



Y's Men International

YMI

WORLD

“To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right”

Only for private distribution to members



MOVEMENT NEWS: Principles of Partnership Reaffirmed • YMI Hands Over USD 100,000 to The Global Fund Boosting Malaria Partnership • Founder's Day Celebrated • **REFLECTIONS:** Community Service in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic by Paul Lim • **ON ENVIRONMENT:** Green Activities and the Environment by Colin Lambie • **PERSONALITIES:** Arvid Malme (1927–2020) and Marit Torp • Which History Should we Read? by Max Ediger • **A SLICE OF HISTORY:** YMI-YMCA Partnership Principles • **MICRO-HISTORY:** Agnes Valentine Grimes: Partner Par Excellence • Endurance of Y's Men • News from Japan-Australia on IBC and from Kenya, Hong Kong

Dear readers,

We have come to that part of the year when usually there is a lot of cheer and merry-making heralding the Advent season. But 2020 is different because of the stark realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and the hardships it caused by physical distancing coupled with the harsh economic reality propelled by loss of wages and jobs worldwide. Just when we thought that there was some abatement to the spread of the virus, there came a second wave and then a third wave in many countries. It seems that we are in for a long haul.

In the closing weeks of the year there came some good news of a vaccine that is likely to stem the spread. How long will it take for the entire human habitat to be vaccinated, we do not know. But, in the meantime, let us rejoice in the hope that the vaccine has injected into us.

Come Christmas and all of us love to sing our hearts out. "Joy to the World" echoes the message of the angels to the shepherds that glorious night: "Do not be afraid, I am bringing you good news of great joy ... for all the people!" Christmas is for all the people, irrespective of the barriers that divide us in this temporal situation. We'd love to hear that message of hope and joy repeatedly, especially in the context that the world is in now, since we seem to be so fragile.

* * *

This issue leads with the news that the World YMCA and YMI have reaffirmed their Partnership by signing the historic "Principles of Partnership." World YMCA Secretary General Carlos Sanvee urges us "to think not in terms of maximising membership but, instead, of maximising impact by having the right membership and the right working relationship." What the world needs today are more actions that create a lasting impact on the lives of people. In the history section, you will find a piece on how the Principles of Partnership came to be.

"Mantra for the Soul" by Max Ediger has ceased for the time being. However, this issue carries a Facebook post that

Cover picture: Members of the Y's Men's Club of Manila Downtown out for distributing goodies in Montalban area (see story on page 5).

Y's Men International
YMI WORLD

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

Max wrote in response to some of his friends' talking points in the context of Black Lives Matter.

News from Areas, as usual, find prominence. Keep sending us your action reports and pictures. We congratulate all those club members who have braved the pandemic and gone out to extend a helping hand for the many who are in need of support and help. Keep up the good work.

May this Christmas end the present year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year. Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

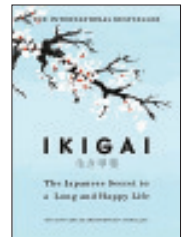
Y'sly

Koshy Mathew

FROM MY BOOKSHELF

Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life by Frances Miralles and Hector Garcia

Frances Miralles and Héctor García did research on the secret of the elderly in Japan. Why do Japanese elderly become so extremely old in certain areas in Japan? What are they doing to stay active? How do they deal with stress? What does their social life look like? All of this is discussed in *Ikigai, the Japanese secret for a long and happy life*.



The term "ikigai" is explained in various ways. You can describe it briefly as: the reason why you get out of bed in the morning. It is the reason for your existence. The French might say "raison d'être". The book also links to certain Western therapies (such as logotherapy) and may also be a question, such as: "why don't you commit suicide?" That's a harsh question, but it forces you to really think what's important in life. And right there lies the secret to a long and happy life. In the answer to this question, you will find your own ikigai. This is one of the reasons why the inhabitants on the Okinawa island there are more centenarians than anywhere else in the world. Not only are they old, but they are still active and happy, up until a very high age.

In this book, the term ikigai is translated as the bliss of always being busy. Ikigai is actually a combination of your passion, your mission and your profession. Your ikigai can be very clear, but also something you're still looking for (which on its own may be your ikigai).

The elderly of Okinawa never retire. The best thing about your ikigai is that once you've found it, you don't want to retire. Some 90-year-olds say they have so many plans and don't think about dying. They always keep having a purpose for which they get out of bed in the morning.

(An independent review)

ERRATUM: In the previous issue of *YMI World* (No. 1, 2020/21) the news item on page 4 (Ballantyne Award Winner), Mr. Ballantyne was inadvertently mentioned as "Henry M. Ballantyne" instead of "Harry M. Ballantyne." The error is regretted. - Editor

Principles of Partnership Reaffirmed

Secretaries General of World YMCA and YMI signed the Principles of Partnership agreement on 29 August 2020, acknowledging the good work over the past few years in resolving or mitigating instances of YMCA and YMI conflict and paving the way for enhanced cooperation at several levels



World YMCA Secretary General, Mr Carlos Sanvee addressing the 2020 International Council Meeting, held online from 8 to 10 August.

The World YMCA and Y's Men International have again affirmed their strong relationship, recently co-signing the Principles of Partnership agreement. The agreement acknowledges a mutual desire to work towards new dimensions of partnership that will contribute to individual and collective growth and service at local, national, area and world levels.

This action was followed by an invitation to World YMCA Secretary General, Mr Carlos Sanvee, to address the 2020 International Council Meeting, held online from 8 to 10 August.

After sharing greetings from other YMCA leaders, SG Carlos launched his presentation with a short video highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on YMCAs across the globe and the World Alliance's response.

After the video, Carlos shared some additional information on how COVID-19 had affected the different models of YMCAs, with those fiscally reliant on the public use of their assets/facilities obviously being the most vulnerable. He noted that even the largest and strongest YMCAs were suffering significant income losses, with revenue streams dropping between 50-75% almost across the board (and only 4% able to continue

“business as usual.”) With the income drop, many YMCAs have been forced to reduce staff and activities. As lockdown and confinement regulations remain in place (or are reintroduced as the virus resurges), more YMCAs will be forced to close.

However, instead of passively accepting the situation, the YMCA has developed a multi-phase response, which includes:

- a. Assessing the situation and consequent scenario modeling to respond in the best way;
- b. Developing clarity about the emerging COVID-19 society;
- c. Understanding the needs of the changed world and how/why they are different than those of the past;
- d. Working to build strategies to serve those needs in line with the mission and motto of the YMCA, as a trusted and relevant partner for young people, financially strong and adaptive.

An action plan will be formulated through the YMCA's new Padare series – virtual roundtable talks among specific leaders, the first of which took place on 7 July 2020.

In a dialogue after the presentation, the need for developing an institutional system for defining and operating the YMI/YMCA partnership was emphasised. With the support of the senior level leaders on both sides, local entities need to act as parts of the same tree continuously and systematically working for our mutual health and growth. In-fighting can only comprise both

organisations undermining the development of both movements. SG Carlos urged Council Members to think not in terms of maximising membership but instead of maximising impact by having the right membership and the right working relationship.

International Secretary General of YMI, Mr Jose Varghese, concluded the session by sharing the renewed Principles of Partnership agreement, stressing the good work over the past few years in resolving or mitigating instances of YMCA and YMI conflict, ensuring ICMs that inter-organisational competition was quickly becoming simply a historical footnote.

Source: Website of YMI



MOVEMENT NEWS

YMI Hands Over USD 100,000 to The Global Fund Boosting Malaria Partnership

Y's Men International handed over USD100,000 to The Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in early December, representing the annual commitment to the multi-stakeholder partnership established in October 2019 to assist malaria intervention projects worldwide.

The Global Fund mobilises and invests more than USD 4 billion a year to support programmes run by local experts in more than 100 countries, accelerating the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.

Partnering with the World YMCA, Y's Men International joins national governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector, and people affected by the diseases to challenge barriers and embrace innovation.

International President Jacob Kristensen, International

Secretary General Jose Varghese, and International Service Director for Roll Back Malaria Tony Liao each expressed their deep appreciation to all club members who have supported the Roll Back Malaria campaign, further enabling the World YMCA and Y's Men International to engage with the Global Fund and its advocacy initiatives for a malaria-free world.

World YMCA, which reaches 64 million people in 120 countries, is coordinating global advocacy efforts within the partnership, as well as supporting community engagement and outreach initiatives to help reduce the burden of malaria, especially with young people and the most vulnerable. Department for International Development (DFID), the international development arm of the UK government, is providing double-matching funds, unlocking nearly USD 1 million to fight malaria.



Founder's Day Celebrated

FOUNDER'S DAY - 8 December

ALEXANDER
PAUL WILLIAM
OF THE
Y.M.C.A. OF CANADA

The founder of our movement, Judge Paul William Alexander, was born on 8 December 1888. We celebrate this as Founder's Day.

It is a day for every Y's Men club member to pay tribute to our founder and commit to walking in his footsteps.

Judge Alexander said in 1951:

"...To be a Y's Men 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 Men is an exemplification of love for one's fellow man..."

May his vision guide us to demonstrate the spirit of Y's Men International and make a difference in the world through our actions. Happy birthday, Alex!

Jose Varghese, International Secretary General

View the PIP video | View YMI Heritage Story

LEGACY OF THE Y'S MEN MOVEMENT
This PIP video is produced by YMI and is available for use by YMI clubs and Regions.

Submit a History Story

HONOURING OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS
Highlighting 100 years of service

EMPHASIS MONTH - DECEMBER 2020
History

DD Debbie Redmond

Founder's Day was celebrated on 8 December by several clubs and Regions throughout the movement. Above is an awareness flyer posted by YMI Historian Debbie Redmond to mark that Day.

Lest We Forget ...



Some of the original 17 members of the group that formed the TOLYMCA club in late 1920. This club later came to be called the "Y's Men's Club" and, in 1922, "The International Association of Y's Men's Clubs" was founded when clubs were chartered in Canada. We salute the pioneers for their vision and dedication. It is from these dedicated volunteers that the energy continues, as we approach our hundredth year.

PAP Debbie Redmond, YMI Historian

Quoteworthy

He (Paul William Alexander) founded Y's Men International and bequeathed it to us and to generations after us. This organisation of which he was the Founder, Architect and President Emeritus, has given us and millions of other people opportunity to provide selfless service to the YMCA, to the community and to humanity at large. YMI has given us friends across the globe, unforgettable fellowship, joy and satisfaction all of which come from enjoying the provision of free service.

– PIP Benson Wabule, writing in *YMI World*, No. 2/2017-18

Community Service in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic

PRD Paul Lim, Region Philippines

Community service cannot be let up even during the coronavirus pandemic. As service clubs affiliated with Y's Men International, we find ways to help communities and do charity as part of our duties and responsibilities.

With the Philippines Region under GCQ (General Community Quarantine), ages 0 to 20 years old and those who are 60 years old and above must stay home. People who are at high risk, like those with lung disease, heart disease and diabetes, cannot go out. But almost all clubs in our Region have younger, stronger and energetic leaders who are between 21 and 60 years of age. Club members can share their 3 T's (Time, Talent and Treasure) and help organise community service projects in a way following the guidance from local government.

Aside from extending our assistance helping the frontliners in this time of pandemic, we can still try to extend our resources to give love, compassion and caring heart for our "lesser in life" brothers and sisters, or where the government may not be able to reach them.

We are happy to have two premier clubs that have shown their concern to the community as true servant leaders, braving the pandemic difficulties to send goods and services to the needy communities in our midst.

The Y's Men's Club of RAHA Philippines, with Club President Joseph Uyching and their sponsor club Manila Downtown Y's Men's Club under Club President Alex Yu, have done their share during the first two months of their office.

RAHA Philippines club distributed several boxes of calcium carbonate (calci-mate) and ferrous sulfate with folic acid and other items to several districts in and around Manila, to police and firefighting personnel and to a few institutions such as hospitals. Their donations included 330 raincoats for Manila

Police; LUKAS hydraulic cutter for RAHA fire volunteers used commonly in vehicular crashes to rescue trapped people; and donations of milk, vitamins, medicines, books and school supplies to more than 50 families under the 'Sierra Madre Project'.

Likewise, Manila Downtown club joined hands with the leaders of 'Companions of the Poor Ministry' and donated 600 kilograms of jasmine rice to 300 poor sanitation workers' families living in Montalban, Rizal dumpsite. The timely donations helped them lift up their spirit with hope, love and kindness.

Let us try to find more creative ways of doing community service and extend our movement's compassion to reach more people in more places ... to acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right.



RAHA Philippines Club President Joseph Uyching (R) hands over a donation to RAHA Fire Volunteers represented by Fire Chief Ronan Li



Manila Downtown YMC CP Alex Yu handing over rice to the Montalban residents



Y's Men's Club of RAHA Philippines handed over relief goods for Sierra Madre Project through RAHA Fire Volunteers Fire Chief Ronan Li

Green Activities and the Environment

Colin Lambie ASD-BE/Green Activities & Environment

Y's Men International contributes to the cause of climate change, because of travelling, the use of fossil fuels, etc. Y's Men International also has an impact on the environment because of the waste we create at meetings and conventions, etc.



Sometimes it's not easy to split whether the main impact of an action is contributing to climate change and/or the environment.

Reducing our contribution to the cause of climate change and/or negative impacts on the environment are both objectives we should aim for.



Club members engaged in picking up rubbish from public places as part of the clean environment programme

Climate change or global warming, regardless of the name, is clearly shown to be caused by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and we humans are creating greenhouse gases at a much higher level than at any time before.

We can all take action to reduce our own share of the contribution to greenhouse gases. Examples of action we can take are:

- ◆ Fly less or not at all; alternatives include using trains, meeting online, etc.
- ◆ Drive less or not at all; use an electric car charged by renewable energy sources, use public transport, etc.
- ◆ Use renewable energy; install solar panels on roofs of homes, businesses, etc.
- ◆ Buy electricity generated from renewable sources – a choice in some countries, e.g. Australia and Japan.
- ◆ Reduce waste, recycle as much as possible, reuse if possible.

Tree Planting

This is a topic requiring more discussion. It sounds good for both reducing greenhouse gases (trees absorb carbon dioxide) and the environment. However, tree planting does not always provide desirable outcomes. Some tree planting has taken place after displacing farming communities. Some tree planting has a devastating impact on the environment, for example a plantation of pine trees can kill understory plants and this has a negative impact on wildlife which would normally live in a forest.



Bendigo club contribution of AUD 9000 to Discovery - Solar to promote solar power in an effort to reduce greenhouse gases

Tree planting can be desirable; trees absorb greenhouse gases and trees of the right selection for an area can be good for the flora and fauna.

Action is the Key

Clubs can initiate or support projects that are good for the environment and/or reduce greenhouse gases. Some clubs take part in 'clean up rubbish' days, which are good for the environment. Some clubs support community solar roof top projects, for example by donating funds to crowd funding campaigns to install solar panels on community buildings.

We want to start an Asia Pacific Area 'Green Team', which will be made up of two people per Region. One of the two is proposed to be an 'experienced' Y's Man, the other person is proposed to be a younger person. It is expected that knowledge will be shared both ways between the person with Y's Men experience and the younger person, who may be actively involved in climate and/or the environmental movement.

Y's Men International has a 'carbon offset' fund which contributes to projects that reduce greenhouse gases; these projects 'offset' the greenhouse gases of YMI leaders. Read more at ysmen.org/environment.

Arvid Malme (1927 – 2020) – A Mentor to be Emulated

PIP Arvid Malme who passed away on 25 September 2020 at the age of 93, leaves us a substantial number of good memories.



Arvid Malme

I moved to Asker, just outside Oslo, with my wife and our children in 1980. We soon found ourselves as active members of the local church, Østenstad. I met Arvid Malme and his wife Ruth there, both influential members of the congregation. Despite a big difference in age, we soon learned to know each other well and became good friends. Arvid soon introduced me to Y's Men International and invited me to attend a club meeting. At first I said no. Our children were quite small at that time, but after a few years I attended as a guest. There I met several well-known faces from our congregation and felt myself included in the fellowship and taken care of.

Our children had started going to school and had become members of the YMCA scouts connected with the church, so after attending some meetings, I decided to become a member of Østenstad Y's Men's Club. It was Arvid who led the induction ceremony when I officially became a member.

Later when I took up various positions in our club, District, Region, Area and International, Arvid became a mentor and friend beyond all measure, one to whom I could ask for advice and guidance, someone I could approach any time with problems and challenges. He was always at hand and shared

willingly his experience from the journey, which he had travelled a decade or two before me.

Arvid left a big legacy and was a key person when it came to extension and the work within Y's Men which took place in Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. When this happened he was Area President of Europe and a member of the International Council. He, therefore, had influence on the new road map which was drawn up for the Y's Men strategy and extension plan for Eastern Europe post the iron curtain age. Arvid also visited Russia and participated in the chartering of clubs there at that time. As a



Bonding over a cup of tea: Arvid and Henry often met to discuss matters of the movement

mentor for Russia later, I regularly met senior Russian Y's Men who remembered Mister Malme from Norway, as he was called, when I did my visits to Russia.

His devoted work for Y's Men through more than 40 years will long be remembered, not only in Region Norway, but all over the Y's Men world.

In deep respect and with gratitude, Henry J Grindheim

Henry J Grindheim is IP 2017/2018 and member of Østenstad Y's Men's Club

Badge of Honour for Marit Torp

Region Norway honoured PAP/PICM Marit Torp with its prestigious "Badge of Honour" for her dedicated and unselfish work in the movement at all levels for almost 30 years. The badge was presented by Norway PRD Per Trygve Normann at the September meeting of the Y's Men's Club of Kråkerøy Mixed. The honour consists of a beautiful badge and an appreciative citation.

Marit Torp is a charter member of the Kråkerøy Mixed Y's Men's Club (chartered December 1991) and she has served as president of the club five times.

Marit's interests are primarily in the areas of building friendships, friendship clubs and peace. Through her long participation in the friendship work in her community between Guatemala and Norway, especially between Patzun (in Chimaltenango in Guatemala) and Kråkerøy/Fredrikstad, she gained great insights into the importance of friendship in the

peace process. She participated in the chartering of Patzun Y's Men's Club in 2012.

In 2004/05 she was RD in Region Norway/Russia, since Russia started as a part of Region Norway. In 2010/11 she was Europe Area President and a member in the International Council for four years from 2009 until 2013.



Congratulations, Marit!

Submitted by President of the Board of Kråkerøy Mixed Y's Men's Club

Which History Should we Read?

Max Ediger

A three-month programme called the School of Peace (SOP) hosts 20 diverse young people from around Asia to focus on engagement and dialogue within our societies. Participants come from countries facing internal ethnic, religious and social conflicts as well as from countries fighting border battles with their neighbors. Always there are differences among participants and occasionally those differences erupt into exchanges of angry words.

During one morning's discussion an emotional exchange of words started over which of two bordering countries owned a famous mountaintop temple situated almost directly on top of the border line. There was anger on both sides and finally one participant shouted at the other, "You've got to read history! Then you'll know the temple belongs to us!"

The resource person for the morning interrupted the argument by asking, "Which history should we read? Both of you have studied history from your country's perspectives so you understand the issue mainly from that side. Perhaps there is some truth to learn from both histories as well as some faults. We do not learn 'the history,' but only 'a history.'"

It is doubtful that there is really an objectively written history. That is why it is important for us to study different perspectives in order to find a deeper and more complete understanding of historical events."

Challenged by the Vietnam Experience

As a student, I had very little interest in learning about history as I found it boring and irrelevant to my immediate life. That all changed in 1975 when I had the privilege of remaining in Vietnam for one year following the end of the war. It was an extremely significant time for me filled with many experiences that stretched my mind and opened my eyes. I realised that I was actually living in a time of important and exciting history. History had come alive for me and I knew I needed to learn more. I started doing research, reading books and asking lots of questions. I quickly came across different "histories" of the same event.

I understood then that if I were to write the history of the

*Max Ediger directs the School of Peace from Cambodia. This piece has been taken from his Facebook page and is reprinted here with the permission of the author.

war's end from my experiences and my biases, it would be very different from the history written by Vietnamese friends who spent time in re-education camps, or became boat people fleeing to other, safer countries. I did not have the entire truth of that event even though I was living there and observing it firsthand. I only had one part of that important history which I could share, but I needed to



encourage people to study other perspectives as well to get a more complete picture.

This is the complexity of history. If I read the history of slavery from the perspective of a slave owner who became rich from the work of enslaved people and if I read the history of slavery written by enslaved people who watched their families sold off, suffered

humiliation at the hands of harsh plantation owners and who saw friends hanged when they rebelled, the two histories would be extremely different. Which history do I need to understand more deeply if I am to comprehend what is happening around our communities now as a result of that history?

If I read the history of the Black Hills in South Dakota written by Lakota elders it will be very different from a history written by John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum, the man who carved the four faces into Mount Rushmore. He apparently had no respect for the Lakota of the area and his history of the Black Hills would reflect that. Which history will be most helpful to me in understanding the issues facing Indigenous peoples today?

Relating to History Experientially

How I relate to these different histories, which are in direct conflict with each other, depends on my own life experiences and biases as well as the value system which guides my life. Do I give priority to the histories written by those in power who have much to gain by keeping the status quo, or do I give priority to the histories written by those who are marginalized, repressed and excluded and who have much to lose if the status quo continues unchanged? I need to listen to both,

Concluded on page 12

YMI-YMCA Partnership Principles

The historic relationship between YMI and YMCA was under some scrutiny in late 1970s and early 1980s following the sharp decline of club membership in the U.S. Area, the birthplace of the Y's Men concept and organisation.

Membership had dropped from 12,000 in 1965 to 5,600 in 1982. No specific reason could be determined for the decline in the U.S. Area membership. A general drop in membership for all types of service clubs was taking place in the U.S., and the moving of the International Headquarters out of the U.S. and the subsequent closing of the U.S. Area office probably had some effect. However the prevailing opinion of those closest to the situation was that the once strong ties between the U.S. YMCAs and the Y's Men were slowly weakening.

A historic meeting of the lay and staff leaders of the World Alliance of YMCAs and Y's Men International

was held at the John R. Mott House in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 January 1981. It was at this meeting that a statement on "Principles of Partnership" was drafted.

This action had its roots in a resolution passed at the 1929 International Convention in Toronto, Canada. In essence, this resolution had recognised that Y's Men International was a lay organisation with full autonomy that worked in close cooperation with the Young Men's Christian Association. The resolution had been accepted by the National Councils of YMCAs of both Canada and the U.S.

The growth of Y's Men International into a worldwide organisation "of and

for the YMCA" had made the resolution somewhat obsolete and the leadership of both organisations felt the time was "right" for a revised statement in light of the changed relationship and cooperation between the two organisations since establishment of the Y's Men International Office at the headquarters of the World Alliance.

The hope was that by broadening and reaffirming the relationship, new dimensions of partnership between the YMCA and Y's Men would contribute to the growth and service of both organisations at local, national, area and world levels.



The "Principles of Partnership" was drafted by this group of Y's Men and YMCA leaders at the Headquarters of the World Alliance of YMCAs

Against this backdrop and renewed goals in mind, these "Principles of Partnership" were drafted and adopted at the 1981 meeting in Geneva.

- ♦ It is reaffirmed that the two organisations have a common basis from which originates the purpose of serving people and that this service is carried out for all peoples without discrimination.
- ♦ It is accepted that collaboration and support first require the identification of common objectives and then the selection of specific tasks, programmes and projects.
- ♦ It is recognised that in this process both organisations are at the same level of responsibility, and it is consequently expected that both

should participate in the initial thinking, the development of plans, the funding, the implementation and the evaluation.

- ♦ It is expected that from whatever is carried out in partnership, both organisations should give and receive benefit.
- ♦ It is expected that both organisations should be open to the participation and involvement of the other at local, national, area and world levels, thus strengthening the relationship and cooperation.
- ♦ It is recognised that the effectiveness of the partnership depends upon

mutual trust and support, that the potential benefits are many and that both organisations should assist each other's development in mutually acceptable ways. This should be reflected, in particular, by evidence of greater YMCA support for the extension of Y's Men International and increase of its

membership, which in turn implies recognition of the increasing potential of Y's Men action as a service club for the YMCA.

The "Principles of Partnership" statement was accepted and reaffirmed by many local and national YMCAs and by Y's Men throughout the world over the ensuing months. Additionally, Y's Men International committed to raise USD 200,000 over a three-year period through the Time of Fast programme to support World Alliance Leadership Development. Some 100 training events in 60 developing countries were held and 3,500 YMCA leaders were trained with this support.

Source: *A Fellowship of Service – The Story of Y's Men International* (75th Anniversary Edition)

Agnes Valentine Grimes: Partner Par Excellence

PAP Debbie Redmond, ISD-Historian

Whenever talking about anyone that has dedicated their life to Y's Men, the name Agnes Grimes should be mentioned. Agnes Valentine was born 13 February 1894 and died 23 December 1980. Upon graduation from high school, Agnes worked as a clerk and attended school. She became a teacher in an elementary school (a position she held until her marriage). On 10 October 1925, Agnes Valentine married Henry D. Grimes in Massachusetts. As a part of their honeymoon, the couple travelled to Chattanooga Tennessee in order for Henry to attend his second Y's Men International Convention. It was at the Y's Men International



Convention that Henry was nominated for the position of International Secretary/Treasurer by Paul William Alexander and he was elected. Henry held the position from 1925 to 1955 as an elected volunteer then became the first paid International Secretary for Y's Men until his death in 1962.

At the end of the Second World War, Henry was called upon to do some work for the United States War Department as a scientific consultant. This work was due to his position as a chemist in the American Woolen Company (Head of the Research and Development Department). In 1945-46, Henry was sent to Germany for technical intelligence work with the clothing companies. Agnes remained behind and ran the office of International Secretary/Treasurer in his absence.

A fellow Y's Man told about the 1925 Convention by supposedly quoting the young honeymooners:

"From now on I'm the head of the house!", this bridegroom bravely said.

"Then I'll be the neck," sweet Agnes said, "It's the neck that turns the head!"

Perfect Partnership

As Y's Men International grew from year to year, so did the responsibilities of the International Secretary/Treasurer. The couple did not have any children, so Agnes helped Henry with the correspondence and attended many meetings with him. The office was established for Y's Men International in the basement of their home on Quincy Street in Lawrence, Massachusetts following extensive renovations in 1940 (paid for by the Grimes). Henry and Agnes did most of the work themselves but eventually was given permission to hire part-time staff to assist.

By 1950, Agnes handled the incoming and outgoing mail. She would read the letters and organise them by importance for Henry to respond. There were additionally 11 part time staff to assist. The amount of mail received averaged between two to three pounds (or 0.9 kg to 1.3 kg) on a daily basis. That amount greatly increased during semi-annual report periods for April and October with an average amount of eight pounds (3.6 kg) daily.

In 1955, Henry retired from the American Woolen Company to become the first full-time paid International Secretary/Treasurer. As the clubs increased and the time passed, the position of Treasurer became an elected position starting in 1961. This gave Henry more time to devote to the task of answering correspondence, writing reports, and providing monthly bulletins.

Selfless Service

In talking about his wife and the work for the Y's Men in 1960, Henry Grimes stated that his wife had attended 33 International Conventions as well as over 100 Regional Conventions. She paid her own expenses to these meetings and did not ask for reimbursement (which included some time overseas). Henry also stated that although his salary was paid, the cost of the office space in their home was not paid by Y's Men nor did Agnes receive a salary. When he became a full-time employee, his health insurance was not a part of the position but they did take out life insurance on Henry that paid USD 15,000 to Y's Men on his death (not to his widow).

In December 1962, Henry D. Grimes died at the age of 65. As Y's Men worked to figure out how to handle his position as well as the International Headquarters in the Grimes' home, Agnes agreed to continue to assist in handling the ongoing paperwork and office supervision until details could be worked out. It was not until September 1963 that the offices were moved to Illinois and a new International Secretary General was named.

In 1965, Agnes Valentine Grimes received the Harry M. Ballantyne award (first female to receive it). Agnes died on 23 December 1980. Thank you, Agnes for your time, energy, and dedication to the International Association of Y's Men.



Agnes Valentine with leaders of the movement in the 1950s

MICRO-HISTORY

Endurance of Y's Men

PAP Debbie Redmond, ISD-Historian

Recently, I received a query from someone who found a mystery item in the attic of her grandfather's house as she was trying to clean it out. Her question and picture sent me on a journey to find the answer. It was two banners from a club in Japan and she

questions. Thanks to the help of Mrs Keiko Tonegawa, we were able to get additional information from the Club President who asked Mr Yoshimichi Shimano about the banners. His response was, yes, he and another club member went to the Chicago



In Brotherhood: Yoshimichi Shimano (L) who cracked the mystery of the banner and Joe and Rose Quintana from Durango, Colorado travelled to the same Convention



The mystery banner that launched a search

wanted to know how it found its way to the attic in Colorado. The granddaughter examined them and found the Y's Men emblem on it. From there she sent the query to International Headquarters who sent it to me.

First of all, I looked up the Hikone club in one of the history books listing all the clubs and found that it was chartered in 1952. My thinking was that



maybe some of the club members had attended one of the International Conventions in the United States in the 1950s or 1960s. Imagine my surprise when I saw the Hikone Club article in the *YMI World* (telling about brother clubs). I started sending mails to key people in Japan asking

International Convention in 1961 and they had taken banners that were hung at the entry to the dining hall.

A keepsake from a Convention held almost 61 years ago has once again left an imprint on the people that attended and on the rest of us. Two

banners travelled from Hikone, Japan through the United States with stops in Montana and South Dakota as two Brotherhood Fund Delegates travelled to the Chicago Convention. Yoshimichi Shimano and Tatsuo Fukitoma were featured in several newspaper articles about their visits.

Meanwhile, Joe and Rose Quintana from Durango, Colorado travelled to the same convention. It is possible they met the two delegates and returned home with a souvenir that would show up in their belongings after their death. We do indeed need to continue sharing our souvenirs and keepsakes in order to leave a piece of history with other members. In sixty years, will somebody show up with something you shared at a convention or meeting? I hope so.



1961 International Convention

Japan - Australia: IBC Signing Ceremony on Zoom

The Y Service Club of Adelaide (Australia Region) and Kofu 21 Y's Men's Club (Japan East Region) held an IBC signing ceremony on the 'Zoom' platform on 14 November. Kofu21 club members and guests from other clubs including ISD-IBC/AS Keiko Tonegawa, ASD-IBC/IPAP Hiro Tanaka and RD Tetsuya Itamura graced the occasion of the club's 30th-anniversary party. Members of the Adelaide club gathered at the residence of PAP Russell Jones and IPIP Jennifer Jones, who are members of that club, and the signing ceremony took place by video conference. Also, Murray Stevens, editor of YMI IBC Directory who recently received the Harry M. Ballantyne Award, joined from his place at Ballarat, Australia.

The use of Zoom is an indication of the great potential for IBC activities, including signing ceremonies and occasional IBC meetings,



The online signing ceremony

especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic situation and even in the future when things are back to normal.

Hiro Tanaka
ASD-IBC, IPAP, Asia Pacific Area

A Unique Programme

A unique programme entitled "Respect Motherhood and Thank You Mom" has been initiated by Bangalore District II. It will run for nine months with varying focus themes. The programme got off to a grand start with its inauguration on 24 October.

The latest programme on 29 November saw the presence of two international leaders, IPIP Jennifer



Jones and PAP-ASP Rita Hettiarachchi who shared their thoughts on the overarching theme.

*Happy Birthday,
Colombo Club!*



The Y's Men's Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka celebrated its 90th anniversary on 3 December. Congratulations! Y's Men International was introduced to Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) by Mr. R.O. Buell, then General Secretary of the Colombo YMCA, on his return to Sri Lanka after attending an International Convention in Minneapolis, USA. The Colombo club began functioning in 1929 and was chartered on 3rd December 1930 with the late Sir Oliver Goonetilleka, former Governor General of Ceylon, as its charter president.

From page 8 ... Which History Should we Read?

but I must decide which stories are most important to help me understand the pain, suffering and alienation many people are feeling now.

Generally we hear history from the perspectives of those in power because they are usually the writers of history. It is our responsibility to diversify our research to include other perspectives, especially the perspectives of those who have little or no power and are too often excluded from the writing of their own histories. It is essential that the perspectives of the marginalized and repressed peoples also be told honestly and fully by them, and it is imperative

that we listen deeply to history as they lived and experienced it, for it is the history they have lived that affects the way they respond to our society today.

If I make a sincere attempt to look at history through the eyes of groups like the BLM, the Water Protectors, and other marginalized groups I will hopefully be able to better understand their anger and frustration and then respond to events in a more positive and effective way. I need not agree with everything they say, but I need to try my best to understand, because they are also the writers of history - history that I need to hear and learn from.

Kenya: Food, Fun, Fellowship and Two New Clubs

For two days straddling the weekend of 31 October and 1 November, District Governor Esther Kamoche led a team of Y's Men of Kenya to Mutomo, an urban centre in Kitui, a county in the eastern part of Kenya.

We extended our love and engaged ourselves in community service at Mutomo. We also chartered two new clubs - the Mutomo Y Service Club and the Y's Youth Club of Kitui with new members.

The first stop during the weekend trip was Kicotec Textile factory, where the group was treated to the amazing things County Governor Ngilu is doing. The Governor had graciously invited Y's Men to visit Kicotec and showered us with gifts and provided a sumptuous breakfast. The team then proceeded to Isaac Kalua's 'Green Africa', for yet



The enthusiastic Kenyan Y's team on the two-day mission

another amazing tour and more food. In short, there was food, fun and fellowship.

On Sunday, the group visited one of our members, Aphia Mutemi, who recently lost her husband and presented some gifts. Compassion is part and

parcel of Y's Men International.

Having fun and fellowship is integral to the growth of our movement and we plan to have more of that by chartering clubs in Machakos town, Mombasa and Matuu, and in other places.

Morris Kimuli, Kenya, Region Africa Southeast



District Governor Esther Kamoche hands over the Charter to Mutomo Y Service Club President; Area President Tom Waka hands over the Charter to Kitui Y's Youth Club President; Planting a sapling on Isaac Kalua's farm, and having lots of fellowship over sumptuous food

Hong Kong: Mid-Autumn Festival

The Y's Men's Club of Tsim Sha Tsui and the YMCA of Hong Kong held a joint celebration of reunion and prayer during the Love for Mid-Autumn Festival on 26 September 2020, once again demonstrating the spirit of partnership. On this occasion, 200 "blessing bags" were given to the elderly in Sham Shui

Po district where low-income workers and their families live with migrant workers of South Asian origin. Each bag contained two kilograms of Thai fragrant rice, a 900ml bottle of canola oil and a can of dace (fish) in black bean sauce.

Thanks to Mr Peter Ho, GS/CEO of YMCA of Hong Kong for his

presence, encouragement and leadership. Colleagues from YMCA West Kowloon Beacon Centre Lifelong Learning Institute cooperated with CP Gabriel Lee and fellow members of the club to successfully complete this social service.

PRD Andy Fu



Members of the Y's Men's Club of Tsim Sha Tsui and the YMCA of Hong Kong engaged in community service

Russia: In Remembrance of Fallen Compatriots



September is a tragic month for the residents of St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) since it was on the 8th of that month, 79 years ago, the siege of the city started and lasted for almost 900 days. Leningrad lost over one million people who died of wounds and starvation.

Each year, **Y' Men from St. Petersburg** remember 3,000 martyrs interred at the Farforovskoye cemetery by reading aloud their names in remembrance of their sacrifice (see pictures above). The park there has been taken care of by the Y's Men of St. Petersburg for the past nine years.

Source: FB page of PRD Marina Makarova

India: "Star of the Day" – A 45-Day Virtual Reality

District IV of West India Region, led by its DG Mathew Joseph, successfully demonstrated that physical distancing due to COVID-19 need not necessarily hinder social initiatives and fellowship. The "Star of the Day" programme organised on a virtual platform brought together club members and leaders each day for 45 days from 1 August to 15 September for interactions and enhancing their knowledge about the movement and the society in general.

The programme, which won great appreciation, helped all to know each other, develop friendship and fellowship. Club leaders were introduced and they briefed the participants on their projects and programmes which inspired others and helped them to a better understanding of the movement's noble vision.

New IYR



Congratulations to **Dwight Tomlinson** who has been elected YMI's International Youth Representative 2020-2022! We wish you all the best with the challenging task of promoting youth work within the movement.

Dwight Tomlinson is a member of Y's Men's Club of Savanna-La-Mar, Jamaica, Area Canada and Caribbean.

Caribbean: Unique Virtual Concert

Mandeville Y Service Club held a virtual concert on the Zoom platform on 4 September 2020 in aid of attaining a mobile wellness clinic for health workers. It was a very entertaining and wonderful experience for many, a fact supported by the responses received from those who attended the concert.

USA: North Atlantic Region's Multifarious Activities

Community Service Day

Aligning with the call by Y's Men US Area, North Atlantic Region observed 24 October 2020 as community service day. Fifteen club members from various clubs came forward to help *Habitat for Humanity*, an international non-profit organisation to build a house in a remote



Joining hands with *Habitat for Humanity* in building a house for the less privileged



One photo for the album after a hard day's work location in the State of New Jersey. Work started around 7.30 in the morning under the supervision of experts from *Habitat*, who divided the volunteers into four groups and assigned tasks such as painting, moving dirt to fill the backyard, making staircases, erecting windows, etc.

This all-day activity helped some less fortunate than us to own a house. *Habitat's* Chief of Staff Ashley Biggs appreciated the volunteer work and said that such work will enable *Habitat* to fulfil its mission of helping the underprivileged in the community own

an affordable house.

The **Westchester club** also observed a community service day on 17 October 2020 at the Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers, NY. Twenty-one volunteers from the club helped the park crew to clean up the park by raking leaves, spreading the tree chips, trimming the trees, removing garbage, etc. It was a great opportunity for the club members to give back to the community and create an image for



Getting ready to rake the fallen autumn leaves

Y's Men in that area. The Westchester County Parks Commissioner Hon. Kathleen O'Connor stopped by to greet the volunteers and expressed gratitude and appreciation.

Coats, Sandwiches and School Supplies ... all from Westchester Club

The Westchester club donated **150 coats** to homeless kids residing in two shelter homes located in Mount Vernon, New York at a small function held in Vernon Plaza Family Shelter in November 2020. The coats were purchased through contributions from Y's Men members. Darcy Miller,



Westchester club with the coats they procured for distribution

President of the Board of Education of the Mount Vernon City School District expressed sincere gratitude to the club members for this great initiative. Dr Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools, handed over the coats officially to the officials of both shelters. Several club members attended the meeting strictly following the COVID-19 protocol.

Club members prepared **250 sandwiches** for the homeless and delivered them to the Immaculate Conception Church in the Bronx together with 350 bags of bread on 14 September 2020. Club members also reached out to the Sisters of Charity in Riverdale, Bronx, New York, on the same day and handed over 80 bags of bread.

The National Association of



Club members preparing sandwiches for the homeless

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Spring Valley Branch was the recipient of relevant **school supplies**, again in September, to be distributed among deserving school children. This gesture enabled the children from disadvantaged backgrounds to get ready for school before its opening.

USA: Raffle Fundraiser in Support of Local Y Projects

For the past 31 years, the South Rowan Y Service Club in North Carolina, USA, has had its annual raffle fundraiser supporting numerous projects in the local community.

The South Rowan Y Service Club was founded in 1988 and the first raffle for a vehicle was done in the summer of 1989. Milton Taylor of Kannapolis won a red Ford Mustang convertible with a white top that year. Proceeds paid for a bus for the South YMCA that the service club had already committed to buy.

This year, about 250 tickets were sold at USD 150 each over two months and the final draw was held in September. This year's lucky winner was Brian Tadlock of Landis, whose dad, Frank, was one of the founders of the South Rowan Y Service Club and the original vehicle giveaway project. Brian had the option to take home either a 2020 Ford Escape SUV or USD 18,000 in cash. He chose the latter.

The South Rowan Y Service Club has used funds from the vehicle giveaway project to support various needs in the



Ron Lovelace of Cloninger Ford presenting the cheque to the winner, Brian Tadlock. Also in the picture are Brian's mother Sue Tadlock, Car Project Coordinators David and RD Gay Roberts, Bruce Miller. Photo by club member David Freeze.

community. This year's proceeds will help provide new YMCA equipment, a new cleaning machine and supplies, sustaining campaign pledge, renovations to the Y, Main Street Mission, Meals on Wheels, and Rowan Literacy Council among many others.

Thanks to Cloninger Ford, especially Mr. Larry Cloninger and Mr. Nathan Peele, for their partnership for 31 years and their support of the YMCA and our communities.

Terry Bradley, Vice-President,
South Rowan Y Service Club

Canada: Owen Sound YMCA Peace Medallion 2020

Jillian Lyman, a 19-year old university student, in Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada was honoured with the 2020 edition of YMCA Peace Medallion for her efforts in rallying over one thousand members of the community to march

peacefully between City Hall and Owen Sound's Black History Cairn in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

On a sweltering hot summer's day, during a time when COVID-19 had many of us secluded in our homes,

Jillian's call to action was heard. The message was clear: racism and injustice have no place in our community. Her march experience caused her to switch her sociology courses to better align with racial and gender inequalities. "It's definitely changed my perspective on what I want to do," she said. "I want to spread the word even more than just in Owen Sound."

Michael McLuhan of the Peace & Justice Network said that he has never seen "1000 people in our city of only 20,000 people join a march about anything before." The Peace Medallion committee is one of the actual connections the Y Service Club of Owen Sound has with the YMCA

Brian Minielly, Area President Elect
Area Canada/Caribbean



L to R: Cortney O'Donoghue, Y staff; Jillian Lyman, Medallion Recipient; Brian Minielly, Y Service Club; Gayle Graham, YMCA CEO; Michael McLuhan, Peace & Justice Network.

India: Some Great Interventions

Kidney Care Unit Donated

The Y's Men's Club of Trivandrum (South West India Region) installed and donated a dialysis machine to the India Hospital at Trivandrum on 20 September as its major project to support poor kidney patients by offering free dialysis.

Raising the required sum of INR 520,000 (approx. USD 7,000) was a huge challenge. Led by the CP Thomas Tharakan and the project coordinator Mrs Annamma Joseph, the amount was raised within a month.

It has been agreed with the hospital that of the 18 dialyses done every week using the machine, 12 will be made free for the patients recommended by the club. The hospital charges INR 1200 (USD 16.50) for one dialysis and in the eight years that the machine is expected be functional, up to 5,000 free dialyses can be done, which translates to about INR 6 million (approx. USD 81,500) in terms of the benefit derived by the poor from this project.



Area President Shahnavaaskhan cuts the ribbon heralding the donation of the dailysis unit

“Family Meal” – An Initiative by Bangalore Cantonment Club

Under the leadership of the Y's Men's Club of Bangalore Cantonment, District I of South India Region has adopted 10 families in a village in suburban Bangalore whose lives have been disrupted by the economic downturn caused by the pandemic to receive monthly grocery kits valued at INR 1,000 (USD 13.50) each for the next ten months. Called the “Family Meal” it is pitched as a District project involving all the clubs in the District. The first lot of grocery kits were distributed in October in the presence of the District Governor and the Lt. Regional Director.



Club President hands over grocery kits to a couple of beneficiaries in the presence of the DG and LRD

Specially for Special Children

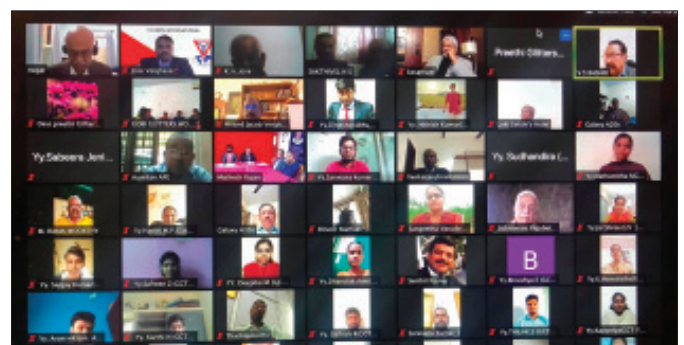
The Y's Women's Club of Trivandrum Angels used to celebrate World Disability Day each year with children with special needs. This year due to the worldwide pandemic, club members refrained from any direct physical meeting with



children. However, club members collected clothes, toys and chocolates for the children at one of the special care homes in Trivandrum and handed over to the wardens there.

This year the theme chosen for this day by South West India Region was “Be a Rainbow in Someone's Cloud,” calling on club members to do a small deed that can make someone happy.

Wow! Massive Campaign



Congratulations to West District of South India Region for inducting 104 new members in one day as part of the 100-Day Membership Campaign of Y's Men International.

International Presidents 1939-1950



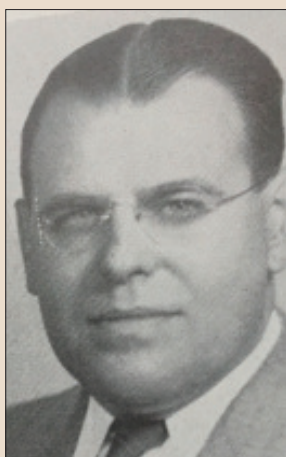
13. John L. Madden (1901 - 1973)
IP: 1939-1940
Home Club: Monroe, Louisiana, USA

John L. Madden from Monroe, Louisiana, was a lawyer who eventually became an Attorney General in Louisiana.



14. F. Stanley James (1901 - 1958)
IP: 1940-1941
Home Club: Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

F. Stanley James from Sudbury, Ontario, Canada was an accountant and big supporter of the YMCA.



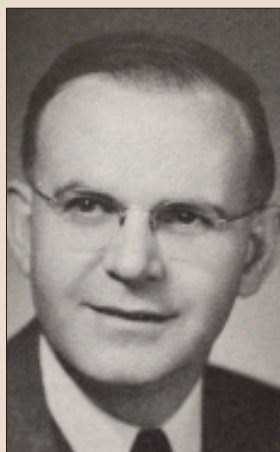
15. George W. Keitel (1907 - 1979)
IP: 1941-1942
Home Club: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

George W. Keitel was also the original historian for Y's Men and wrote two of the three history books. He was a lawyer by profession but also had experience in printing and publishing. The unique part about George was that he had a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease which made it hard for him to write or type. His wife, Bertha, assisted him and was recognised for her hard work by receiving the Harry M. Ballantyne Award in 1976 (second female to receive the award).



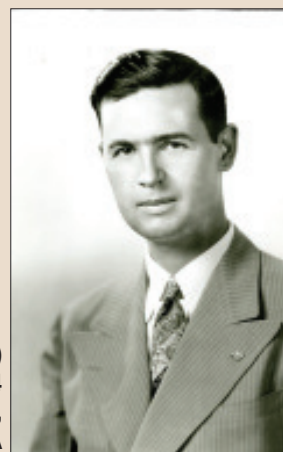
16. Oskar Grunow (1899 - 1978)
IP (only 2 months in 1942)
Home Club: Dallas, Texas, USA

Oskar Grunow was elected IP at the 1942 International Convention. Oscar's time as IP was extremely short since he went into the army two months later and gave up his position. Oscar lived from 1899 to 1978 in Dallas, Texas.



17. Joseph Connel
IP (only for 5 days in 1942)
Home Club: Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada

Joseph Connell of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada probably had the shortest shortest time time as IP since five days days after assuming office he was called for service in the Royal Canadian Air Force (from 1942 to 1945). He was dedicated to working with boys and devoted his career as YMCA Director to boys work.



18. Hugh E. Chance (1911 - 1998)
IP from 1942 to 1944
Home Club: Muscatine-Davenport, Iowa, USA

Hugh E. Chance from Muscatine-Davenport, Iowa, USA served from 1942 to 1944. He went on to military service from 1944 to 1946. Hugh was a lawyer and was well known for his skills in debate (even in high school).

International Presidents 1939- 1950



19. Charles L. Miller (1907 - 1985)
IP: 1944-1945
Home Club: Patterson, New Jersey, USA

Charles L. Miller from Paterson, New Jersey, USA served as IP in 1944. He worked in the insurance business. One other fact about Charles was that he had polio as an adult in the 1930s and actually recovered (which was unusual).



21. David J. Coughey (1913 - 2010)
IP: 1947-1948
Home Club: Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

David J. Coughey, who served from 1947 to 1948, was an educator working at the high school level in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.



20. William M. Redditt, Jr. (1909 - 1980)
IP: 1945-1946
Home Club: Shreveport, Louisiana, USA

William M. Redditt, Jr. from Shreveport, Louisiana. William worked for the City of Shreveport and eventually worked in the oil industry. He published several books on his family genealogy.



23. George Goold (1917 - 1982)
IP: 1948-1949
Home Club: Temple City, California, USA

George Goold from Temple City, California served from 1948 to 1949. George's family owned a water company that would eventually become SoCal Water.



21. Hubert M. Weaver (1900 - 1987)
IP: 1946-1947
Home Club: South Bend, Indiana, USA

Hubert M. Weaver of South Bend, Indiana, USA was a real estate appraiser, very active in the YMCA all of his life, and loved fishing.



24. Rollo G. Smethers (1924 - 1986)
IP : 1949-1950
Home Club: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

Rollo G. Smethers from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was IP from 1949-1950. Rollo was a design engineer for Lockheed Martin Company and registered a patent for a design for "Cargo Loading and Recovery Apparatus for Aircraft" in 1970.

COME TO HAWAII IN 2022

Y's Men's International will be celebrating a century of service in 2022, and the USA Area cordially invites you to join us in celebrating our 100th Anniversary at the 75th International Convention be held in August 2022 in Honolulu, Hawaii - the 50th State of the United States.



*Join us in Paradise!
75th International Convention
Honolulu, Hawaii in August 2022*



HAWAII
CONVENTION CENTER
1801 Kalakaua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815