

Y Alliance Notes

Special Edition I
November 2023

Y Service Clubs International - U.S. Area
One Area. Seven Regions. Connected.

INSIDE

New News

Add description text here
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interested in your topic.

Remembrance

Jay Banks Sheldon Harvey
Allen Steen

Convention

South Atlantic Board
Meeting & Convention

Why Is It So?

By Rev. Caro Pobanz, Christian Emphasis Area Service Director



He stood on the hill overlooking the school that he helped to build in an impoverished village in Guatemala. Reflecting on his experience, the 16-year-old North American youth declared, “I realized, when I saw the tears of the appreciative mothers climbing the hill to see the school, it is not what you get in life that’s important but what you give.” And certainly, we have heard this before in the biblical words of St. Paul in Acts 20:35.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive.

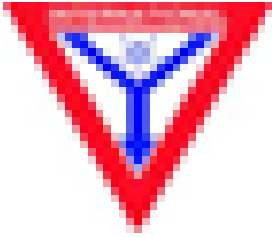
But why is this so? It is better to give than receive because giving frees us from our self-centeredness. To receive is the act of drawing into oneself or the act of privatizing, while giving is the act of sharing or increasing. Receiving, of course, is good. No one longs to miss out on the gift of love, encouragement, support, comfort, care, etc. In receiving we are truly blessed.

The point here is that, indeed, giving is the BETTER, richer experience. Whereas receiving is often personal – benefiting oneself, giving is expansive and benefits others. By giving, an individual becomes part of something greater than themselves. It seems that in the USA in recent years, many people have become more and more isolated, more concerned about the needs of the individual and consequently are losing out on the BETTER experience. To receive is to receive God’s blessing but to give is to BE God’s blessing to others. This is the supreme goal in life itself – to become Christ-like or to reflect God’s likeness in all we say and do.

The paradox here is that, in giving, we oftentimes believe we are losing something but, when it comes to the giving of love, we never run out when we give it away, it just grows bigger. Yet we have been programmed by life to believe otherwise. The challenge is to change our mindset to give more than we seek to receive. Like the young man standing on the hill realized: “It’s not what you get in life that’s important, but what you give.”

Christian Emphasis Service Area

To define the purpose of Christian Emphasis, it is essential to clarify that when we use the word “Christian” we are referring broadly to the values expressed in the teachings of Jesus Christ, such as love your neighbor as yourself.



New News

By Bobby Stivers-Apiki, Y Alliance Newsletter Area Service Director

Y ALLIANCE NOTES is a special supplementary edition to the **NEW Y ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER (YAN)**. YAN will be published in November and December 2023 and quarterly - January, April, July, and October in 2024. Notes will not be regularly published but as needed with current and important news about our Area and/or YMI you need to know.

Embracing Y's dom. To encourage members to learn and appreciate the history and organization of Y Service Clubs, club members should be challenged to use the Area's website [yserviceclubsusa.org] and investigate the Service Areas like Community Service, Time of Fast, Building Friendship, etc. and at a club meeting, make a report to the members about the service area researched. In addition, at the following club meeting, conduct an activity/project that will focus on that service area.



South Atlantic Region Convention 2023

By Terry Bradley, South Rowan Y Service Club

Greetings,
Hope all are well.

Our South Atlantic Regional Board Meeting and Convention was held Oct.7th at the South Rowan YMCA in China Grove, NC. Our RD Kim Deal did a wonderful job leading our Board meeting and the convention. We are proud of her dedication and her performance. She represents our Region in the club, US Area, and international levels She needs our continued support and prayers.

The South Rowan Y Service Club's Treasurer Barbara Collins served as the convention Treasurer paying the expenses and has done a great job. She will provide Regional Treasurer Bruce Miller and RD Kim with a final report.

Fantastic job by Barbara getting the convention bags filled with a good variety of goodies especially, the candy for me.

These items are appreciated along with the drawing door prizes which was fun.

Also, Barbara picked up our convention lunch which was delicious. She was very busy.



Continue: Convention

RT Bruce Miller has done a fantastic job as our RT.

The raffle lead by Bruce was impressive as Bruce is a great motivator. Thanks to the Mott and South Rowan Clubs for buying raffle tickets as well as the attendees. \$1,200 was raised to go to our selected international programs such as Time of Fast, Dollars for Scholars, Alex Fund. Building Fellowship, Roll Back Malaria, and Endowment Fund. Fantastic results: Thanks to Kim for getting the tickets made. Congratulations Aaron on winning the cash drawing.

Thanks, Aaron, for allowing the Region the use of the South Rowan YMCA and setting up our convention and Board meeting. What great support.



Thanks, Philip, for taking on the challenge of the RDE position. Appreciate the banners and the slide presentation of the Canada/Caribbean/US Cruise Convention narrated by CFO Jamie Morgan and RD Kim. Thanks to RDE Phillip for winning the IP's Booster award bolo for bringing in 5 members into the John R. Mott Club. That is wonderful and we commend Philip for asking.

Thanks, and congratulations to Debbie Owens for accepting the Regional Secretary position. Philip and Debbie were installed by PAP Terry Bradley.

Philip and Donna Belfield, Kim Deal, and Debbie Owens went to Atlanta, GA representing the US Area with their banners and stories promoting Y Service Clubs International. Thanks for the promotion and attendance at the YMCA General Assembly.

Great reports presented by President Heather Kee of the Mott Club and President Jeff Overcash of the South Rowan Club.

Very active clubs make a big difference in the lives of so many.

Those in attendance at the Convention Business Session voted and passed the Revised South Atlantic Regional Constitution as recommended by the Board and confirmed by ICM.

-Y SERVICE CLUBS-

OUR MISSION

YMI (Y's Men International) is an inclusive international association of affiliated clubs making positive and enduring difference in the world through fellowship, community projects in the areas of Health, Environment and Education and partnering with the YMCA mission worldwide.

OUR MOTO

To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right.

Y Alliance Notes



Remembrance

By Raye Vincent, Past Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region

JAY BANKS SHELDON

After a three-year struggle against liver cancer, Jay Sheldon died on February 11, 2023.

Jay Banks Sheldon was born February 17, 1959, to Angier Jay Sheldon and Helena Evelyn (McCauley) Sheldon. Jay attended Helena schools, graduating from Helena High in 1978. After high school, he attended Montana State University for two years before returning to Helena. He started working full-time for the Helena YMCA while attending Carroll College part-time.

In November 1985, Jay began working for the Helena School District, first at Capital High, then Bryant, Central and finally Central-Linc. In 1988, Jay graduated from Carroll with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He retired from the school district in June 2017. In 2018, Jay began working at Carroll College until his health worsened, retiring again in 2022.

Jay was a man of deep faith and participated in the ministries of his church and in the Walk to Emmaus for several years. Jay loved reading, history, doing Sudoku puzzles, and projects in his old house. He never visited his parents or sister without his toolbox, so he could work on projects they were unable to complete. He also served as treasurer of the Helena YMCA Service Club for almost 30 years until his health worsened.

Jay is survived by his sister, Lucinda of Helena; his aunt, Kathryn Layne of Missoula; numerous cousins including Mary Murphy-Kellis of Superior, MT; and many lifelong friends.



be in our hearts.” -Gandhi

“There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always

YSC & YMCA

By Terry Bradley & Philip Belfield

Y Service Clubs represented at the General Assembly of YMCAs in Atlanta, GA



(Kim Deal, Philip Belfield & Debbie Owens, YSC Members & Y Staff)

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, the YMCA of the USA recently hosted the General Assembly of YMCAs in Atlanta, Georgia July 20-23. More than 3,500 YMCA professionals and volunteers from all over the United States as well as multiple other countries gathered to celebrate, learn, network, and discover.

The week was headlined by keynote speakers, Kareem Abdul-Jabaar, Kal Penn, Lisa Ling and YMCA USA President/CEO, Suzanne McCormick. The YMCAs largest gathering of YMCA staff and volunteers also included an



Harvey Allen Steen

HELENA - Harvey Allen Steen passed away peacefully in Helena, February 8, 2023, with his wife Ila by his side. He was 91.

Harvey was born to Harriet (Zieger) and Forrest Steen in Hinsdale, MT, August 9, 1931. He lived on the family farm until age six when the family moved into town. He was a Hinsdale High School graduate, 1949, and attended Northern Montana College for two years.

He served in the US Army from 1951-1954, where he trained at Camp Roberts, CA, and later served in Germany. In 1960, he met his future wife Ila Vantries in Great Falls at a United Methodist Young Adult Group. They married in 1962, in Denver, CO, and later moved to southern California.

He returned to his home state and earned his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Montana. In 1966, they had a son, Gregory Glen Steen, Great Falls. The family moved to Helena where he began a career as an accountant with the State of Montana. Shortly after, the family began to attend St. Paul's United Methodist Church. In 1968, the son Kurt Allen Steen was born in Helena.

In 1970, Harvey served as a founding member of the Helena chapter of the International Association of Y's Men's Service Clubs. Over the next 50 years he served as President, Regional Director and held other national offices. He and Ila traveled to Norway, East Africa, and East Asia as ambassadors of the Service Club. Their club performed annual fundraisers, provided scholarships and maintenance for YMCA Camp Child.

Throughout the kids' childhoods, Dad served as a coach and leader for their sports activities and Boy Scout troop. He never missed a day helping them with their morning paper routes. In 1991, he retired from the State of Montana.

Their son Greg married Kathy Boeckman in 1991, in College Station, TX. Greg and Kathy settled in Albuquerque, NM, and have four children, Kyle, Kevin, Katelyn, and Kaleb. In

2000, their son Kurt married Shyla Zellman. They settled in Davis, CA, and have two daughters, Kyla and Danica.

Harvey enjoyed his family, friends, and service to the YMCA, church functions, history, basketball, travel, and the love of his forever-home Montana.

Harvey is preceded in death by his sister, Mary Luella, and his brother, Forrest Russell. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years Ila; both his sons and their families; his sister, Kitty Lou Rusher of Glasgow; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

exhibit hall that included 330 of the YMCA most relevant vendors and exhibitors. One of those booths included Y Service Clubs. The booth was put together and staffed by Kim Deal, South Atlantic Regional Director, John R. Mott Y Service Club President, Philip Belfield, and his wife Donna along with John R. Mott Y Service Club Member, Debbie Owens. Please see the balance of summary attached along with the professional presentations and visual aids.



Y Service Clubs & YMCA Partnership

