



Y's Gathering's

June 2020

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Greetings to the Pacific Southwest Region from Kathy Naylor, Regional Director!

With all of us sheltered at home, I would like to give a “shout out” to our CLUB PRESIDENTS! I have enjoyed many conversations with them by phone these last few weeks and will share a bit of what I have learned.

I have had the pleasure of talking with SAMANTHA KOLL, President of the healthy Burbank club. Samantha not only leads her club, but she is an employee of the Burbank Y, heading youth programs. Their six week summer school program, which she spearheads, serves approximately 200 children and youth. Students with low academic scores are recommended to her for participation in the program and to boost their success rate for the coming school year. This summer they may be offering programs virtually, due the COVID19 situation. JIM ENGERT, President of the North Coast Club, in the San Diego area, is busy, not only as club President, but as Youth Mentor for the region and the U.S. Area. Their club serves the Y on Camp Pendleton Military Base. Club member Doug Jones is a Service Director at the regional and U.S. Area level. Member Mary Hohmeyer publishes this newsletter!

I had a chance to meet in person, early in March, with MATT RODRIGUEZ, President of the Clovis/Fresno club, and WAYNE ORUM, of the Easton club. Their combined clubs, along with the San Jose club, are enthusiastically planning our next regional convention. The Clovis/Fresno club currently holds meetings through ZOOM, and I was able to install their new officers at a recent online meeting. Their member Dan Eberly is RDE, and club member Jan Suydam is District Governor for the Pacific Central District. Club member Karen Lamothe-Johnson is a Service Director. STEVE EARL, VP of the Whittier club, is skillfully shepherding his very large group by keeping in touch with members. Although the club’s ongoing newspaper collection for fundraising is on hold, they know it will continue as soon as possible. STEVE is assisting BOB SCHAEFER, President of the club, as Bob has had to step aside for now. BOB has also been holding the position of District Governor for the Northeast District. U.S. Area Secretary, Nancy Libby, is a club member. Torrance President, JOHN FRANK, like all of us, cancelled club meetings until gatherings resume once again. His club is an active and hearty one, with a highly successful Christmas tree lot. Club member Henry Fox serves as District Governor for the Freeway District. Members Joe Zeiler and Karl Walther are Service Directors. Member Garrett Pierson is U.S. Area Youth Representative.

RALPH DRENGSON is President of the West Valley Y Service Club. The club’s huge monthly book sale is on hold for the time being. Club member Tim Singletary serves as District Governor for the Valley District as well as a U.S. Area Service Director. Member Bruce Trent is also a Service Director for the region and the U.S. Area. CURTIS BROWN, of the Simi Valley club, is a highly enthusiastic leader. He, and the members of his club, are dedicated to the projects and well-being of their Y and tight-knit community. MARGARET HUMES, President of the Seal Beach, Leisure World club, leads this hard-working and active group which does a fine job of fundraising. The club just made a very large donation to their local Y. MARGARET is also a regional Service Director. It was a pleasure to talk with Placentia/Yorba Linda club President, JOHN HARREL. This small club meets together when possible and contribute to the well-being of their community through volunteerism and donations.

JEFFREY BRANDEEN, and club members of the Pasadena club, provide tickets to the famous Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Breakfast for our visiting International Presidents. International President JENNIFER JONES and husband, Russell, from Australia, attended on their visit to our region in Dec./Jan. Jeffrey also serves as Past Regional Director. The President of the San Jose East Valley club is WAYNE LANGDON. Wayne has been checking in with members by phone. The club is associated with the beautiful San Jose Y. The Conejo Valley Y’s Men’s Club is under the leadership of President LARRY LORD. Larry keeps in touch with the members of his





small club. They have a lovely new Y in town. CHRIS PARK is President of the East Valley club. Their members carry out events under normal circumstances, and they are a very close group. Member ERICK KIM is Past International President.

ELDON THORP serves as President for the Golden West club. The members are unable to attend meetings in person, but are able to continue their membership dues. Eldon keeps his members up-to-date on all international, U.S. Area, and regional news. In addition, Eldon is Secretary, Historian, and Regional Directory publisher, among other things for our region. B.T. TUGGLE heads the Greater Long Beach club. This active club is involved serving the Greater Long Beach Metro Y. Tibor Foki, U.S. Area Immediate Past President, is a club member. Member Charl Foki served as a regional and U.S. Area Service Director. Club President, FRED TOWNS, of the Inglewood club, held a phone conference meeting recently with his club, and will do so again during this time apart. His wife, Lurlean, actively assists Fred as club Secretary. Member LeRoy Fisher is a Service Director. President KYUNG MIN PARK, of the Orange Central club, has a close group of members who serve their community. Past International President SEUNG HO PAIK is a club member.

TOM HENDERSON is President of a small but active and close-knit club, Lohse-Tucson. They continue communicating and planning ahead for upcoming projects. As with many clubs, assistance to their Y camp is on hold. Members Bill and Lillian Porter are Regional Service Directors. Member Dave Craytor was a Service Director this year. Santa Monica Y Service Club is led by President HANK WALTHER. The club is aiming to have a ZOOM meeting. Individual members keep their friendships alive through phone calls to one another. Regional Director, Kathy, and Regional Treasurer, Terry Green, are club members. HANK is also a Service Director for the region. And, finally, our region is fortunate to have a dynamic Y's Menettes club in Fresno. The President is CONNIE CLAES. The club is in touch during stay-at-home orders, but is typically busy with many projects to benefit their community, wider Y's Menette's projects, camps, and Y's Men's Club.



Dan Eberly – RDE Notes

RDE NOTES

I hope that this note finds everyone SAFE. So many Y's Men families throughout the world are dealing with the Coronavirus. We will all need to be flexible and creative as we adapt to this new challenge.

Zoom and Go to Meeting are becoming my New Normal! I guess you can teach an old dog a new trick! It has been nice to "see" so many people who were names and positions before these meetings. There is no shortage of ideas and I get the feeling that everyone is working to find ways to make this all work.

Working on the **PSW By-Laws Revision Committee** and **PSW Budget Committee**, over the last few months, has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the workings of the Pacific Southwest Region. I am Thankful that RD: Kathy Naylor, By-Laws Chair: Tim Singletary, Eldon Thorpe, Terry Green, and Bruce Trent have been so willing and patient – generously sharing their knowledge and insights. Both committees have enlightened me and brought an awareness of all there is to learn before I become RD! I feel so fortunate that I have an extra year to learn the ropes and appreciate everyone who has taken the time to mentor and teach me.

In March and April, I participated in several very informative Regional Director Elect meetings & trainings. IPE – Jacob Kristensen hosted a YMI International meeting at 4:00 am (PDT) so that our worldwide Organization could all meet together; we were encouraged to keep meeting and look for creative ways to support our YMCAs and communities. A key suggestion was to "understand the real needs of the individual members and offer flexibility to keep them in their clubs – *Kindness is the Currency* – Be kind to every member and their situation and offer mutual support including subsidizing club dues, if required". At our US Area meetings AP Bobby Stivers-Apiki and Debbie Redmond (ASD – Training) shared a lot of useful information helping to plan for the coming year. A key point that I got was that it is vitally important for us all to maintain good communication (especially to respond to emails) I am working on getting better. This might be an area for additional training for all of us.

We had a very productive 2020 Regional Convention Planning Committee in March with RD Kathy Naylor, she was most helpful getting the committee organized. There is serious concern among committee that COVID-19 will interfere their ability to have a successful event this year, and they are willing to host the Regional Convention in 2021 for the safety of us all.

Dan Eberly, RDE



Meet Our Members

Club Updates



Meet the members of the Golden West Y's Men's Club

Beverly Klatt. Beverly joined the Palomar club in 1976. She was Regional Director Elect, the Year the Region became incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1988-89. She was honored with the Roy Naylor Award in 1994 for her continued service and leadership in the Y 's Men organization. Beverly currently resides in Fresno, CA.

Harvey Grundman. Harvey joined the Downey club in 1967. He was elected Regional Director for 1980-81. He was elected Area President for 1991-92. He was honored with the Roy Naylor Award in 1994 for his continued service and leadership in the Y 's Men organization. Harvey and Clara Currently reside in Okmulgee, OK.

Clara Grundman. Clara joined the Downey club in 1976. She was elected Corporate Secretary for two terms in 1994-96. She was honored with the Roy Naylor Award for her continued service and leadership to the region. Among her service was convention planning. Harvey and Clara currently reside in Okmulgee, OK

June Clark. June joined the Palomar club in 1976. She was elected Regional Director for 2001-02. She was honored with the Roy Naylor Award in 2005 for her continued service and leadership in the Y's Men organization. June currently resides in Escondido, CA.

Eldon Thorp. Eldon joined the Garden Grove club in 1968. He was Regional Director for 2002-03 and 2011-12. He is currently The Regional Secretary and resides in Huntington Beach, CA.

Clovis-Fresno Y Service Club Update

The Clovis-Fresno Y Service Club has been meeting online and with the Easton Y Service Club, during this time of physical distancing. During these meetings our club made several donations to our International activities; they were: a donation of \$500 to Time of Fast, \$500 to the Alexander Fund, \$400 to the Brotherhood Fund, and \$200 to the Roll Back Malaria Fund. We received a request from the Golden State YMCA for funds to purchase supplies necessary for improvement and repair at the Sequoia Lake YMCA Camps. We made a donation of \$2,500 for those projects. Wayne Orum, President of the Easton Y Service Club, stated that his Club will also assist with additional funds needed for the YMCA Camps in addition to camperships. Member, Scott Rothe said that he had just finished painting the History Kiosk at Sequoia Lake. Members from both clubs will evaluate and make repairs to the Memory Wall as well.

Our Club voted to purchase Zoom for the year and to open our non-business meetings to non-members on our email list for the 2020/2021 year.

Dale E. Claes; Secretary

Fresno Central Y's Menettes Update

Our small but mighty club celebrated our 50th year anniversary a few years ago and we are going strong. The Fresno Central Y's Menettes was able to honor President Connie Claes into the Golden Book at their February meeting.

We have had to cancel our regular events due to the corona virus but we will meet soon with a backyard distancing gathering.

Our club wishes you all God's blessings.



District Reports

DISTRICT REPORTS



District Governor Report-Jan Suydam- Pacific Central District

We were hoping to have another meeting with the prospective club of San Francisco in March. Prior to the closing, efforts had been made to connect with the both Thomas Tharakan and Matt Thomas. My efforts were unsuccessful, however Kathy suggested we have Jose Varghese try to get a response. This was the solution and we learned that one of their leaders had some personal health issues and the other some business problems due to lack of shipments from China for his business. It is my personal opinion that it would be helpful if someone other than a female be a contact person with them. Repeated phone calls and email correspondence produced no results for me.

Since Kathy had made plans to go with us to San Francisco, she came as far as Fresno. It was a very helpful and productive time. She met with the Convention planning committee and helped tremendously in our organizational plans. Time was spent going over the address lists of the Pacific Central District clubs, which were then forwarded to Eldon. We were very thankful for the time she gave us!

The Convention committee has not met since March due to the virus. But lists of speakers, goody bags and fillers, decorations etc. are well underway. Hopefully we'll be clear by September for meetings. If the closure continues, the committee will need help in deciding when to proceed or cancel.

The Clovis-Fresno club was very supportive of a "drive-by" birthday party for Russ Suydam's 91st birthday. Cars were decorated, signs made, and balloons hung. Since Russ retired from Cal Fire a fire engine even came by with siren and lights. Dale & Connie Claes and Nadine Hickle circled the block 3 times! It was such a joy to see everyone again if even from a distance!

Greetings from the Pacific Southwest Region By Tim Singletary, District Governor

It is a great honor to highlight this historic Region of **Y's Men International**. The **Pacific Southwest Region** has had a prominent role in the **YMI** movement as evident in membership, leadership and, above all, **FELLOWSHIP**. We have had almost as long a run as the Y's Men Organization itself, and all of our members are very proud to have been able to share in this great history.

We are a physically large Region. The **PSR** boundaries encompass fully, one quarter of the "lower 48" States of the **United States of America**. At one time (1947) the **PSR** had so many members that a decision was made to separate into two Regions and thus, the **Pacific Central Region** was born. Interestingly enough, in 2018, we re-forged the two Regions back into one, thus re-establishing our original boundaries.

Over the last century, our Clubs have been serving our local YMCA's, enhancing our local communities, and instilling faith and fellowship as consistently as the waves pound the shore. Raising funds, building Y's, fixing Camps, participating in community events, we have logged enormous numbers over the years. Here is a sample of which I speak.

Membership

Our oldest Club charters consist of the following: **Pasadena Y's Men's Club** (1928), **Inglewood Y's Men's Club** (1944), **Burbank Y Service Club** (1945), **Tucson Y Service Club** (1947 – condensed from the original Tucson Central), **Whittier AM Y's Men's Club** (1948).

We peaked in membership in 1974 with 1618 members belonging to about 77 Clubs. Our Region started welcoming women members into our fold in the early 1980's. We are very proud to have established the first Youth Club in the US Area, the **Saguaro Youth Club** (2012).

Leadership

It seems like the **PSR** invented the "Four I's" in the Inaugural Charge; Initiative, Interest, Initiative and Industry. There have been many fine leaders from the **PSR** occupying a wide variety of positions at the Area level.

The **PSR** also hosted the Y's Men's International Convention in Anaheim (and Disneyland) in 1976.



Fellowship

Over the years the **PSR** has had as many as 101 clubs that have come along, thrived, condensed or demised. Back in the 2000's the Seal Beach, Leisure World Club was the second largest club in the world.

Big or little, **PSR** Clubs have been helping their Y's and local communities by providing Christmas trees, flowers (poinsettias), rummage sales, newspaper drives, pancakes, fruits, nuts, book fairs, bingo games, barbecue grilling and dances. Currently we have 21 Clubs and about 250 members.

Support of YMCA Boards, building YMCA's, volunteering to help with programs, camping experiences and mentoring has been the hallmark of our service.

We have been so busy organizing Service that we have not had time to count the hours and overall financial contribution. Maybe it will be enough to say that collectively, the **PSR** has served multi-millions of hours in Service, contributing multi-millions of dollars to our communities and have created millions on millions of fun and laughs along the way.

PSR Conventions used to draw as many as 350 delegates. They were huge affairs and, in those days, it was all done with "snail mail". We continue that tradition today though to slightly less attendees.

In recent years we have revived a fantastic annual event, the International President's Dinner that includes first class seats to the Pasadena Rose Parade, Service Partner VIP luncheons and a Regional Dinner held in honor of our IP.

Future Service

Back in the 1970's a few industrious members began the **PSR** Book of Knowledge. This book began as a training tool for new members and Clubs and then became a living document as history was being made. It has become an archive of information that is now treasured and functional. We are currently in the process of bringing the format to the computerized world.

The **PSR** continues to be engaged in strengthening the Youth initiative of **YMI**. Our Board and Cabinet meets regularly to plan events to bring the club members together. It is an honor for all of us to belong to such an organization steeped in history.

Wishing you good health, serenity and happy days,

The **Pacific Southwest Region**

Postscript – Now it's your turn to get your YMI story out. Keep them coming!

District
Reports
Cont'd



Santa and a Y's Man



Youth Club Induction at the IP Dinner, 2018



Enough said



Helping Youth with Pancakes



Who needs Books? Everyone

In Loving Memory



In Loving Memory

With sadness we report that a beloved club member Kathy Wielenga Passed away on Monday the 11th of May 2020. Kathy was 91 years young.

She and Her Husband Jack were members of the Bellflower Club. Both of them were dedicated Y's Men, active supporters of their YMCA. They were well respected in their city of Bellflower California.

Through the years they hosted Several Yeep students, hosted Numerous Y's Men. They were Involved in work parties at our resident Camp Oakes.

Countless hours Working on the Christmas tree lot and at the pumpkin Patch. She was Great lady and friend. We will miss her greatly. Our prayers are with you Kathy and your family.



PSWR Region Membership Activity

Christian Emphasis



Greetings from the Pacific Southwest Region!

PSWR Region Membership Activity

Not much happening at this time with membership in our region. The pandemic situation has impacted all club activities, including our normal meeting schedules. My calendar has not been this clear in years, with virtually all Y meetings “canceled” or “postponed until further notice”. At the end of the year our region was in contact with a group in the San Francisco area about potentially forming a new club. That activity has faded away at this time.

Internationally, YMI reports that 111 new clubs in 14 countries were chartered in 2019 with 1854 members. One of the newly chartered clubs was in the Hawaii region. The bulk of the new chartered clubs were in Southeast Asia. Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe are also represented with newly chartered clubs.

For our region, we have to accept that membership and extension is not achieved without effort. The process of recruiting new members or chartering new clubs has to be seen as a constant and continuing process. Growth will not happen by waiting and hoping to find new members or to charter new clubs. It has to be seen as a continual process and all our current members have to be ready, willing and prepared to spend their time to carry out this mission of spreading the word about Y’s Men and their work in our communities.

I have prepared a presentation outlining a process for clubs to develop the continual recruiting process. My home club has been following this process and has been successful in maintaining our membership. I am prepared to present this process proposal to our clubs, either on a club basis or to a group from a district. My contact information is in our regional directory, and my home phone is (310) 542 6860, email is karlwalther@socal.rr.com.

Karl Walther

RSD Membership/Extension

Pacific Southwest region

WORLD IN CRISIS PANDEMIC



Before February 2020, a word most people had never heard and could not define. By the end of March, it dominated the news. The cover of TIME magazine, from March on, dealt with some aspect of the Coronavirus 19. – its progression around the globe, when will it die away? The epidemiologists recommended social isolation - Stay at least six feet from another. Stay at home except for essential trips for groceries and hardware. Within two weeks the streets were empty, schools, offices, retail shops were closed. Workers were laid off or furloughed. With Palm Sunday and Easter approaching - churches were dark. Sunday services were “virtual”. Another word – “Zoom” entered the Lexicon. A local pastor in our city counseled in a newspaper column, “hunkering down” until things returned to normal. How or when we can return to normal? But what will normal look like?



Area President Message

Following the lead of Winston Churchill, who once said “Never waste a good crisis”, Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union, proposes, in a brief essay in TIME, that a Special Security Council of the United Nations be formed to attack the problem of providing human security in a world, where invisible viruses can bring our societies to its knees. He calls the arms race “a failure of politics”. Human Security - health, food, water and a clean environment.” not military security (war and the arms race).

An exhibition of black and white photographs at the Museum of Modern Art in 1953 was called the “Family of Man”, which included 503 pictures from 68 countries. Poet, Carl Sandberg, wrote the Prologue to the exhibition, which ends with this verse:

“There is only one man in the world and his name is All Men.
There is only one woman in the world and her name is All Women.
There is only one child in the world and the child’s name is All Children.”

In the Gospel of Matthew 12:50, we read “Jesus replied “For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” Let us pray that this crisis does not pass without the “Family of Man”, Our brothers and sisters and mothers taking action to establish true security according to Gods will. AMEN!

Bill Porter, RSD
Christian Emphasis



Aloha Fellow Pacific Southwest Region Members!

It is my pleasure to send a message of ‘**Aloha**’ for your dedication and service as Y Service Club members of the Pacific Southwest Region. Last year, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at your Regional Convention in Palm Springs where I met the ‘movers and shakers’ of your Region. Your dynamic Regional Director, Kathy Naylor, and her Leadership Team are leading with compassion and purpose and that is why I am so proud of your Region in carrying out our mission of service. Your Quarterly Bulletin, “**Y’s Gathering**” and various club newsletters demonstrate the wide variety of projects and services your clubs are engaged in service to your local YMCAs and communities. I especially enjoyed reading about the surprise drive-by parade for fellow member, Russ Suydam’s 91st birthday! While we are in an unprecedented time in our history as a country and movement, let us continue to pray for those who have passed and are sick but let us keep hope, faith, and love in our hearts as together we will come out of this pandemic with a renewed sense of purpose and meaning.

In closing, I am excited to announce the new year of Y Service Clubs beginning July 1 will be awesome with significant changes to support you and all members of the Area during this difficult time. 2020 – 2021 will be a good year to be a member of Y Service Clubs!

U.S. Area. Vibrant. Strong.

Mahalo.

Bobby Stivers-Apiki, Area President

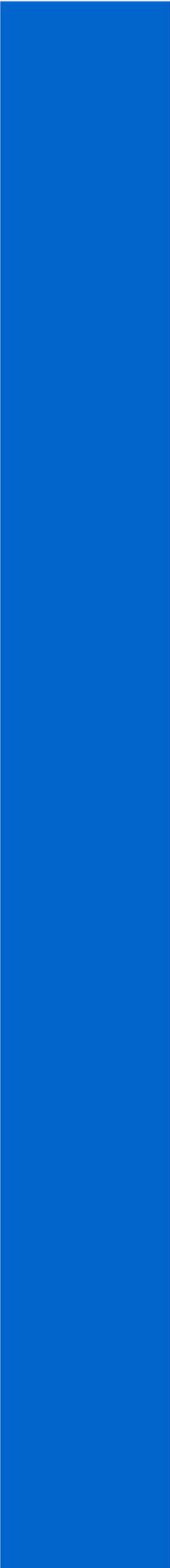
U.S. Area Y Service Clubs

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Stay Classy.

Thank You

**THANK YOU TO ALL CLUB PRESIDENTS FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING
TO SUSTAIN YOUR CLUBS DURING THIS TIME APART!!!**

Stay Safe!



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Pacific Southwest Region

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