renowned psychiatrist based in Kochi, Kerala on mental health during the pandemic period.

The Y's Men's Club of Bangalore (Bangalore District II) also pitched in to help the District leadership with an online seminar on the YMI Emphases for the month of August, namely Leadership Training and Organisation Development (LTOD) and International Brother/Sister Clubs (IBC). International Service Directors Edward Ong and Keiko Tonegawa enlightened audience on these focus areas.

All these webinars were well attended by club members from club, District, Region, Area and International levels.



Thailand: Promoting Self-reliance and Safety

Over 9,000 Karen refugees left behind in Don Yang and Bor Hin camps to the west of Thailand-Myanmar border are very vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic due to the overcrowded living conditions in the camps. If infected, the



A few of the 59 refugee families engaged in production of masks

community will not only experience huge loss of lives but will also become super-spreaders of the coronavirus to adjacent

villages and communities.

The Bangkok Y's Men's Club coordinated with the Chiangmai, Chiangrai and Chiangmai-Lanna clubs to appeal to friends and well-wishers to respond to a request from the Karen refugee community to provide hygienic face masks for each of the refugees to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thanks to YMI also for granting us CHF 1,500 to match with locally-raised funds enabling us to execute our preventive and sustainable interventions. We were able to hand out 9,550 face masks to beneficiaries that included 1,000 volunteers in seven camps, 2,200 and 6,350 refugees in Don Yang and Tham Hin camps, respectively. An income-generating activity involving 59 refugee families to produce masks from supplied materials was also initiated. The

production wages will benefit 360 dependents of 59 women-headed families.



Some of the Karen refugees in the Don Yang camp don their masks they received ensuring safety

We were able to raise a total of 106,684 Thai Baht (THB, approx. CHF 3102) while we spent THB 96,889 only (approx. CHF 2817) and the balance was donated to Karen Refugee Committee for eventual assistance to destitute refugees in need of help.

IPRD Taweetchai Termkunanon, SEA Region

Canada: Keeping a Promise



Members of the Saint John Y Service Club present a cheque for CAD 50,000 to the Saint John Regional Y representing its annual contribution to the Y Capital Campaign to meet their CAD 500,000 commitment over 10 years.

Ghana Y's Men Extends Aid to Needy



Great work by the Y's Men's Club of Accra, Ghana. The club distributed materials to needy people to reduce the effects of COVID-19 in the community under the leadership of DG Sam Creppy and his team in July.

World Nature Conservation Day 2020



World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated on 28 July of every year around the world. The celebration reminds us that a healthy environment is key to a healthy and sustainable society. On this World Nature Conservation Day, several clubs in India put in their efforts to protect the earth and conserve natural resources. Seen in the picture above is one such club's efforts in West India Region.

India: Coonor Club in Overdrive



Under the "Home for Homeless" project, Coonor club handed over a new house to physically challenged Neelakandan of Bellattimattam (Coonor), and his family (see above). The shelter is a big boon to the family who eke out a living doing odd jobs.



An exercise in image-building – a traffic island in the heart of Coonor town. It is estimated that over a million tourists visit the queen of hills, Ooty, which lies just 20 kilometres beyond this point, every year.

We welcome news and views!

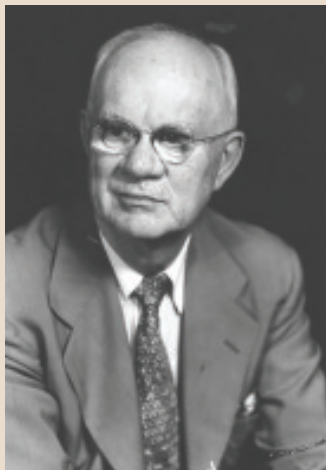
Readers are requested to send stories of activities undertaken in their respective clubs / Districts / Regions with one or more high-resolution pictures and appropriate captions. Write-ups must not exceed 150 words.

Readers are also requested to send their views and notes on matters of concern for the movement, globally.

Submit your stories and pictures at:
www.ysmen.org/yimiworld

Last date for submission for next issue:
30 November 2020

International Presidents 1922 - 1939



1. Judge Paul William Alexander (1888 – 1967)
 IP from 17 Nov 1922 – 18 Oct 1924
 Home Club: Toledo, Ohio, USA

Architect of the movement and first International President. Lawyer and later a Domestic Courts Judge. Credited with the writing constitution, by-laws, induction charter, Y's Men's song and many other documents.



2. Glenn B. Beers (1897 - 1959)
 IP from 18 Oct 1924 to 17 Oct 1925.
 Home Club: Waterloo, Iowa, USA

Glen was only 27 years old when he was elected as the second International President of Y's Men International and, like Paul William Alexander, was a lawyer. Glenn was a strong supporter of the YMCA after living in a YMCA residence during his time in law school. He may be the youngest International President in our history.



3. Harold W. Bennet (1896 - 1981)
 IP from 17 Oct 1925 to 4 Sep 1926
 Home Club: Camden, New Jersey, USA

The third International President of YMI, Harold Bennett, was also a lawyer like his two predecessors. He not only had his own law firm but also served in various public offices

including being the Mayor of his home town, Camden, New Jersey.



4. Dr. Chester C. Schneider (1894 - 1972)
 IP from 4 Sep 1926 to 1 Sep 1927
 Home Club: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Dr. Chester C. Schneider was an orthopedic surgeon from Milwaukee and was an ardent member of the movement until his death in 1972.



5. Edgar J. McCoy (1891 - 1962)
 IP from 1 Sep 1927 to 22 Aug 1929
 Home Club: Canton, Ohio, USA

The fifth International President listed his profession as "Candy" as his family owned a Candy Company, i.e. a confectioner. Edgar served two years and records show that he was first elected in 1927 and re-elected in 1928.



6. Newton W. Thompson (1892 – 1972)
 IP from 22 Aug 1929 to 7 Aug 1931
 Home Club: Bellville, Ontario, Canada

Newton W. Thompson was the first International President elected from outside of the United States of America and served for two years from 1929 to 1931.

International Presidents 1922 - 1939

Newton worked for the Canadian National Railway. The year of his election was also the year of the first International Convention outside of the United States in Toronto, Canada.



7. Richard H McCleery (1903 – 1983)
 IP from 7 Aug to 1925 Aug 1932
 Home Club: Washington, Iowa, USA

Richard McCleery owned a publishing company that produced calendars (including Playboy calendars). He built a community theatre and raised funds for the local YMCA.



8. R. Edgar Fisher (1888 – 1961)
 IP from 25 Aug 1932 to 20 Aug 1934
 Home Club: Wakefield, Massachusetts, USA

Our eighth International President was a history teacher at the time of his election and later went on to be school principal in several schools. His home club was Wakefield, Massachusetts (a club that exists even today). Edgar (as he was fondly called) was IP for two years during the Great Depression era.



9. Earle W. Lyman (1906 – 1957)
 IP from 20 Aug 1934 to 24 Aug 1936
 Home Club: Montreal, Quebec, Canada

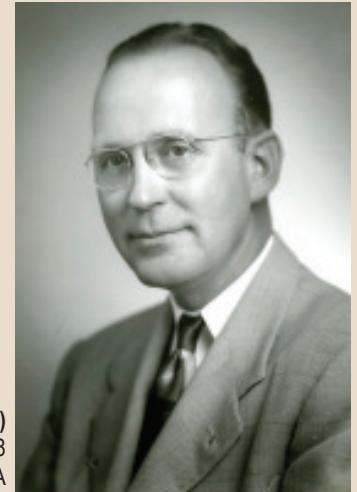
Earle was the second Canadian to be elected to the

position of IP and was a publicity manager for Bell Telephone Company.



10. Douglass L. Smith (1894-1970)
 IP fro 24 Aug 1936 to 23 Aug 1937
 Home Club: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, USA

Douglass served from 1936 to 1937 and is listed as an engineer. He was a Corporal in World War I for the Field Artillery.



11. Lewis A Warren (1905 – 1993)
 IP from 23 Aug 1937 to 18 Aug 1938
 Home Club: Washington, Iowa, USA

Lewis was International President in 1937-38. He was a newspaper publisher and lived in Washington, Iowa alongside Dave Elder (long time editor of *Y's Men World*) as well as Richard McCleery (the seventh International President).



12. James A. Betts, Jr.
 IP from 18 Aug 1938 to 25 Aug 1939
 Home Club: Richmond, Virginia, USA

James was a lawyer from Richmond, Virginia who later gave up his practice in order to work for the YMCA.



Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right

**An International Service
Organisation focused on community
development and partnering the
YMCA mission since 1922.
Providing funding for YMCA
projects, staff training and more...**

**70
Countries**

**1500+
Clubs**

**26000+
Club
Members**

**AND
LOOKING
TO
EXTEND**

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